

Reporting Agency: UNDP
Country: Armenia

MONITORING ACTION AND STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT¹

No. and title: Environmental Protection of Lake Sevan – EU4Sevan, 00129871/00123402
Reporting period: September 2020 - December 2022

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

- 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 1,000,664.00 / \$1,057,713.18

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.

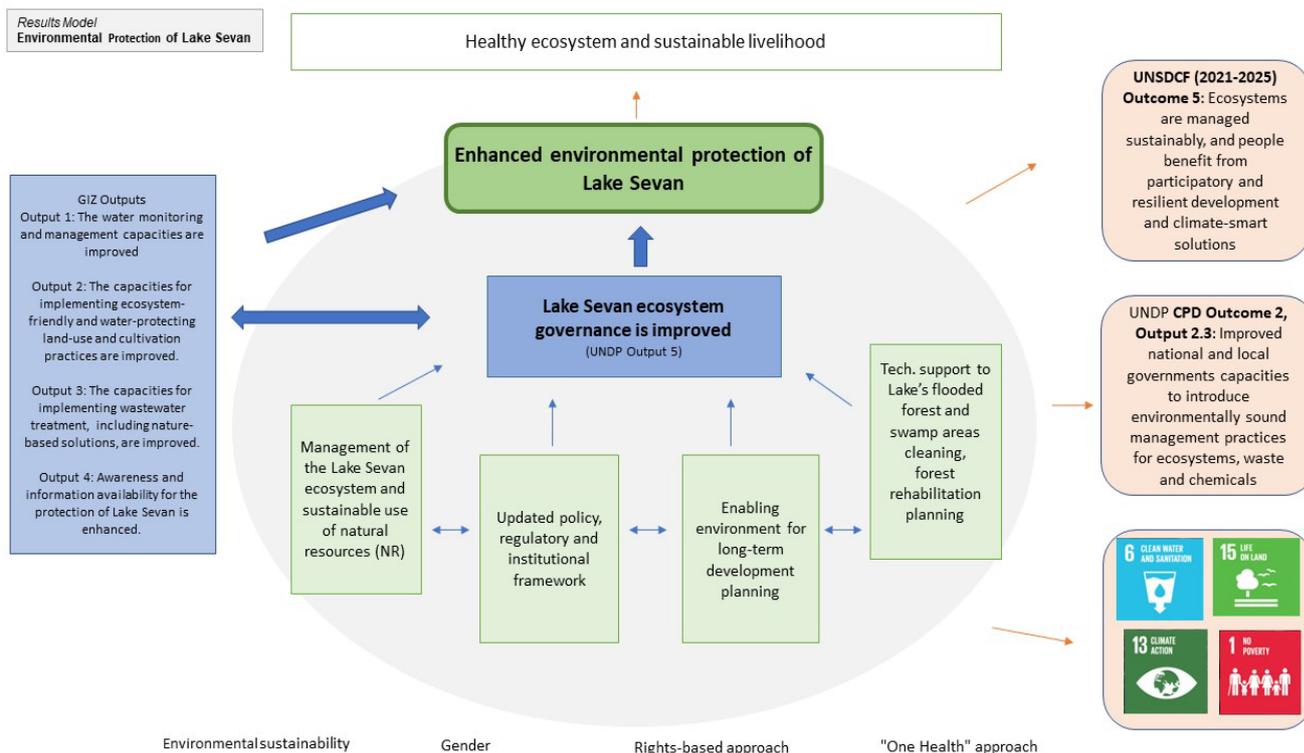
¹ **GUIDELINES:** The report shall be evidence-based, cumulative, strategic, concise, in results language, and proofread. Information adds up/updated through monitoring cycles and presents a highly aggregated picture of project results, risks, issues, course changes, etc. The report shall be prepared/filed 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, FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

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

	Total Project Budget USD	Current Year (2022)			All Years Delivery as of SPR date USD	All Years Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)
		Annual Budget USD	Delivery as of SPR date, USD	Delivery rate as of SPR date (%)		
Donor 1 (EU)	\$1,057,713.18	\$290,000.00	\$285,880.94	98.58%	453,151.88	42.84%
Total	\$1,057,713.18	\$290,000.00	\$285,880.94	98.58%	453,151.88	42.84%

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

* Note: The delivery sum of \$285,880.94 includes \$181,821.54 actual expenditures and \$104,059.40 Purchase Orders as of 31 December 2022.

III. RESULTS

- A snapshot of higher-level results:** Present/discuss results vis-à-vis UNSDCF/CPD/UNDP SP, SDG outcomes, outputs, indicators, baselines, targets in line with Project Document (Prodoc) Results Framework (RRF). Update RRF in annex.
- Other important Project level achievements.**
- Annual Work Plan:** Present in below table a snapshot of the current year's workplan (planned targets, resources, achievement status). Attach in annex the updated Multi-Year Work Plan or Annual Work Plan as relevant.

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:

Atlas Activity/ Component/ Output	Year targets/ Key Deliverables	Current Year (2022)					
		Planned				Actual	
		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 Data are gathered, analyzed and the Sevan National Park management vision and objectives are developed, towards the development of National Park Management Plan	x	x	x	x	Completed	Work started in June.
Output 2. Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing protection	2.1 New long-term national vision for Lake Sevan is defined and discussed with stakeholders	x	x	x	x	Completed	Work started in February 2022 and will be completed in February 2023.
	2.2 The development of a budgeted strategy or action plan to overcome the barriers and obstacles in the policy, legal and				x	Completed	Tender announced in Q4, evaluation completed, contracting in progress, to be ready in January 2023.

