Reporting Agency: UNDP Country: Armenia

### MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT<sup>1</sup>

No. and title: Environmental Protection of Lake Sevan – EU4Sevan, 00129871/00123402

Reporting period: September 2020 - December 2021

## I. PURPOSE

• Present project's goal, objectives, duration, theory of change, implementing partner, responsible parties, other critical information.



**Duration:** September 2020 — September 2024

**Implementing partner:** Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia (MoE)

**Responsible party:** United Nations Development Programme

**Donor**: European Union (EU)

**Budget**: EUR 1,000,000 / \$1,174,488

The Project is part of the EU Action "EU4 Energy Efficiency and Environment," and of the BMZ-funded programme "Management of natural resources and safeguarding of ecosystem services for sustainable rural development in the South Caucasus (ECO serve)."

The overall objective associated with the EU Action "EU4 Energy Efficiency and Environment" is to improve energy efficiency and enhance environmental protection and resilience with its specific objective to enhance environmental protection of Lake Sevan.

The main purpose of the "EU4Sevan" UNDP component is to further improve the overall governance system regulating lake Sevan ecosystem management and sustainable use. The improvement of water and lake area governance is a key prerequisite for effective basin management and monitoring; thus, the project aims to bring ecosystem-based approach as a basis for planning and management of productive landscape in the Lake Sevan basin and sectoral development in an integrated manner to help minimize further deterioration of ecosystems and enhance sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities.

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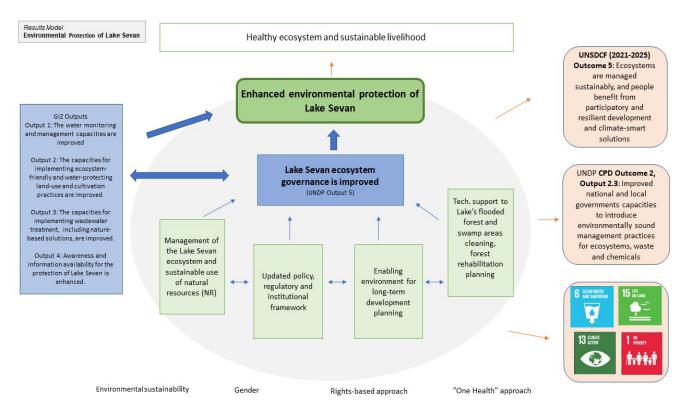
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> GUIDELINES: The report shall be evidence-based, cumulative, strategic, concise, in results language, and proofread. Information adds up/updated through monitoring cycles and presents a highly aggregated picture of project results, risks, issues, course changes, etc. The report shall be prepared/filed by Project Coordinator quarterly. At Q2, Q4 the results, lessons learned, etc are jointly assured/filed by Project Coordinator and Portfolio Manager via a field visit/output verification template (attached). Financial data is grounded on Combined Delivery Report. Monitoring action timeline: Planning-20Jan; Q1-30Mar; Q2-30Jun; Q3-30Sep; Q4 provisional-30Nov with updates at Planning/Q1. Project Board shall receive/endorse project results, work plans, etc (for easy ref. all collated in this monitoring report) in frequency of ProDoc framework, more frequently if agreed, but not later than annually. Please do not remove guidelines from the report.

The project has four outputs:

- Improved management framework for protection of the Lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use of natural resources
- Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing protection and sustainable use of lake Sevan
- Enabling environment created for long-term development planning and implementation of response measures to address water level raising.
- Technical support to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and the planning afforestation/reforestation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation

The Project is closely collaborating with GIZ which is also the co-implementing partner for EU4Sevan project.

The Theory of Change of the project is based on the understanding that the pathway to environmental sustainability and resilience requires systemic changes in decision-making across multiple sectors that will help the country transition towards: (i) resource-efficient, resilient and socially inclusive economy; (ii) ability to properly manage its rich ecosystems and natural resources within a limit of natural capital, and (iii) adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change and disasters. The UNDP's interventions will be geared towards strengthening national capacities in reshaping its long-terms vision, policy development and implementation and resilience-building as well as identifying, piloting and scaling data-driven and gender-responsive smart policies and solutions that are environmentally and climate-friendly, risk-informed, people-centred and long-lasting.



### II. RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

• Matrix showing project's total, annual and delivered resources and percentage by donor funds.

	Total Project		Current Year (202	1)	All Years	All Years
	Budget				Delivery	Delivery
	USD	Annual	Delivery as of	Delivery rate as	as of SPR date	rate as of
		Budget	SPR date, 31 Dec	of SPR date (%)	USD	SPR date
		USD	USD			(%)
Donor 1	\$1,166,314.18	\$196,533.18	\$166,439	84.69%	\$166,439	14.27%
(EU)						
Total	\$1,166,314.18	\$196,533.18	\$166,439	84.69%	\$166,439	14.27%

• Indicate amount of leveraged resources, even if a parallel funding.

## III. RESULTS AND ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

- **Programme level results:** Indicate project's results/progress towards outcome, output, target (vs baseline) for: (1) UNSDCF/CPD; (2) UNDP Strategic Plan; and (3) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- Project level results: (1) Discuss project's progress and achieved output(s) vis-à-vis Project Document
  (ProDoc) Results and Resources Framework (RRF) disaggregated by years (the last year comes first); (2)
  Update ProDoc RRF in annexes.
- Annual work plan: Present current year's targets and results. Indicate reason if below target.

The Project results are in line with UNSDCF Outcome 5/CPD Outcome 2: "Ecosystems are managed sustainably, and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate-smart solutions" as well as with CPD Output 2.3: "Improved national and local governments capacities to introduce environmentally sound management practices for ecosystems, waste and chemicals."

