



AGENDA

Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting Environmental Protection of Lake Sevan – EU4Sevan Yerevan, January 21, 2021

10.00-10.05	Welcome Remarks Mihaela Stojkoska, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, LPAC Chair
10.05-10.25	EU4Sevan: Project Description Georgi Arzumanyan, Environment and Green Economy Adviser, UNDP Armenia/UNDP RBEC
10.25-10.35	Questions and answers
10.35 -10.55	Discussions, recommendations
10.55-11.00	Concluding remarks Mihaela Stojkoska, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, LPAC Chair

List of LPAC members

#	Name	Position//Institution
1.	Mihaela Stojkoska	UNDP DRR, LPAC chair
Government		
2.	Anna Mazmanyan	Deputy Minister of Environment
3.	Ruzanna Grigoryan	Head of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment
UNDP CO		

4.	Hovhannes Ghazaryan	Climate, Environment and Resilience (CER) Portfolio Analyst/ Team Leader
5.	Georgi Arzumanyan	Environment and Green Economy Advisor, UNDP Armenia/RBEC
6.	Artashes Darbinyan	UNDP Operations Manager
7.	Armine Hovhannisyan	Programme Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNDP Armenia
8.	Lusine Sargsyan	Project assistant

Opening remarks

Mr. Hovhannes Ghazaryan opened the meeting, thanked to participants for their time and participation and passed the flow to UNDP DRR. UNDP DRR, LPAC chair Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She highlighted the strategic importance of Lake Sevan and the importance of the Project for Armenia. She stated that project design and implementation approach is to based on the inevitability to ensure that the lake ecosystem integrity and population wellbeing are balanced in the right way. She also raised the issue of the two main challenges that may affect project implementation - COVID-19 pandemic and the resumption of conflict in the Nagorno Karabakh (NK), in this regard highlighting the importance of agile and adaptive management. Ms. Stojkoska also raised the issue of Output 4, which is related to comprehensive impact assessment of the abounded tail of Sotk gold mine in Gegharkunik and was included in the project at the request of the Ministry. She stated that since the mine area has been affected by the NK crisis, the government need to see whether this output is still feasible. Finally, Ms. Stojkoska appreciated spirit of partnership and the opportunity for UNDP to be engaged into collaboration with the Government, European Union and GIZ and voiced her confidence in the successful implementation of the project. She gave the floor over to Deputy Ministry of Environment Ms. Anna Mazmanyanyan.

Ms. Mazmanyanyan voiced the appreciation of the Ministry for the project as Lake Sevan, that is of crucial importance for the entire Armenia, is currently in a terrible condition. She highlighted the importance of finding the root cause of the current unfavorable situation and wished everyone good luck and effective implementation of the project. The floor was then given to UNDP Armenia/RBEC Environment and Green Economy Advisor Mr. Georgi Arzumanyan to present the project.

Presentation

Mr. Arzumanyan highlighted that the project is part of a bigger project which is implemented under the umbrella of the EU for Energy Efficiency and Environment. She thanked Ms. Mazmanyanyan for raising the issue of finding the root cause of the issues and not merely developing end of pipe solutions.

Mr. Arzumanyan gave some basic information on UNDP component of the project such as the duration, the budget and the implementing partners and went on to speak about project development objectives, main approach, milestones, and challenges. Mr. Arzumanyan also introduced the four main components of the project and spoke about the interventions they entail and expected results. He highlighted several important issues such as the Management Plan of the Lake Sevan National Park, comprehensive study of the impact of raising the water level of Lake Sevan, and the abounded tail of Sotk gold mine in Gegharkunik. He mentioned that the last output related to the Sotk mine tail assessment need to be re-

considered by the government, bearing in mind the current post-conflict political development in the Vardenis region.

Further, he detailed on the expected results of the project and introduced the project governance scheme, spoke about major requirements and work on social and environmental screening, gender mainstreaming, and other cross-cutting elements. He also emphasized the importance of close collaboration with the government and GIZ, mentioned on the necessity of engagement of more governmental counterparts, for instance the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, with the project Steering Committee, and the Project Advisory committee.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for discussion.

Discussion

Ms. Stojkoska stated that the presentation has reaffirmed the complexity of the project and mentioned that the main challenge is the issue of Output 4 - the Sotk mine tail. She also highlighted the importance of sectoral cooperation and the engagement of all the relevant Ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Economy.

Ms. Mazmanyanyan added that the deputy Minister of Economy, who oversees Agriculture sector, should definitely be involved in the project steering committee and promised to raise the issue during her upcoming meeting with the Deputy Minister. Ms. Mazmanyanyan also strongly underlined the importance of working in close cooperation with all the three involved Ministries and UNDP.

UNDP CER Portfolio Team Leader Mr. Hovhannes Ghazaryan added the importance of the role of the Lake Sevan National Park Administration and stated that they have to be closely and directly involved in the implementation process to ensure ownership and sustainability.