and sustainable use of lake Sevan	institutional framework with the aim to achieve the long-term national vision for Lake Sevan is started						
	2.3 The potential for application of incentive mechanisms for double (secondary) water use in Armenia is assessed	x	x	x		Completed	
Output 3. Enabling environment created for long-term development planning and implementation of response measures to address water level raising	3.1 Technical ToR for assessment of the consequences/ impact of raising the level of water in Lake Sevan and road map with cost estimates to tackle and address water level raising is developed and agreed with partners	x				Completed	Work is continuing from Y2021. Due to COVID, the international expert was unable to complete the work. The project needed to hire other international expert, which delayed the process. The new consultant started the work in January 2022 and completed it by the end of March.
	3.2 A comprehensive study with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions to address risks associated with impact into physical infrastructure and landscapes is started		x	x	x	Completed	Work started in November 2022.
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 Equipment supplied to facilitate riparian zone cleaning activities	x				Completed	
	4.2 Developed and agreed technical specifications on detailed site assessment for determination of a new bill of quantities for further cleaning works of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas			x		Completed	Work started in June, ahead of plan, and was completed in July.
	4.3 Developed and agreed technical specifications on support in the design of the afforestation/reforestation program			x		Completed	Work started in June, ahead of plan, and was completed in July.
Project Management	0.1 Project reporting is done	x	x	x	x	Completed	
	0.2 Project detailed planning is conducted						
	0.3 Project folders are updated, all necessary information continuously submitted to Operations						
	0.4 Project Steering committee meetings are conducted						
	0.5 Advisory board meetings are conducted						
	0.6 Inputs for 2nd annual progress report are submitted						
	0.7 Project Monitoring reports are submitted						

Pending
Achieved and surpassed
Completed
On track
Delayed
Major deviation

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

2022

- A Consortium comprised of RA NAS Institute of Botany SNCO (Armenia), Soluton LLC (Armenia), DHP Conservation Ltd (Czech Republic), and NaravaNarave doo (Slovenia) was contracted on 16 June for conducting respective analysis and development of the Sevan National Park Management Plan. A kickoff meeting of the process took place on 22 July 2022 at the institute of Botany. Participatory planning is a key concept throughout all the stages of implementation of this multi-stakeholder process. Thus, the meeting involved participants from state agencies, international organizations, regional agencies, academia, and NGOs. After six months of work, analyses of available data are conducted, respective gaps identified, and fieldwork is conducted to cover the biodiversity and cartography data gaps in the park area of over 150,000 ha. The stakeholder analysis and participatory plan is prepared. Due to the escalation of the armed conflict with Azerbaijan on 13-14 September the local level meetings and the visit of the international consultants was postponed. The local level meetings were conducted in November 2022. A total of 72 people from the local communities participated in these meetings, including 41 women (57%). Work is expected to be completed by fall 2023.

2021

- 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 the protection and sustainable use of Lake Sevan

2022

- A tender was announced for the 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. The evaluation stage is completed, and contracting is in process. Work is expected to start in January 2023.
- The findings of the “Policy, legal and institutional framework scoping on the Lake Sevan ecosystem governance” document and its recommendations have been considered by the Ministry of Environment during the amendment of the Law on Special Protected Areas and have been used for respective decision-making processes.

- Advise consulting LLC was contracted on 15 February to define the new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan. Work is expected to be completed by February 2023. Outputs on situational analyses have been received and shared with MoE. Report on values statement and plausible and relevant scenarios, as well as list of stakeholder expectations have also been received. In September and November 2022, ADWISE Consulting conducted seven focus group discussions on the 3 vision scenarios which have been developed with Governmental organizations, academia, NGOs, and inhabitants of the nearby communities (due to the escalation of the armed conflict with Azerbaijan on 13-14 September, local-level focus group discussions were postponed until November). Overall, 117 people participated in these discussions, 53% of which (or 62) were women. On 20 December, ADWISE Consulting conducted a workshop where the draft National Vision for Lake Sevan was discussed. 38 participants from Government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and other relevant institutions participated in the workshop. The draft report provided to the partners for their comments, after what will be finalized. The scenario approach has been applied for the first time in the environmental field policy development in Armenia. The work is expected to be completed by March 2023.
- On 23 September, a field event was planned in Gegharkunik marz. The main objective was to introduce to the donors, partners, and national stakeholders the progress toward the development of the new long-term national vision of Lake Sevan, and the development of the Management Plan of the Sevan National Park. However, due to the escalation of the armed conflict with Azerbaijan on 13-14 September and the resulting security considerations, travel to Gegharkunik marz was restricted, and the field event was postponed indefinitely.
- Environment Group LLC was contracted on 1 April for assessment of the potential for application of incentive mechanisms for double (secondary) water use in Armenia. The work was completed in August. On 30 August 2022, a workshop took place on the results of the assessment. This assessment provides the identification of the gaps and possible reform options for improving environmental or water abstraction fees and economic mechanisms to establish financial incentives for double (secondary) water use. The conducted study is important for sustainable water management and climate mitigation in Armenia and will have a positive impact on Lake Sevan as well. The workshop was attended by 22 representatives of the RA Ministries of Environment and Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, as well as the RA National Assembly, the academia, international organizations, and NGOs; 73% of the participants (or 16) were women. The workshop was concluded with the mutual understanding that the final product is an applicable document which will serve as a basis for the RA Ministry of Environment for developing respective policy and legislative regulations toward fostering double (secondary) water use in Armenia. The study will also help the GoA to address the country's compliance requirements to the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Water Framework Directive, and the EU Regulation 2020/741 of 25.05.2020 on minimum requirements for water reuse. The final report and Minutes of the workshop are provided to the MoE in September 2022. The MoE had additionally circulated the report among the respective Governmental entities, e.g., Ministry of Economy. The received comments were analyzed and respective feedback/update was provided by the Environmental Group in December 2022.

The activity is implemented in cooperation with "National Adaptation Plan to advance medium and long-term adaptation planning in Armenia" UNDP-GCF project.

2021

- 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 rising

2022

- Civitta AM CJSC in consortium with Sweco Hydroprojekt a.s. and JINJ Co. Ltd. was contracted on 14 November 2022 to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the consequences/impact of raising the level of water in Lake Sevan with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions and the road map development. The Inception phase is ongoing to clear the methodology, timeline, cooperation /coordination framework, etc. Work is expected to be completed at the end of 2023.