This project contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation. It also supports achieving SDGs 15 (Life on land), 13 (Climate protection) as well as SDG 1 (Poverty reduction) and takes account of interactions between the various dimensions and/or SDG sub-targets (see the result model on page 2).

The table below demonstrates a performance snapshot of the current year planned deliverables

					C	Current Year (20	121)
			Plan	ned			Actual
Atlas Activity/ Component/ Output	Year targets/ Key Deliverables	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Status	Comments
Output 1. Improved management framework for protection the lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use of Natural resources	1.1 The ToR/s is developed and agreed with partners to collect and conduct data analysis and to develop park management vision and objectives		X	X	X	Achieved and surpassed (Please see detailed reporting below)	Despite the fact that due to COVID, the hired international consultant was unable to complete the work, the project managed to hire a new consultant and manage the process.
Output 2. Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing protection and sustainable use of lake Sevan	2.1 The ToR/s is developed and agreed with partners to revise the existing policy and regulatory framework governing lake Sevan management and gap analysis  2.2 Roadmap on revision of Lake Sevan Vision is developed and consultations with stakeholders initiated.		X	X		Achieved and surpassed (Please see detailed reporting below)  Achieved and surpassed (Please see detailed reporting below)	

Output 3. Enabling environment created for long-term development planning and implementation of response measures to address water level raising	3.1 Identification, formulation of scope of study  3.2 The ToR/s is developed and agreed with partners to conduct a comprehensive study of the consequences/impact of raising the level of water in the lake with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions.	X	X	х	Delayed	Due to COVID, the international expert was unable to complete the work. The project needed to hire another international expert, which delayed the process.
Output 4.  The cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and the planning afforestation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation	4.1 Technical specification is defined and agreed with the MoE to purchase of one unit of machinery for the Ministry of Environment to support the cleaning activities of the Lake 4.2 The one unit of machinery for the Ministry of Environment to support the cleaning activities of the Lake is purchased		х	x	Completed	Output 4 of the Project has been revised jointly with the Ministry of Environment and in consultation with EU and. The amended project documents have been approved by the EU on end of September 2021. Just after that project could start the planned activities.
Project Management	0.1 Inputs for inception and 1st annual progress report are submitted 0.2 The correspondent project templates are developed and agreed, e.g., report template 0.3 Project detailed planning is conducted 0.4 Project is setup to enable efficient work of the project team, e.g., equipment 0.5 Advisory board is created and met 0.6 Project Steering committee meetings are conducted	X	X	x	Completed	

# Achieved and surpassed

Completed

Delayed

Major deviation

# Output 1: Improved management framework for protection of the Lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use of natural resources (NR)

• The technical planning and design of the output main studies towards implementation of output actions on (1) Data gathering, analysis and development of the Sevan National Park management vision and objectives; (2) Evaluation and identification of park zoning options and incentive measures; and (3) Design of the draft Lake Sevan National Park (IUCN II) Management Plan and processing public consultation, is available (September-October 2021).

• The ToRs for the development of (1) Data gathering, analysis and development of the Sevan National Park management vision and objectives; (2) Evaluation and identification of park zoning options and incentive measures; and (3) Design of the draft Lake Sevan National Park (IUCN II) Management Plan and processing public consultation are developed and agreed with partners.

# Output 2: Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing protection and sustainable use of lake Sevan

- The technical planning and design of the main studies to be conducted for collecting comprehensive analytical information to support the formulation of a new long-term vision on Lake Sevan and to respectively update the policy and regulatory framework governing Lake Sevan is available. The results have been used for the road map development.
- The scoping of the policy, legal and institutional framework regulating Lake Sevan ecosystem governance is developed. The study provides information about the current state and the revision needs related to the regulatory framework governing Lake Sevan water resources and ecosystems. The study and recommendations stemming from it was discussed with stakeholders and next steps were agreed. 37 representatives were present from the Ministries of Environment, Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, and Economy, as well as Gegharkunik governor's office and communities, the RA National Assembly, the Academia, international organizations, and NGOs. The comments and recommendations were incorporated into the final document, which has been shared with the stakeholders. The ToR for the next step has been prepared. The results have been used for the roadmap development.
- The methodology and roadmap for a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan and the ToR for the respective next step "Implementing the roadmap for defining a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan" are developed. The results were discussed and agreed with the stakeholders. 44 representatives were present from the Ministries of Environment, Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, and Economy, as well as Gegharkunik Governor's office, the RA National Assembly, the academia, international organizations, and NGOs. The tender to define the vision is initiated.
- To upgrade the policy, legal and institutional framework governing Lake Sevan, a roadmap and methodology and the ToR for the respective next steps ("Development of a budgeted strategy or action plan to overcome the barriers and obstacles in the policy, legal and institutional framework with the aim to achieve the long-term national vision for Lake Sevan") are developed. The results were discussed and agreed with the stakeholders. 44 representatives were present from the Ministries of Environment, Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, and Economy, as well as Gegharkunik Governor's office, the RA National Assembly, the academia, international organizations, and NGOs.
- To support the Ministry of Environment in the regulation of the legal relationships related to secondary water use in accordance with the requirements of the Water Code, a ToR has been developed on "Consultancy Services for Development of Legal Regulations and Privileges for Facilitating Water Re-use in Armenia." Setting up the regulations to incentivize secondary water use will improve the efficiency of water resource uses in the country, including the water use from/at Lake Sevan basin. The respective tender has been announced. The activity is implemented in cooperation with "National Adaptation Plan to advance medium and long-term adaptation planning in Armenia" UNDP-GCF project (NAP Project).

# Output 3: Enabling environment created for long-term development planning and implementation of response measures to address water level raising.

- Situational analyzes to define the baseline identification and formulation of scope of having a comprehensive assessment of the consequences/impact of raising the level of water in the Lake with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions are conducted and used for the ToR development.
- The ToR of a comprehensive assessment of the consequences/impact of raising the level of water in the Lake with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions is under development.