Mr. Arzumanyan further raised some technical issues. He informed those present that at the design stage of the project it was envisaged to share the vehicle of another UNDP larger project, in order to be cost-effective, but the other project wasn't formally approved as the process of negotiations and approval was impacted by the COVID pandemic. He stated that for the time being, other UNDP vehicles will be used for the project, but UNDP may require the support of the MoE to negotiate the issue of the vehicle purchase with the EU.

Ms. Mazmanyanyan proposed to organize a quick follow-up meeting to discuss all the technical issues.

Further, Ms. Ruzanna Grigoryan from the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Environment raised a question about project governance. She asked whether the project steering committee is a unified body coordinating both the UNDP and GIZ components of the project.

Mr. Arzumanyan said that in the EU description of actions, there is just one statement that the project will have a steering committee where both organizations will be involved. He added that the UNDP Project Document has been shared with the GIZ colleagues, even though there have been no comments. He believes that there will be one body coordinating both components of the EU4Sevan project, but this is something that needs to be further clarified with the Ministry, EU and GIZ.

Ms. Grigoryan underlined that general coordination will ensure proper management of the project. Mr. Ghazaryan added that that's the way UNDP would prefer but it's also up to the Ministry to make this suggestion. Ms. Grigoryan proposed to delve into this issue during the upcoming meeting.

UNDP M&E Programme Officer, Ms. Armine Hovhannisyan stated that as per UNDP procedures, evaluations are not mandatory for this type of projects, and asked whether some type of final evaluation has been considered in the scope of the bigger project. She also asked whether it would be expedient to have a midterm or maybe final evaluation in 2024.

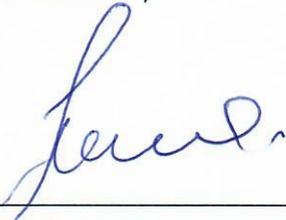
Mr. Arzumanyan answered that for this type of projects, there is usually an evaluation provision included in the multi-party contribution agreement and this type of projects undergo evaluation commissioned by the EU. He added that the issue can be clarified during the inception period, to make sure there is no overlapping double work.

Ms. Stojkoska thanked all the participants for the efficient meeting and stated that UNDP is always available for further meetings and discussions. Ms. Mazmanyanyan also thanked the participants and voiced hope that this will be a very efficient project.

Mr. Arzumanyan also thanked the participants for the meeting and commitment. He voiced confidence that in this spirit of partnership, the project will achieve all its objectives even in these difficult times and closed the meeting.

Conclusions

1. The committee recommended to approve the project and proved its alignment with the national top priority that is rehabilitation and preservation of Lake Sevan ecosystem in line with the Armenian National Security Strategy and the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for 2017-2022.
2. The committee members did not express any objection towards project objectives, result and resource framework, monitoring framework. Committee recommended to continue further discussions on the scope of the Project Output 4 to have the clarity until end of the project inception phase.
3. The project implementation modality and governance framework were well accepted with recommendation to include into the Project steering Committee two more state entities, namely Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Economy.
4. It is recommended to have one Governance structure for two projects implemented by UNDP and GIZ under the umbrella EU4Sevan project.
5. The identified monitoring framework, risks, and mitigation measures, including project social and environmental screening, are noted, and will be discussed along with any necessary horizon scanning and/or proposed project revisions annually.



Mihaela Stojkoska, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative,
PAC Chair

Georgi Arzumanyan

From: Ruzanna Grigoryan <ruzanna.grigoryan@env.am>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:30 PM
To: Georgi Arzumanyan; Mihaela Stojkoska; a.mazmanyanyan@env.am; Artashes Darbinyan
Cc: Hovhannes Ghazaryan; Armine Hovhannisyan; Lusine Sargsyan
Subject: RE: Minutes of LPAC for EU4Sevan 21 January 2021

Dear Georgi,

Thank you for the provided Minutes of LPAC on EU4Sevan Project, held on Thursday, January 2021.
Please be kindly advised that the Ministry of Environment hasn't any comments and you can proceed with further arrangements accordingly.

Regards,
Ruzanna



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From: Georgi Arzumanyan [mailto:georgi.arzumanyan@undp.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 6:17 PM
To: Mihaela Stojkoska <mihaela.stojkoska@undp.org>; a.mazmanyanyan@env.am; ruzanna.grigoryan@env.am; Artashes Darbinyan <artashes.darbinyan@undp.org>
Cc: Hovhannes Ghazaryan <hovhannes.ghazaryan@undp.org>; Armine Hovhannisyan <armine.hovhannisyan@undp.org>; Lusine Sargsyan <lusine.sargsyan@undp.org>
Subject: Minutes of LPAC for EU4Sevan 21 January 2021

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to attach for your consideration the Final Draft Minutes of the EU4Sevan Project LPAC. Will appreciate your consideration and comments (if any) by end of Monday, if possible, to arrange signature and place into the system.

Thank you very much in advance,
Georgi