2021

- 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.

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

2022

- Technical specifications for the verification and design of up to 5,000 ha of forest rehabilitation (afforestation/reforestation) program at the Lake Sevan basin has been developed by National expert and agreed with national partners.
- Technical specifications for a detailed site assessment for determination of a new bill of quantities for further cleaning works in the Lake Sevan shoreline has been developed and agreed with national partners. Due to budget constraints as a consequence of the AMD appreciation against USD and EUR and a generally high inflation, further implementation of the two developed technical specifications may not be feasible. Further updates will be provided.
- One unit of wheel loader to enhance the Ministry of Environment inhouse capacities on the cleaning of the Lake Sevan riparian zone has been procured and delivered to the Sevan National Park SNCO on 25 February. A user training was conducted. A visibility event/field trip was organized on 20 April, to demonstrate the capacities of the loader and for official handover, with the participation of donors, government agencies, relevant stakeholders, and partner organizations, as well as UNDP Resident Representative, Deputy Resident Representative, CER Portfolio leader, and other UNDP officials. To ensure the sustainability of the above action, MoE has allocated maintenance costs for the machinery in the 2022 budget and has employed a motorman and technician responsible for the machinery at Sevan National Park. As of December 2022, 55.03 ha of flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas have been cleaned by Sevan National Park.

2021

- 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

- On 17 March 2022, information on project implementation for the past 6 months was provided to the MoE. On 30 August and 10 October 2022, information on project implementation for the past 3 months was provided to the MoE.
- Quarterly information on project implementation was provided to the MoE on 28 June, 19 August, and 12 October 2021, to contribute the MoE reporting to RA Government on Lake Sevan activities.
- 2nd year donor report was prepared and submitted to EU on 09.11.2022.
- 1st 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.
- The project Advisory board members were actively involved in project discussions throughout the year, namely: 20 April 2022 field visit to Gegharkunik, 1 July 2022 Lake Sevan Conference, 22 July 2022 kickoff meeting of the Consortium developing the Sevan National Park Management Plan, 30 August 2022 Water reuse workshop, 6, 7, and 9 September 2022 focus group discussions on Lake Sevan vision scenarios, 20 December 2022 workshop on Lake Sevan vision, etc. Since all members of the Advisory board participated in at least one of these meetings (some of them in as many as 3 or 4), these can be considered as equivalent of Advisory Board meetings.
- Advisory board of the project is established. The project held two workshops on 22 and 28 October 2022, 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 third meeting took place on 10 June 2022. The fourth meeting is set to take place on 13 January 2023.

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 1st 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 <http://www.mnp.am/am/post/5731> 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, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND, OTHER ASPECTS

- *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. If possible, GEN0-1 projects shall be revisited for upgrade.*
- *Present the project's targeting strategy and application of **Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)** approach.*
- *Present the project's **cross-cutting aspects and 'enablers'** in such areas as cross-portfolio interventions, human rights-based approach, risk informed development, mainstreaming innovation, social and environmental responsiveness, user-driven design, citizen engagement, leveraging private financing.*

2022

- The Project contributes towards equity and inclusiveness by directly tackling environmental degradation, which has a greater impact on poorer segments of the society.
- 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. Analyses, instruments, and decision-support tools developed by the project are developed and applied with a significant participation of women as researchers, planners, trainers, lecturers, etc. The project supports the quantitative and qualitative participation of women in decisions on the elaboration, implementation, and control of management plans.
- The new long-term national vision development process for Lake Sevan is considering gender cross-cutting issues both in analyses and in values statements, which should guide the vision development. The interests, socio-economic differences, motivations, and constraints of different genders are taken into account in formulating the expectations of stakeholders and in developing possible future scenarios.
- Sevan National Park management plan development considers the gender aspects during all the participatory processes. Taking into account the multi-layered nature of the stakeholders, the identification of possible risks hindering the participation process and the development of possible solutions to overcome them are in progress, where special attention is paid to gender mainstreaming. The living conditions, possible problems and needs of both women and men are considered.
- High participation and benefits for women are aimed at in all the steps of planning, execution and evaluation of the Project, e.g., during the kickoff meeting of the activity “Conducting necessary analysis and development of the Sevan National Park management plan” on 22.07.2022, 19 participants out of 43 were women (44%); during the workshop on the Assessment of the potential for application of incentive mechanisms for water reuse in Armenia on 30.08.2022, 16 participants out of 22 were women (73%); during the focus group discussions on the three scenarios of the Lake Sevan new long-term national vision covering both national and grassroot levels, the participation of women was on average 53%; during the local level discussions while conducting respective analysis and development of the Sevan National Park Management Plan, 57% of participants (41 out of 72) were women.
- SDG analyses are under consideration during the long-term national vision development process for Lake Sevan.
- Ecosystem approach and environmental sustainability are considered as a fundamental principle of the Project, as natural resources and ecosystems are its key capital. 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.

- During the development of the new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan, for the first time a new approach (scenario approach) was implemented where several different scenarios were drafted and discussed with focus groups. The scenarios were based on marginal approaches, in order to stimulate brainstorming and discussion among focus group members. The ideas generated during the discussions were used to draft the final Vision.

2021

- 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).
- High participation and benefits for women are aimed at in all the steps of planning, monitoring and evaluation of the Action, e.g., during the workshop to discuss the Scoping study on policy, legal and institutional framework governing the Lake Sevan ecosystem on 22.10.21 18 of the 37 participants were women (49%); during the workshop to discuss the roadmap and methodologies on Lake Sevan vision development and based on that, overcoming policy, legal and institutional framework barriers on 28.10.21, 25 of the 44 participants were women (57%).
- 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 to ProDoc:** Present/discuss the current risks status and mitigation strategies. Update risks in Atlas and in attached Log. The closed risks shall remain in the list. Present changes to ProDoc necessitated by horizon scanning or other factors. Indicate all project revisions, reasons and dates.
- **Evaluation:** Indicate if ProDoc defines evaluation for this project. For conducted evaluations present the implementation of recommendations/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 September 2022, the escalation of the armed conflict with Azerbaijan caused the project further risks of travel to Gegharkunik marz. UNDSS prohibited all travel to the marz for several weeks. The relevant risk was accordingly revised in Atlas. The project was forced to cancel the large-scale field event planned on 23 September. Several field trips with experts to the area were cancelled as well.