# Output 4: Technical support to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and planning afforestation/reforestation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation

- Output 5.4 of the Project and the correspondent indicators have been revised based on a request from and discussions with the Ministry of Environment and in consultation with the EU Delegation. The revised Output 5.4 has been submitted to the EU and formally approved on 27.09.21. The specific objective of the revised Output 5.4 is to provide technical support to the Ministry of Environment in implementing the cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas to mitigate eutrophication and in planning afforestation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation.
- The technical specifications for the procurement of one unit of wheel loader to support Ministry of Environment on the cleaning of the Lake Sevan riparian zone have been prepared, agreed with the MoE. The tender was announced, and the winner contracted.
- To ensure the sustainability of the above action, MoE is allocated maintenance costs for the machinery at 2022 budget and employed technician responsible for machinery at Sevan National Park.

# **Project Management**

- Quarterly information on project implementation was provided to the MoE on 28 June, 19 August, and 12 October, to contribute the MoE reporting to RA Government on Lake Sevan activities.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year donor progress report was prepared and submitted to EU on 09.11.2021.
- Monthly Management meetings take place with GIZ to ensure project smooth implementation.
- The Project technical expert (part time) was recruited and contracted in November 2021.
- Advisory board of the project is established. The project held two workshops on 22 and 28
  October, to discuss project activities, with the participation of the advisory board members; these
  workshops can be considered as equivalent of Advisory Board meetings.
- The first meeting of the project Steering board took place on 23 February 2021. The second meeting took place on 14 December 2021.

# The Project has completed the inception phase:

- Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting took place on 21.01.21, to present and discuss the Environmental protection of Lake Sevan EU4Sevan project. The Committee recommended to approve the project and the project document in UNDP format was signed in January. The Minutes of the meeting has been shared with participants.
- The Steering Committee of the Project was established jointly with GIZ. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee took place on 23.02.21.

- The official launching event of the Project took place on 15.03.21. Notes about the event have been published by the Ministry of Environment <a href="http://www.mnp.am/am/post/5731">http://www.mnp.am/am/post/5731</a> and EU Delegation in Armenia.
- The project has finalized the formulation of its core team. The Project Coordinator was recruited on a competitive basis and came board on 09 April 2021. The project assistant's engagement has been ensured since January 2021.
- The project inception phase is over. The inception report was produced and submitted to EU on 30.04.21.
- The joint Management team for the project was established jointly with GIZ. Two management meetings took place on May and June to clarify the roles and responsibilities and the mode of cooperation towards project implementation.
- The project planning is done, and the correspondent processes are initiated.
- Project planning has been discussed and coordinated with correspondent key stakeholders e.g., Sevan National Park, Ministry of Environmental correspondent units, Water committee, SEVAMOD 2, ADB, EUWI+, WWF, etc.

### IV. GENDER MAINSTREAMING, CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS, TARGETING

- Indicate project's gender marker (GEN0-3), gender mainstreaming strategy/approaches in line with corporate/CO Gender Equality Strategy, mentioning particular **gender-responsive (GEN2) or gender-transformative (GEN3)** results. GEN0-1 projects shall be revisited for a possible upgrade.
- Highlight project's cross-cutting results and 'enablers' (as relevant) in such areas as: cross-portfolio xinterventions, human rights-based approach, risk informed development, mainstreaming innovation, social and environmental responsiveness, user-driven design and citizen engagement, leveraging private finance.
- Present the project's targeting strategy in line with corporate Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) strategy mentioning particular beneficiary groups.
- The Project contributes towards equity and inclusiveness by directly tackling environmental degradation, which has a greater impact on poorer segments of the society.
- Project corresponds to UNDP Gender Marker 2: GEN2. The Project supports the integration of gender aspects into national strategies, concepts and guidelines for the sustainable and biodiversity-friendly management of water, land and ecosystems (e.g. in the framework of roadmap and methodology for defining a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan). Databases, analyses, instruments, and decision-support tools developed by the project will be based on gender-disaggregated data, and developed and applied with a significant participation of women as researchers, planners, trainers, lecturers, etc. Formation, training and awareness-raising measures and materials will target both women and men, and reflect the different needs and interests of both sexes. The project will support the quantitative and qualitative participation of women in decisions on the elaboration, implementation, and control of management plans. High participation of and benefits for women will further be aimed at in all steps of planning, monitoring and evaluation of the Action (e.g., identification of members for the project advisory board).
- In the framework of roadmap and methodology development for defining a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan initiated in September, gender and SDG sensitiveness, enabling of the involvement and participation of all correspondent stakeholder groups, innovation and ecosystem-based approach are under consideration.

• Environmental sustainability is considered as a fundamental principle of the Project, as natural resources and ecosystems are a key capital of the Project. All activities are designed to reduce the pressure on natural systems in the Lake Sevan Basin in order to ensure the environmental balance of the ecosystem.

# V. RISKS, PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRODOC, HORIZON SCANNING, EVALUATION

- Risks, Changes: (1) Discuss current project risks, mitigation strategies and necessary changes to ProDoc as derived from horizon scanning. Substantive revisions shall be appraised via LPAC<sup>2</sup>. (2) Update/maintain project risks, including from SESP<sup>3</sup>, in Atlas and attached off-line Risk Logs. Risks that are no further relevant shall not be deleted.
- **Evaluation:** Present project evaluation schedule. For implemented evaluations present recommendations and implementation (attach updated Management Response).