The geopolitical situation in the world which impacts world economy

The geopolitical situation in the world which impacts world economy has caused exchange rate fluctuations between USD, EUR, and AMD and inflation. Project receives budget in EUR which is converted to USD at a much lower rate. Project pays local contractors in AMD, and the budget USD is converted to AMD at a much lower rate. Due to these exchange rate fluctuations, the project has suffered an overall budget loss of about ~25%.

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

- Present **partnership strategies**, discuss South-South/Triangular cooperation, inter-agency or other collaboration, mentioning the learning or leading roles.
- Collate in a table **knowledge and communication materials and links**. Indicate planned flagship publications and discuss their strategic importance.

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 resources" 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 activities	Evidence
2023		
1		
2		
2022		
1	<p>On 15 February 2022, ADWISE Consulting LLC was contracted to develop the new long-term vision for Lake Sevan. The kick-off meeting with the team took place on 17 February, at ADWISE Consulting office.</p> <p>The process will focus on a highly participative approach. It will engage different stakeholders to ensure that the vision is long-term, interiorized, and</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/1598834777054474/posts/3160337964237473/?sfnsn=mo</p>

	<p>motivates their engagement in the implementation of actions to reach the vision by 2050.</p>	<p>Implementation of the roadmap for defining a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan</p> 
<p>2</p>	<p>On 25 February 2022, the wheel loader procured to assist the Ministry of Environment with Lake Sevan riparian zone cleaning was delivered to Sevan National Park SNCO. Upon delivery, a short training was organized for the end users of the equipment.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/posts/254184690236241</p> 
<p>3</p>	<p>On 25 March 2022, the project team met with the Minister of Environment of the RA Mr. Hakob Simidyan, EU4Sevan team presented the project and the work done so far within the 5 outputs of the project. The Minister underlined the importance of the project aimed at the rehabilitation of Lake Sevan ecosystem.</p>	<p>http://www.mnp.am/news/news-25-03-2022-eu4sevan</p> 
<p>4</p>	<p>On 25 March 2022, the EU4Sevan project team had a meeting with the Expert Commission on protection of Lake Sevan of the NAS RA. The project team and the Commission discussed the priorities for the improvement of the ecological state of Lake Sevan and the opportunities for cooperation.</p>	<p>https://www.sci.am/m/newsview.php?id=492&langid=1#top https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/officials/13867/?fbclid=IwAR3BmhRKmsrpKczknUxDn9_vfPSSG0M7vE_tJYKKxGd2Mw-FXzz_fRyhUUI</p>

		
5	<p>On 6 April 2022, the EU4Sevan team participated in a partnership meeting held by the RA Deputy Minister of Environment with international partner organizations. The aim of the meeting was to ensure the coordination of the water sector in Armenia and effective implementation of the ongoing projects, intermediate results, and outlined actions.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/posts/281247337529976</p> 
6	<p>On 13 April 2022, the Ministry of Environment published a post on Facebook about the launch of cleaning of the flooded riparian zone of Lake Sevan with the use of the equipment procured by the project. The work started in the area near Vardenik village in the Martuni area of Sevan National Park SNCO.</p>	<p>https://fb.watch/cmwy1Dyz2Z/</p>  <p>Մեկնարկել են Սևանա լճի ափամերձ և ջրածածկման ենթակա անտառաշերտի մաքրման աշխատանքները «Սևան»ազգային...</p>
7	<p>An open-air event and a joint trip within the framework of the EU4Sevan project took place in the Gegharkunik region on 20 April 2022, with the participation of the RA Deputy Minister of Environment, EU delegation members, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and other officials. The field trip by EU4Sevan UNDP component was organized to inspect and test the wheeled bucket loader in action near Vardenik village.</p>	<p>http://env.am/news/3 https://www.facebook.com/UNDPArmenia/posts/5017193031695259 https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/posts/290708599917183 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sctljFvPpe0 https://www.facebook.com/100068005953237/posts/322039780072885/?sfnsn=mo https://www.facebook.com/martunuqaghagapetaran/posts/5012933118743929</p>

	<p>The event was highly appreciated by the project partners and generated vast media coverage.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>On 13 May 2022, Project contractor ADWISE LLC had a meeting with Gegharkunik marz communities' representatives regarding the long-term national vision for Lake Sevan. Gegharqunk marz communities are strongly influenced by the challenges related to Lake Sevan. Therefore, in order to ensure a highly inclusive approach, it was important for both ADWISE and UNDP in Armenia to facilitate the discussion on the problems and expectations, as well as to motivate the engagement among the representatives of various communities of Gegharkunik.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/adwiseconsult/posts/pfbid02bkKRfyyDMRdKK8DtZVAnmmXhHJDrJ1uXHKU7fJAioASBt8Sxd5Rya3dMawPJ73hml</p> 
<p>9</p>	<p>On 3 June 2022, the project had a meeting with Areg Karapetyan, Arsen Gasparyan, and Martiros Nalbandyan, representatives of the consortium led by the Institute of Botany which has been contracted to develop the Sevan National Park management plan. The parties discussed approaches regarding implementation of the project.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>On 10 June 2022, the third meeting of the Project Steering Board took place in the Ministry of Environment. The project team presented the progress for the past six months and the work plan for the rest of 2022. Issues of strategic</p>	<p>http://www.mnp.am/news/news_sevan_13-06</p>