The main project risks are related to the political processes in the country which may cause instability and reorientation of policy priorities, change of the security situation along the Gegharkunik border, economic development promoted at the expense of natural resources degradation, special business interests of certain groups, corruption, and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. To treat these risks, the project is continuing political and policy dialogue and interactions with the Government of Armenia and has introduced comprehensive valuation methodologies/tools and transparent processes and consultation mechanisms. More details on project risks can be found in the Annex.

In order to address the risk of security situation in Gegharkunik region, the project has also revised Output 4 jointly with the Ministry of Environment, to replace previously approved "Comprehensive impact assessment of abounded tail of Sotk mining in Gegharkunik" with "Technical assistance to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas." The request to revise the output was put forward by the Ministry of Environment, considering the recent geo-political situation and the security issues related to reaching and working at the area of the Sotk mining site as well as the urgent needs of the Ministry related to the Lake Sevan coastal zone cleaning and rehabilitation priorities. The Amendment of the correspondent Project documents is in progress.

In 2021, UNDP new program cycle was approved, and the project indicators were aligned to the new UNSDCF and new CPD.

The project is to be evaluated through the monitoring and evaluation plan, as indicated in the UNDP project document (section VI).

In case the Contracting Authority plans to send a monitoring and/or evaluation mission for this project, UNDP will support such mission in a collaborative manner.

A results-based monitoring system is established to generate data on the progress of the overall Project. UNDP, in partnership with GIZ, is monitoring the implementation progress and results based on the overall EU4Sevan European Union Action's log-frame and work plan (the first joint RBM workshop took place on 13 July 2021; the second at the end of November). UNDP is responsible for the monitoring of its respective outputs, indicators and activities, while GIZ is responsible for compiling and submitting the overall report to the EU including the results at the outcome level. The log frame is used as a management tool, allowing GIZ and UNDP for adjustments and revisions at the output, activity and indicator level in order to effectively achieve the expected specific objective.

# VI. PARTNERSHIP. COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

<sup>2</sup> Local Project Appraisal Committee

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Social and Environmental Screening Procedure

- Discuss project's partnership strategies and emerging opportunities. Indicate project's South-South/Triangular cooperation, Inter-agency collaboration, and/or any other international collaboration, mentioning also project's learning or leading role.
- Collate in a table project's **knowledge and communication materials**, including planned and flagship publications. Indicate strategic application of the materials.

The Project is closely collaborating with GIZ which is also the co-implementing partner for EU4Sevan. While UNDP's component has focused on water governance aspects, GIZ provides inputs to the following outputs: (i) capacities for basin monitoring and management; (ii) sustainable land-use; (iii) nature-based wastewater treatment solutions; (iv) awareness and information. The above-mentioned outputs are fully integrated into the regional BMZ-financed project "Management of natural resources and safeguarding of ecosystem services for sustainable rural development in the South Caucasus (ECOserve)" which is also implemented by GIZ. As all outputs are complementary and mutually interlinked, GIZ and UNDP are closely coordinating in the planning and implementation of activities.

Collaboration with the project SEVAMOD2 "Development of a model for Lake Sevan for the improvement of the understanding of its ecology and as instrument for the sustainable management and use of its natural recourses" funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is established.

The project is utilizing experience and knowledge of the EU Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) project in Eastern Europe and Caucasus countries for the period of 2016-2020. The project also coordinates activities with the ongoing EU-funded Regional Initiatives, such as EU4Environment and EU4Climate. E.g., The possible use and support of the Water policy dialog platform established within the EUWI+ project for coordination and discussion of the output policy enforcement measures has been discussed with the project.

To ensure ownership by partners and sustainability of actions, all activities of the output are planned and organized in strong collaboration with relevant key stakeholders and partners: Ministry of Environment, Sevan National Park, Water committee, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, RA Parliament Committee on Environment, Academic institutions, EU Twinning, ADB, EUWI+, WWF, etc.

Meetings and discussions are a continuing part of all the processes, e.g., planned workshops to discuss the results of consultancies on the Lake Sevan ecosystem governance political, legal, and institutional framework scoping, the methodology and roadmap for a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan and for updating the policy, legal and institutional framework governing Lake Sevan ecosystem.

In the framework of providing support to the Ministry of Environment in the regulation of the legal relationships related to secondary water use in accordance with the requirements of the Water Code, the Project cooperates with UNDP-GCF NAP Project.

The table below provides the summary of communication and visibility activities

N	Communication and visibility	Evidence
	activities	
2021	1	
1	The Steering Committee of the Project is established jointly with GIZ. The 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting took place on 23.02.21.	https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/photos/a.1379467378968621/2695 120574069955/
2	The official launching event of the Project took place on 15.03.21.	-http://www.mnp.am/am/post/5731 -https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/officials/13069/

3	On May 14 the project team paid a visit to Sevan National Park, with involvement of Deputy Minister of Environment, discussing the project and synergy of efforts.	https://cutt.ly/rmqGCFd
4	A number of other meetings took place during the May-June 2021 period in the framework of project planning and coordination with correspondent key stakeholders: Ministry of Environmental correspondent units, Water committee, SEVAMOD 2, ADB, EUWI+, WWF, NASRA Institute of Zoology and Hydroecology, etc.	
5	Monthly newsletters are shared with project partners and stakeholders since April 2021.	https://cutt.ly/rmqGCFd
6	On 1 July, MoE gave a press conference on a "Sevan blooming" topic.	https://armenpress.am/arm/multimedia/videos/2125/
	The EU4Sevan project was mentioned as one of the main ongoing initiatives to improve the situation, and each output of the project was mentioned and highlighted, including UNDP output 5.	
7	On July 7, a working meeting took place with the "Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center" SNCO team, where the cooperation framework was clarified. Acting Director of the SNCO Levon Azizyan voiced commitment to support project implementation.	https://www.facebook.com/HydrometeorologyandMonitoringCenter/posts/1223925074720500
8	On September 9th, within the framework of UNDP EU4Sevan Project, a coordination meeting was held with the Standing Committee on Territorial Administration, Local Self-Government, Agriculture and Environment of the Parliament of the RA, where the cooperation framework was clarified.	
9	On October 8, the project team paid a visit to Gegharkunik marz to meet the newly appointed governor, Karen	http://gegharkunik.mtad.am/news/item/2021/10/08/5/

	Sargsyan. The project and the cooperation were discussed.	
10	On October 22, a stakeholder workshop took place to present and discuss the scoping of the Lake Sevan ecosystem governance policy, legal and institutional framework. 37 representatives of the RA Ministry of environment, Territorial administration and infrastructure, and Economy, as well as Gegharkunik governor's office and communities, the RA National Assembly, the Academia, international organizations, and NGOs took part in the discussion.	http://env.am/news/news-EU4Sevan25-10 https://www.facebook.com/UNDPArmenia/posts/44 49886695092565
11	On October 28, a stakeholder workshop took place to present and discuss the roadmaps and methodologies for defining long-term vision for Lake Sevan and for improving policy, legal and institutional framework, governing the Lake ecosystem. 44 representatives of the RA Ministry of environment, Territorial administration and infrastructure, and Economy, as well as Gegharkunik governor's office, the RA National Assembly, the Academia, international organizations, and NGOs took part in the discussion in person and online.	https://www.facebook.com/UNDPArmenia/posts/44 71698442911390/
12	On 5 November, the Public television of the RA prepared a news coverage of the EU4Sevan project, interviewing representatives of the EU delegation and the Ministry of Environment. The video gave details on the main challenges of the Lake and the outputs of the project, focusing especially on UNDP Output 5.	https://fb.watch/98zuY74rqD/ https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=93 5844580681204
13	On 10 November, the Minister of	https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/posts/18517

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Environment paid a visit to Sevan

national park to observe the locations where cleaning of the riparian area is to

commence soon. The MOE published a

2 posts on the visit and about the start of activities mentioning the equipment the

new-stage-of-work-on-clearing-the-forest-in-theterritories-adjacent-to-flooding-of-the-coastal-areasof-the-lake-will-begin

http://www.mnp.am/en/news/from-november-15-a-

Ministry has purchased and noting that it has to be complemented by one unit of machinery to be procured within the framework of the EU4Sevan project.

http://www.mnp.am/en/news/the-work-on-cleaning-the-coastal-and-flooded-forest-layers-of-lake-sevan-is-entering-an-active-phase



Analytical and knowledge products:

YEAR	PRODUCT
2021	Scoping of the Lake Sevan ecosystem governance policy, legal and institutional framework.

# VII. VALIDATION OF RESULTS (FIELD VISITS). QUALITY ASSURANCE. LESSONS LEARNED. PROJECT BOARD MEETINGS. DONOR REPORTS. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Prepare and countersign with Portfolio Manager a **field visit/output verification** template during Q2 and Q4. Collect in one document all previous verification files; attach to monitoring report only the last one. Q4 is cumulative for annum, if expedient present ideally also the project's aggregated results.
- Formulate lessons learned in monitoring report as accumulated through all years (disaggregate by
  years is relevant/expedient). In output verification template indicate current year lessons learned or all if
  space/expedient. Formulate lessons learned in a way that knowledge is transferable.
- Present a schedule of Project Board (PB) meetings (indicative for a project lifetime). For conducted PB present recommendations.
- Present a schedule of donor reports, requests for installments and completion status.
- Prepare quality assurance report in UNDP system and discuss with Portfolio Manager (do not submit in the system). For newly developing projects/outputs (in case of outputs it is substantive revision) design quality assurance reports shall be presented at appraisal. For implementation projects quality assurance reports are prepared every other year. For closing projects before project closure. In line with UNDP policies, project's Closure Quality Assurance Reports shall be shared with Project Board together with final monitoring and project final report (if different).

In line with the EU Contribution Agreement, the following reports will be submitted by UNDP to the government and to the EU along the implementation:

• Annual progress reports (narrative and financial), recapitulating on the progress made in the achievement of the results (outputs and outcomes); listing activities carried out during the reporting period, difficulties encountered, and measures taken to overcome problems and eventual changes introduced; providing information on the implementation of the Visibility and Communication Plan; and outlining the work plan for the coming 12 months.

- The final report shall cover the entire period of the Project, providing information on achievements of the Action, including an outlook on measures undertaken to ensure sustainability of results and further dissemination/up-scaling.
- Project Design stage Quality Assurance was done in September 2020. Implementation stage Quality Assurance is expected in 2022.
- The first meeting of the Steering board took place on 23 February 2021, the second one on 14 December 2021.
- The project advisory board is established. The project held two workshops on 22 and 28 October, to discuss project activities, with the participation of the advisory board members; these workshops can be considered as equivalent of Advisory Board meetings.
- In the reporting period, the Project Inception report was completed and submitted to EU on 30.04.21.
- Quarterly information on project implementation was provided to the MoE on 28 June, 19 August, and 12 October, to contribute the MoE reporting to RA Government on Lake Sevan activities.
- The first Annual Progress Report covering the period from September 2020 until September 2021 was prepared and submitted to the EU jointly with GIZ.
- Field verification is done at least every six months, in accordance with the established monitoring framework.

## VIII. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN

- Indicate key strategic events/actions ahead.
- Present updated Work Plan (ref. ProDoc). UNDP standard template see in attachments.

Attached.

# Results Framework<sup>4</sup>

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF (UNSDCF)/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework Outcome 7/4: (2016-2020) By 2020 Sustainable Development principles and good practices for environmental sustainability resilience building, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and green economy are introduced and applied. (2021-2025) 5/2 Ecosystems are managed sustainably, and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate-smart solutions.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: Number of hectares of rehabilitated landscapes and areas demonstrating sustainable use practices, Baseline:0, Target: 20,000/

**Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan**: 2.4.1 Gender-responsive legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions strengthened, and solutions adopted, to address conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of natural resources, in line with international conventions and national legislation.