	<p>importance were also discussed with the donor.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>On 1 July 2022, the first International Conference of its kind about the “Joining Efforts Towards Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Sevan Ecosystem” was held.</p> <p>The conference brought together people from different stakeholder groups with different backgrounds concerning Lake Sevan issues and interdisciplinary research teams. The conference was an incentive for comprehensive knowledge and information sharing, networking, awareness raising, establishing the cooperation between participating organizations for addressing the complex problems through jointly implemented activities and identifying key recommendations for the protection of this sensitive and service-providing ecosystem.</p> <p>The UNDP part of the project also has been presented during the conference.</p>	<p>http://www.mnp.am/en/news/ecosystem-lake-sevan</p> 
<p>12</p>	<p>On 6 July 2022, the Ministry of Environment posted news coverage on the wheel loader transferred to Sevan National Park by the project within Activity 4. The report particularly highlighted how the new machinery has facilitated and expedited cleaning of the flooded riparian area of the lake.</p>	<p>https://fb.watch/e51xcGQjC/</p> 
<p>13</p>	<p>On 13 July 2022, representatives of the Institute of Botany after A. Takhtajyan and Soluton LLC had a meeting with the heads of the Sevan National Park SNCO, within the activity of implementing the necessary analysis</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/156859868445073/posts/pfbid0DrZHdxPReYDvVjvLisq5od6ndeHsrw7CCT2RTnxYEBY2peuqm8W7BYa49K23tNnUl/?d=n</p>

	<p>and developing the Management Plan of the Sevan National Park. The parties discussed the key steps toward developing a viable and efficient Management plan, the existing challenges as well as the ways to overcome them.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>The kick-off meeting of the process “Conducting necessary analysis and development of the Sevan National Park management plan” took place at the Institute of Botany after A. Takhtajyan NAS RA on 22 July 2022.</p> <p>Participatory planning is a key concept throughout all the stages of implementation of this multi-stakeholder process. Thus, the meeting involved participants from state agencies, international and partner organizations, stakeholders, regional agencies, and academia.</p>	<p>http://env.am/news/sevan_park-government-plan https://www.facebook.com/National-park-Sevan-156859868445073/ https://www.ecolur.org/hy/news/sevan/14184/</p> 
<p>15</p>	<p>On 10 August 2022, the Public TV Company of Armenia posted a news coverage on the development of the Sevan National Park Management Plan.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=602321751501240 https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=765279127911189&extid=NS-UNK-UNK-UNK-IO5_GK0T-GK1C-GK2C&ref=sharing https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=7907269396012995&extid=NS-UNK-UNK-UNK-IO5_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing</p> 
<p>16</p>	<p>On 30 August 2022, a workshop took place on the results of the assessment of the potential for application of incentive mechanisms for double (secondary)</p>	<p>http://env.am/news/EU4Sevan-31-08-2022 https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/posts/pfbid0rE61k4eKy2XD7ckYhSvmhcoZ6Jqxqyr4riP2cgs5MaebDRHp2MT33t4FH7t4PosE1</p>

	<p>water use in Armenia, carried out in cooperation with NAP project.</p> <p>The workshop was concluded with the mutual understanding that the final product is an applicable document which will serve as a basis for the RA Ministry of Environment for developing respective policy and legislative regulations toward fostering double (secondary) water use in Armenia.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/UNDPArmenia/posts/pfbid02VWZEF69icaEPD8WzPH25SgJ2WutLJjk4uPpiMcShRYur3BFa98Z3KrFoTCzmTEWHI</p> <p>https://www.nature-ic.am/hy/news/Possibilities-and-promotion-mechanisms-of--secondary-water-use-in-Armenia-discussed-with-stakeholders/12869</p> 
17	<p>In the framework of the Sevan Vision Roadmap project, ADWISE Consulting LLC conducted 7 focus group discussions on the 3 vision scenarios which have been developed so far. The focus groups were conducted on 6 September 2022 with the representatives of the government, particularly the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Economy, on 7 and 9 September 2022 with the representatives of scientific and NGO communities, and in November in three enlarged communities of Chambarak, Vardenis and Gavar. The discussions were fruitful, feedback was received from the participants, which will contribute to the further iterations and refining of the scenarios and eventually the vision.</p>	<p>http://www.mnp.am/news/sevan-07-09-2022</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02mspBUZRaihXgk6TPHQ2iGVDeg44QNuPV1bK9duCPixS1LVyi9Qct8JtwrrXeFX3Ql&id=100069341344118</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02nPjoEZW2mjX4yhKGvFQu7f2U5Gm8jXTWQRrKXWYwqAWKFBvVHA9rvDJhSuC7S7nw9l&id=100063582970411</p> 

		
18	<p>On 6 October 2022, the Ministry of Environment prepared a news coverage on Facebook of the process of cleaning of Lake Sevan which featured the machinery procured by EU4Sevan project.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02EdvfLGZft2hnQhEChcEqXDvPSZ5PaopATQwn2erXx3rZ5AiPjAwaAhh47ryp4JW8l&id=100069341344118</p> 
19	<p>On 14 December 2022, the meeting of the RA NAS expert commission on the protection of Lake Sevan took place in the RA National Academy of Sciences where the results of EU4Sevan project were presented. Project coordinator Astghik Danielyan and CER portfolio lead Hovhannes Ghazaryan participated in the meeting, alongside the commission chairman and members and GIZ colleagues. The results of all 5 project components were presented. Commission chairman Bardukh Gabrielyan raised the issue of small mines commissioning in the lake basin.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/1271801240/posts/pfbid02DMV3ivKjp9A9uU57SdvAZ2EfmxdDRAFR9e8ByMukvPFjoxHxogNNUNi2rTeaR6kml/?d=w&mibextid=qC1gEa</p> <p>https://www.sci.am/newsview.php?id=632&langid=1#top</p> 
20	<p>In November 2022, the Consortium developing the Sevan Natinal Park</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/100070854401648/posts/pfbid035jr8dkdQCq1gjjDiP27gAyyv71saeDaYYkn9</p>