Project title and Atlas Project Number: Environmental Protection of Lake Sevan – EU4Sevan, 00129871/00123402

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PROJECT	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINI	E	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)									DATA COLLECTION	
OUTPUTS/ COMPONENTS			Value	Year	Year 1	(2021)	Year 2	(2022)	Year 3	(2023)	Year 4	(2024)	FIN	AL	METHODS & RISKS
					Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	
Output 1 Improved management framework for protection the lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use	1.1. No of Hectares of area effectively zoned and managed for multiple ecosystem benefits.	Management plan implementation protocols Ministerial reports	0	2020	0	0	0		125,000 ha		125,000 ha		125,000 ha		Document review, Field data inventory and analysis, mapping, Local survey & questionnaires, Participatory meetings
sustainable use of Natural resources	1.2. Availability of the Lake Sevan National Park management plan	Government decisions Ministerial reports Project webpage and media page (Facebook, etc.)	There was no operational management plan for protected area since 2010	2020	No	No	No		Yes		Yes		Protecte d area manage ment plan develop ed and approve d by the Govern ment		Risk: Inability to assess economic benefits of ecosystem services and derive direct measurable benefits to local economy may result in reluctance to move away from unsustainable nature use

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

												practices
Output 2 Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing protection and sustainable use of lake Sevan	2.1 No of enhanced/updated policy and regulatory documents	Governmental decisions, Parliament bulletins	0	2020	0	0	0	3	5	5		Document review, Stakeholder consultation reports
	2.2 Institutional framework governing lake Sevan issues is upgraded	Ministerial report	Though different public institutions are mandated to deal with the Lake Sevan issues, overall mis- coordination and institutional barriers are evident5	2020	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	sect coor tic mec si esta ed oper	ter- rorial rdina on chani m blish and ratio ized	Risk: The overall political and economic environment remains unstable and not conducive for conceptual regulatory improvements Disputes over mandates and responsibilities threaten the efficiency of law making and enforcement of regulations
Output 3 Enabling environment created for long- term development planning and implementation of response measures to address water level raising	3.1 Analytical basis in place for evidence based long term decision making on Lake Sevan protection, conservation and sustainable use	Ministerial reports Independent Study Review	Risk associated with impact into infrastructure, environment and population well being in the result of water increase was never assessed, there were no studies ever conducted	2020	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	com ens stu with env me ar soc ecor dim ons add ris	A apreh sive udy n full riron ental nd cio- nomi c sensi s to lress sks	Document review, Stakeholder consultation reports Local survey & questionnaires Document review, Stakeholder consultation reports  Risk: Political processes in the country related to the crisis may lead

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Chapter Four of the Law on lake Sevan (2001) set mandates of authorities at national, regional and local levels in the field of restoration, reproduction and use of Lake Sevan ecosystem, including involvement of Academia through setup of special expert commission. In addition, in 2008 the President directed to setup a new Commission to study all issues related to lake Sevan, thus distribution of function in practice between the Ministry of Environment and both Commissions seems unclear.

										ed with Impact into physical infrastru cture and landscap es is available	to processes of restructuring and creating uncertainties in long term policy priorities and financial commitments
	3.2 Long terms action plan with cost-estimates to tackle water level raising developed and submitted to the Government	Ministerial reports Action plan and development process documentation	No long-term vision, action plan and budget scenarios to tackle complex issues associated with water level raising	2020	No	No	No	No	Yes	Roadma p and long- term action plan docume nts to address consequ ences of water level raising is submitte d to the Govern ment	
Output 4  Technical support to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and planning forest rehabilitation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation.	4.1 Number of designed and submitted document packages, on Lake cleaning and forest rehabilitation	Ministerial reports	Lack of institutional capacities to implement ecosystem protection and rehabilitation measures in the basin to mitigate water pollution and the planning forest rehabilitation activities.	2020	0	0	0	0	2	Detailed site assessm ent for determi nation of a new bill of quantitie s for further cleaning works. Support in the verificati on and design of afforesta tion/refo	Document review

						restation	
						program	

# **OFFLINE RISK LOG**

	Description	Risk category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment/Management Measures	Risk Owner
	Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future <b>event</b> and cause.  Risks identified through HACT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be added to risk log	Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type (see Enterprise Risk Management Policy)	Describe the potential <b>effect</b> on the project if the future event were to occur.  Enter <b>probability</b> based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected)  Enter <b>impact</b> based on 1-5 scale (1 = Low; 5 = Critical)	What actions have been taken/will be taken to manage this risk.	The person or entity with the responsibility to manage the risk.
1	Political processes in the country related to the crisis may lead to processes of restructuring and creating uncertainties in policy priorities and institutional set up	Political	Volatile governance landscape and possible ministerial reorganisation will cause instability and reorientation of policy priorities, as well as disrupt the administrative setup and staff fluctuation needed for the project implementation  P=4  I= 4	Continued political and policy dialogue and interactions with the Government of Armenia. The programme foresees support to the new institutional set up and capacity building activities. The project may also revisit implementation mechanism and invest into capacity development not just for individual people but organisations to mitigate the risks associated with staff fluctuation	UNDP senior management, Project coordinator
2	Change of the security situation along the Gegharkunik border	Political	Difficulties/security restrictions for operating in certain sub-regions impose risk to data gathering and stakeholder engagement  P=3 I=5	Follow up on security situation in the country, especially along the borders and follow DSS requirements	UN DSS, Project Coordinator
3	Economic development promoted at the expense of natural resources degradation	Political	Politicians prioritise ecological concerns to a lesser extent than public services and economic development, particularly in the post-crisis setup  P=4 I=4	Introduction of comprehensive valuation methodologies/tools during assessments and planning activities to emphasize link between environment, economic and social aspects for evidence-based decision making	Project coordinator
4	Special business interests of certain groups might obstruct the rollout of any concepts and policies that are developed	Strategic	Reputation of the project is undermined and Lake Sevan surrounding communities are dis-interested in new planning and regulatory mechanisms	Introduction of the transparent processes and consultation mechanisms. Broad partner structure and adequate civil society	Project coordinator