	<p>Management Plan held three public hearings with the participation of adjacent communities of the National Park. The main objective was to draft the expectations from the activity of the National park by identifying the individual and group expectations of the community members. This was the first round of meetings, with the participation of over 70 people. The gathered feedback will be reflected in the new Management Plan.</p>	<p>y9hJq1dCfdT7auqWMMqKcLLJUBtuGI/?d=w&mibextid=qC1gEa https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02gAy8o73rpHD4wcC4NpKhS4xXX21K1rs9XFn_nNfh9zw6B17DHvSzDjrDrQJKPn6Fol&id=100069458920005&mibextid=Nif5oz</p> 
21	<p>On 27 December 2022, the Public television of the RA prepared a news coverage of the process of cleaning of Lake Sevan which featured the machinery procured by EU4Sevan project.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/100010862164663/posts/pfbid0uvkVxXCyWReV5TVsBPSsubctblmsK5ACVZpSPryKyGu1o9q8U23aU4xTe9XiRmPGL/?d=w&mibextid=qC1gEa</p> 
22	<p>On 20 December 2022, a national workshop was conducted by ADWISE Consulting in the framework of the “Lake Sevan new national vision roadmap” activity. The workshop brought together representatives of various stakeholder groups with the aim to share and initiate a discussion on the draft vision. The workshop was attended by 38 representatives of governmental and public sectors (ministries, local self-government bodies, regional administration), NGOs, academia, and international organizations.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/229486803799263/posts/pfbid0Xa1GCWWgGbRpuRq5t8u8SckgmJ4UqwBQWG359gwwK1jqBcNG3mbxBAA5EozLzqd3l/</p> 

2021		
1	The Steering Committee of the Project is established jointly with GIZ. The 1 st meeting took place on 23 February 2021.	https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/photos/a.1379467378968621/2695120574069955/
2	The official launching event of the Project took place on 15.03.21.	-http://www.mnp.am/am/post/5731 -https://www.ecolor.org/hy/news/officials/13069/
3	On 14 May 2021 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 2021, MoE gave a press conference on a “Sevan blooming” topic. 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.	https://armenpress.am/arm/multimedia/videos/2125/
7	On 7 July 2021, 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	<p>On 9 September 2021, 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.</p>	
9	<p>On 8 October 2021, the project team paid a visit to Gegharkunik marz to meet the newly appointed governor, Karen Sargsyan. The project and the cooperation were discussed.</p>	<p>http://gegharkunik.mtad.am/news/item/2021/10/08/5/</p> 
10	<p>On 22 October 2021, 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.</p>	<p>http://env.am/news/news-EU4Sevan25-10 https://www.facebook.com/UNDPArmenia/posts/4449886695092565</p> 
11	<p>On 28 October 2021, 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.</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/UNDPArmenia/posts/4471698442911390/</p> 
12	<p>On 5 November 2021, the Public television of the RA prepared a news coverage of the EU4Sevan project, interviewing representatives of the EU delegation and the Ministry of</p>	<p>https://fb.watch/98zuY74rqD/ https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=935844580681204</p>

	Environment. The video outlined the main challenges of the Lake and the outputs of the project, focusing especially on UNDP Output 5.	
13	On 10 November 2021, the Minister of 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 2 posts: one about the visit and the other about the start of activities mentioning the equipment that the 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.	https://www.facebook.com/mnparmenia/posts/185175810470463 http://www.mnp.am/en/news/from-november-15-a-new-stage-of-work-on-clearing-the-forest-in-the-territories-adjacent-to-flooding-of-the-coastal-areas-of-the-lake-will-begin 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.
2022	Assessment of the potential for application of incentive mechanisms for double (secondary) water use in Armenia

VII. VALIDATION OF RESULTS (FIELD VISITS). QUALITY ASSURANCE. LESSONS LEARNED. PROJECT BOARDS. DONOR REPORTS

- *Project Coordinator shall prepare and countersign with Portfolio Leads a **field visit/output verification** document (template see in annex) in line with ProDoc, POPP, and CO M&E Plan. For HACT and RP-related projects use M&E report and field visit template for programme monitoring. Risks and lessons learned shall be part of HACT/RP programmatic monitoring.*
- *Formulate **lessons learned** through lifetime of the project in highly strategic language.*
- *Present a schedule of Project Board (PB) meetings and implementation status.*
- *Present a schedule of donor reports and implementation status.*
- *Prepare **quality assurance report** in UNDP system and discuss with Portfolio Lead (assurer). For newly developing projects/outputs **Design quality assurance reports** shall be prepared, assured, and approved in the system. For ongoing project **Implementation quality assurance reports** shall be prepared once in two years. For closing projects **Closure Quality Assurance Reports** shall be prepared, assured, and*

approved in the system. Closure QA shall contain all evidence and approval documents (LPAC, PB minutes, final RB minutes, monitoring reports, etc).

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 second Annual Progress Report covering the period from September 2021 until September 2022 was prepared and submitted to the EU jointly with GIZ.
- 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 was done in April 2022.
- The project Steering board meets twice a year; the most recent meeting was on 10 June 2022.
- The project advisory board is established. The project holds multiple meetings throughout the year with the participation of the Advisory board members. For more details, see “Project management” section of “Chapter III, Results.”
- The Project Inception report was completed and submitted to EU on 30.04.21.
- The Project also provides information on project implementation to the MoE on a quarterly basis, most recently on 12 October 2022.
- Field verification is done at least every six months, in accordance with the established monitoring framework. The most recent field verification was done in December 2022.

VIII. FUTURE ACTIONS, WORK PLAN

- *Indicate upcoming key strategic interventions*
- *As indicated, attach in annex the updated Work Plan (ref. ProDoc).*

Attached.

Results Framework²

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework Outcome 5/2: (2021-2025) Ecosystems are managed sustainably, and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate-smart solutions; **CPD Output 2.3:** Improved national and local governments capacities to introduce environmentally sound management practices for ecosystems, waste, and chemicals.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: Indicator 2.3.2: Hectares of ecosystems/lands rehabilitated or sustainably managed, including through innovative spatial/urban plans and rural community-based solutions, Baseline (2020): 0, Target (2025): 130,000

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: 4.1 Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods; 4.1.1 Number of people directly benefitting from initiatives to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources (Female/Male); 4.1.2 Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access, and benefit-sharing regime (Area of terrestrial and marine protected areas created or under improved management practices (hectares); Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management).

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

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTPUTS/ COMPONENTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)										DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1 (2021)		Year 2 (2022)		Year 3 (2023)		Year 4 (2024)		FINAL		
					Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	Planned	Current status	
Output 1 <i>Improved management framework for protection of the Lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use of natural resources</i>	<i>1.1 No of Hectares of area effectively zoned and managed for multiple ecosystem benefits</i>	<i>Management plan implementation protocols Ministerial reports</i>	0	2020	0	0	0	0	125,000 ha		125,000 ha		125,000 ha		<i>Document review, Field data inventory and analysis, mapping, Local survey & questionnaires, Participatory meetings Risk: Inability to assess economic benefits of ecosystem services and derive direct measurable benefits to local economy may result in reluctance</i>
	<i>1.2 Availability of the Lake Sevan National Park management plan</i>	<i>Government decisions Ministerial reports Project webpage and media page (Facebook, etc.)</i>	<i>There has been no operational management plan for protected area since 2010</i>	2020	No	No	No	No	Yes		Yes		Protected area management plan developed and submitted to the Government		

² 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.

													the impact on physical infrastructure and landscapes is available		<i>restructuring, creating uncertainties in long-term policy priorities and financial commitments</i>
	3.2 Long-term action-plan with cost estimates to tackle water level rising developed and submitted to the Government	<i>Ministerial reports Action plan and development process documentation</i>	<i>No long-term vision, action plan, and budget scenarios to tackle complex issues associated with water level rising</i>	2020	No	No	No	No	No		Yes		Roadmap and long-term action plan documents to address the consequences of water level rising are submitted to the Government		
Output 4 <i>Technical support to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and planning of afforestation/ reforestation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation</i>	4.1 Number of designed and submitted document packages on Lake cleaning and forest rehabilitation	<i>Records and reports of the service provider, act of acceptance, Ministerial reports, monitoring data, handover documents</i>		2020	0	0	0	2	0		2		Comprehensive document package in place on Lake Sevan cleaning and forest rehabilitation		<i>Document review</i> Risk: <i>Lack of Ministerial and National Park capacities may lead to inefficient implementation of the designed Lake Sevan cleaning and forest rehabilitation measures</i>

OFFLINE RISK LOG

	Description	Risk category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment/Management Measures	Risk Owner
	<p>Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future event and cause.</p> <p>Risks identified through HACT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be added to risk log</p>	Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type (see Enterprise Risk Management Policy)	<p>Describe the potential effect on the project if the future event were to occur.</p> <p>Enter probability based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected)</p> <p>Enter impact based on 1-5 scale (1 = Low; 5 = Critical)</p>	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 may lead to processes of restructuring, creating uncertainties in policy priorities and institutional set up	Political	<p>Unstable governance landscape and continuous ministerial reorganisation may cause instability and reorientation of policy priorities, as well as may disturb the administrative setup and cause fluctuation in staff needed for the project implementation</p> <p>P=3 I= 3</p>	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	<p>Difficulties/security restrictions for operating in certain sub-regions impose risk to data gathering and stakeholder engagement. E.g. the project had to cancel the field event and trips planned for the end of September due to security considerations.</p> <p>P=5 I=5</p>	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	<p>Politicians prioritise ecological concerns to a lesser extent than public services and economic development, particularly in the post-crisis setup</p> <p>P=4 I=4</p>	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	<p>Reputation of the project is undermined and Lake Sevan surrounding communities are dis-interested in new planning and regulatory mechanisms</p> <p>P=4 I=3</p>	Introduction of the transparent processes and consultation mechanisms. Broad partner structure and adequate civil society participation, training for key actors also outside the environment ministries	Project coordinator

5	Uncoordinated support programmes by different donors and public institutions	Operational	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	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
9	Exchange rate fluctuations between USD, EUR, and AMD and high inflation. Project receives budget in EUR which is converted to USD at a much lower rate. Project pays local contractors in AMD, and the budget USD is converted to AMD at a much lower rate.	Financial	Overall, the budget loss due to exchange rate fluctuations is estimated at ~25% P=5 I=4	Close monitoring of the exchange rates and adjusting the project workplan	Project coordinator

ANNUAL/MULTIYEAR WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FROM PRODOC ⁴⁵

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.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Y1 2021	Y2 2022	Y3 2023	Y4 2024		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1: <i>Improved management framework for protection of the Lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use of natural resources</i>	1.1 Data gathering, analysis, and development of the park management vision and objectives 1.2 Evaluation and identification of park zoning options 1.3 Design of the draft Lake Sevan National Park (IUCN II) Management Plan and processing public consultation 1.4 Finalisation and submission of the Management Plan	9,202	74,266	61,825	51,603	UNDP	EU	71200 - International consultants	16,737
								71300 - Local consultants	35,538
								71400 - Contractual Service Ind.	21,300
								71600 - Travel	7,042
								72100 - Contractual services - companies	96,354
								74200 - Audio visual & printing and production costs	7,042
	75100 - Facilities and Administration	12,882							
Sub-Total for Output 1								196,896	
Output 2: <i>Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing the protection and sustainable use of Lake Sevan</i>	2.1 Revision of the existing policy and regulatory framework governing Lake Sevan management and gap analysis 2.2 Defining a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan and updating the policy and regulatory framework 2.3 Setup of an efficient inter-sectoral coordination mechanism to support the implementation and monitoring of policy enforcement measures	27,499	41,027	54,937	0	UNDP	EU	71200 - International consultants	21,937
								71300 - Local consultants	30,737
								72100 - Contractual services-companies	55,343
								75700 - Workshops	7,369
								75100 - Facilities and Administration	8,077

⁴ 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

⁵ 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.