5	Uncoordinated support programmes by different donors and public institutions	Operational	P=4 I=3  Limited sectorial interventions with short term benefits mislead to underestimation of benefits associated with revised policy and regulatory framework in longer perspectives  P=2 I=3	participation, training for key actors also outside the environment ministries  Promote pro-active donor and intra-sectorial coordination under the leadership of the ministry of environment, and support to wider information exchange and coordination under the project	UNDP management, Project coordinator
6	Intersectoral disputes over mandates and responsibilities threaten the efficiency of law making and enforcement of regulations	Strategic	Lengthy negotiations between multiple stakeholders impede project progress  P=3 I=3	Corresponding policy consultancy, support for cross-sector and inter-institutional co-operation platforms, transparent communication	Project coordinator
7	Corruption risks, namely at local level, affect the effectiveness and sustainability of the Project interventions	Financial	Continuation of further corruption schemes may hamper approval of proposed innovative sustainable resource management modalities and project activities at local level as a whole  P=3 I=4	Support to evidence-based policy making and coordination platforms and continues awareness-raising measures helps to generate greater transparency. Regular communication with local communities to visualise long-term benefits from the activities	Project coordinator
8	The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and declaration of martial law affect the implementation of activities	Other	Travel restrictions for local and international experts, difficulties for operation in communities and specifically organisations of stakeholder consultations P=4 I=5	Close monitoring of the development and alignment with the government's response to the effects of Covid-19	UNDP operations team Project coordinator

# ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC 67

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

RESPONSI EXPECTED OUTPUTS PLANNED ACTIVITIES **Planned Budget by Year** PLANNED BUDGET **BLE PARTY** Fundi Y2 Y4 Y1 Y3 ng **Budget Description** Amount 2021 2022 2023 2024 Sourc 1.1 Data gathering, analysis and Output 1: 71200 - International consultants 19.953 development of the park management *Improved* vision and management 45,775 71300 - Local consultants objectives framework for 1.2 Evaluation and identification of protection the lake 8,216 Sevan ecosystem and park zoning options and incentive 71600 - Travel sustainable use of measures 72100 - Contractual services -43,955 66,561 43,955 46,467 **UNDP** EU 106,807 Natural resources (user fees, conservation funds, etc.) companies 1.3 Design of the draft Lake Sevan 74200 - Audio visual & print. National Park (IUCN II) Management 7,042 **Production costs** Plan and processing public consultation 75100 - Facilities and 1.4 Finalization and approval of the 13,145 Administration Management Plan 200,938 **Sub-Total for Output 1** 2.1 Revision of the existing policy and Output 2: Revised 71200 - International consultants 11,737 regulatory framework governing lake and updated policy, EU 62,793 31,397 31,397 0.00 **UNDP** Sevan management and gap analysis regulatory and 71300 - Local consultants 23,474 institutional

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

framework governing protection	2.2 Defining new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan and update the							72100 - Contractual services- companies	70,422		
and sustainable use of lake Sevan	policy and regulatory framework							75700 - Workshops	11,737		
	2.3 Setup of the efficient inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanism to support implementation and monitoring of policy enforcement measure							75100 - Facilities and Administration	8,216		
	Sub-Total for Output 2								125,586		
Output 3 Enabling	3.1 Conduct a comprehensive study of the consequences/impact of raising the							71200 - International consultants	43,474		
environment created for long-term	level of water in the lake with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions – to address potential risks associated with impact into physical infrastructure (roads and construction facilities) and landscapes (forests,	31,397	33,500	124,111	87,283			71300 - Local consultants	36,385		
development planning and								72100-Contractual services- companies	165,493		
implementation of response measures						UNDP	EU	74200 - Audio visual & print. Production costs	12,864		
to address water level raising	agricultural and other community lands)							74500 - Miscellaneous	18,075		
	3.2 Elaboration of the road map and long-term action plan with costestimates to tackle and address water level raising							75100 - Facilities and Administration	43,474		
	Sub-Total for Output 3										
Output 4	4.1 Conducting Field inventory,							71200 - International consultants	16,432		
Comprehensive impact assessment	mapping and study 4.2 Provide recommendations for mitigation measures with cost							71300 - Local consultant	35,211		
of abounded tail of											71600 - Travel
Sotk mining in Gegharkunik	estimates	62,793	71,584	71,584	0.00	UNDP	EU	72100 - Contractual services- companies	132,629		
								74200 – Audio visual and print. Prod.	2,347		
								74500 - Miscellaneous	13,474		
								75100 - Facilities and Administration	16,432		
	Sub-Total for Output 4	•	·	•	•		•		205,962		

Project	Travel						71400 - Contractual Service Ind.	192,429
management	Equipment and Supplies						71600 Travel	17,605
	Local office						72300 - Materials &goods	4,694
	Other cost/services (Oaudit, conferences and workshops, etc.						72400 - Comm. And audio-visual eq.	10,798
							72500 - Supplies	5,633
							73100 - Rental and maint premises	24,823
							74100 - Prof. services (Audit)	5,633
							74200 - Audio visual and print. Prod.	23,474
							75700 - Workshops	10,563
							75100 – Facilities and Administration	23.924
	Sub-total for management							365,708
Total Direct Cost		276,115	270,569	341,050	209,917			1,097,652
General								
Management								
Support (indirect cost 7%)		19,328	18,940	23,873	14,694			76,835
TOTAL		,		•	,	,		1,174,487*

# ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2021/2022

	Activities						2022			
	rectifies						Q2	Q3	Q4	
Outp	out 1: Improved management framework for protection of the Lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use of natural resources	1								
1.1.	Data gathering, analysis and development of the park management vision and objectives									
1.2.	Evaluation and identification of park zoning options and incentive measures (user fees, conservation funds, etc.)									
1.3.	Design of the draft Lake Sevan National Park (IUCN II) Management Plan and processing public consultation									
1.4.	Finalization of the Management Plan									
Outp	Output 2: Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing protection and sustainable use of lake Sevan									
2.1.	Revision of the existing policy and regulatory framework governing lake Sevan management and gap analysis									
2.2.	Defining new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan and update the policy and regulatory framework									
2.3.	Setup of the efficient inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanism to support implementation and monitoring of policy enforcement measures									
Outp	Output 3: Enabling environment created for long-term development planning and implementation of response measures to address water level raising									
3.1.	Conduct a comprehensive study of the consequences/impact of raising the level of water in the lake with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions									
3.2.	Elaboration of the road map and long-term plan with cost-estimates to tackle and address water level raising									
	Output 4: Technical assistance to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and the planning afforestation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation									
4.1.	Detailed site assessment for determination of a new bill of quantities (for up to 3,000 ha area until 1,903.5 m) for further cleaning works									
4.2.	Support in the verification and design of 5,000 ha of afforestation/reforestation program									
4.3.	Equipment supply to facilitate riparian zone cleaning activities									

# **Output Verification Template**

# **Field Visit Report Format**

The content of the field visit report varies depending on the purpose of the visit. At a minimum, any field visit report must contain an analysis of the progress towards results, the production of outputs, partnerships, key challenges, and proposed actions. **This format may be slightly adjusted.** 

Date of visit: 24 November 2021

# Subject and venue of visit: Environmental Protection of Lake Sevan – EU4Sevan 00129871/00123402 project, UNDP Armenia

EU4Sevan UNDP project coordinator Astghik Danielyan and UNDP Climate, Environment and Resilience Portfolio team leader Hovhannes Ghazaryan had a meeting with UNDP Resident Representative Natia Natsvlishvili, in order to discuss the project progress and delivery for the current year.

[Project number(s) and title(s), venue visited]

### **Purpose of the field visit:**

Outcomes	Update	Outputs	Update on	Reasons if	Update on	Recommendations
	on		outputs	progress	partnership	and
	outcomes			below	strategies	proposed action
				target		
CPD Outcome 2: Ecosystems are managed sustainably, and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate-smart solutions	No changes in the reporting period	CPD Output 2.3: Improved national and local governments capacities to introduce environmentally sound management practices for ecosystems, waste and chemicals.	Output 1: The ToR on (1) Data gathering, analysis and development of the Sevan NP management vision and objectives; (2) Identification of park zoning options and incentive measures; (3) Design of the Lake Sevan NP Management Plan is in place.  Output 2: (1) The scoping of the policy, legal and institutional framework regulating Lake Sevan ecosystem governance is developed and submitted to MoE. (2) The methodology and roadmap for a new national vision for Lake Sevan, the ToR for the next step are developed and tendered. (3) To upgrade the policy, legal and institutional framework governing Lake Sevan, a roadmap, methodology and the ToR for the next steps are in place. (4) ToR for development of legal regulations and privileges for facilitating water re-use in Armenia is in place and tendered.		The Project is closely collaborating with GIZ as the co- implementing partner for EU4Sevan. Collaboration with project SEVAMOD2 is established.  To ensure ownership by partners and sustainability of actions, all activities are implemented in strong collaboration with relevant stakeholders and partners: Ministry of Environment, Sevan National Park, Water committee, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, RA Parliament Committee on Environment, Academic institutions, EU Twinning, ADB, EUWI+, WWF, etc.  Project established cooperation with UNDP other portfolios and with the projects within the	To consider for future that the revision process in the framework of the project takes a long time and resources. The current revision took from January-September 2021.  To continue the collaborative approach used by the project so far and further ensure the synergy of efforts.

	Output 3: The ToR of a comprehensive assessment of the impact of raising the level of water in the Lake is under development. Due to COVID, the international expert was unable to complete the work. The project needed to hire another international expert, which delayed the process.  Output 4: One unit of wheel loader to support the cleaning of the Lake Sevan riparian zone is procured.	portfolio, to insure the synergy of results and efficient resource use.  All parties agreed to continue the collaborative approach used by the project so far and further ensure the synergy of efforts.
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### PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

[If the person conducting the field visit observes problems that are generic and not related to any specific output, or that apply to all of them, he or she should address the 'top three' such challenges.] List the main challenges experienced during implementation and propose a way forward.

- Revision process in the framework of the project takes a long time and resources. The current revision took from January-September 2021.
- COVID 19 continues to be a challenge, to be explicitly considered during the project implementation
- Border situation impacts the priorities of local population.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

Describe briefly key lessons learned during the project:

- Revision process in the framework of the project takes a long time and resources. The current revision took from January-September 2021.
- COVID 19 continues to be a challenge, to be explicitly considered during the project implementation
- Border situation impacts the priorities of local population.

Participants in the field visit:

Project // Portfolio - EU4Sevan project / UNDP Climate, Environment and Resilience Portfolio

EU4Sevan project coordinator Astghik Danielyan

2045evan project coordinator Asignik Danieryan

CER Portfolio team leader Hovhannes Ghazaryan