	Sub-Total for Output 2								123,462
Output 3 <i>Enabling environment created for long-term development planning and implementation of response measures to address water level rising</i>	3.1 <i>Conduct a comprehensive study of the consequences/impact of raising the level of water in the lake with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions – to address the potential risks associated with impact on physical infrastructure (roads and construction facilities) and landscapes (forests, agricultural and other community lands)</i> 3.2 <i>Elaboration of a road map and long-term plan with cost estimates to tackle and address water level rising</i>	17,120	33,500	139,092	87,283	UNDP	EU	71200 - International consultants	47,500
								71300 - Local consultants	33,016
								72100 - Contractual services-companies	165,493
								74200 - Audio visual & printing and production costs	12,864
								75100 - Facilities and Administration	18,122
Sub-Total for Output 3								276,995	
Output 4 <i>Technical support to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and planning of afforestation/reforestation activities to support Lake Sevan basin ecosystem rehabilitation</i>	4.1 <i>Detailed site assessment for determination of a new bill of quantities (for up to 3,000 ha area) for further cleaning works</i> 4.2 <i>Support in the verification and design of 5,000 ha of afforestation/reforestation program (will be further incorporated into Lake Sevan national park management plan)</i> 4.3 <i>Equipment supply to facilitate riparian zone cleaning activities</i>	71,690	59,978	71,585	0	UNDP	EU	71300 - Local consultant	23,474
								71600 - Travel	4,695
								72100 - Contractual services-companies	92,439
								72200 – Equipment & furniture	67,000
								74200 - Audio visual & printing and production costs	2,347
								75100 - Facilities and Administration	13,297
Sub-Total for Output 4								203,253	
Project management	<i>Human resources Travel Equipment and Supplies Local office Other costs/services (audit, conferences, and workshops, etc.)</i>	71,022	100,069	103,755	90,862	UNDP	EU	64300- Staff DPC	34,331
								71400 - Contractual Service Ind.	207,768
								71600 - Travel	12,237
								72200 - Equipment & furniture	400
								72300 - Materials & goods	3,521
								72400 - Communication and audio-visual equipment	8,446
								72500 - Supplies	5,634
								72800 - IT equipment	3,351

								73100 - Rental and maintenance of premises	24,824
								73300 – Rental & maint. of info tech. equipment	1,000
								73400 – Rental & maint. of other equipment	600
								74100 - Professional services (Audit)	5,634
								74200 - Audio visual & printing and production costs	23,474
								75700 - Workshops	10,563
								75100 – Facilities and Administration	23,926
	Sub-total for management								365,709
Total Direct Cost		183,676	288,634	402,983	214,718	UNDP	EU		1,090,011
General Management Support (indirect cost 7%)		12,858	20,206	28,210	15,030	UNDP	EU		76,303
TOTAL									1,166,314

ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2022-2023

Activities		2022				2023			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1: Improved management framework for protection of the Lake Sevan ecosystem and sustainable use of natural resources									
1.1.	Data gathering, analysis, and development of the park management vision and objectives								
1.2.	Evaluation and identification of park zoning options								
1.3.	Design of the draft Lake Sevan National Park (IUCN II) Management Plan and processing public consultation								
1.4.	Finalization and submission of the Management Plan								
Output 2: Revised and updated policy, regulatory and institutional framework governing the 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 a new long-term national vision for Lake Sevan and update the policy and regulatory framework								
2.3.	Setup of an efficient inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanism to support the implementation and monitoring of policy enforcement measures								
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 a road map and long-term plan with cost-estimates to tackle and address water level raising								
Output 4: Technical support to cleaning of the Lake's flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas and planning of afforestation/reforestation 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: 14 December 2022

Subject and venue of visit: Meeting of the RA NAS expert commission on the protection of Lake Sevan, RA NAS, Yerevan

On 14 December 2022, the meeting of the RA NAS expert commission on the protection of Lake Sevan took place in the RA National Academy of Sciences where the results of EU4Sevan project were presented. Project coordinator Astghik Danielyan and CER portfolio lead Hovhannes Ghazaryan participated in the meeting, alongside the commission chairman and members and GIZ colleagues. The results of all 5 project components were presented.

Date of visit: 24 November 2022

Subject and venue of visit: Meeting with Deputy Minister of Environment, RA MoE, Yerevan

On 24 November 2022, a meeting took place with Deputy Minister of Environment Mr. Aram Meymaryan. Project coordinator Astghik Danielyan and CER portfolio lead Hovhannes Ghazaryan participated in the meeting, alongside the head of the of the International Relations department, Biodiversity, and specially protected areas department. The parties discussed project budget issues due to the EUR/USD depreciation against AMD and high inflation, current state of affairs of project implementation, and project activities prioritization.

Purpose of the field visit: Validation of project results

Outcomes	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
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: Data are gathered, analyzed and the Sevan National Park management vision and objectives are developed, towards the development of National Park Management Plan. Output 2: (1) The findings and recommendations of the “Description of the policy, legal and institutional framework on the Lake Sevan ecosystem governance” document have been considered by the Ministry of Environment during the amendment of the Law on Special Protected Areas and have been used for respective decision-making processes. (2) New long-term national vision for Lake Sevan is defined and discussed with stakeholders. (3) The potential for application of incentive mechanisms for double (secondary) water use in Armenia is assessed. (4) The 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 is tendered, and evaluation complete. Work will start in January. Output 3: A comprehensive study with full environmental and socio-economic dimensions to address risks associated with impact into physical infrastructure and landscapes is started	-	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	The field event was planned for September 2022 but it was postponed due to the armed escalations on 13-14 September. It will be held in spring-summer 2023. To continue the collaborative approach adopted by the project so far and to further ensure synergy of efforts. To constantly monitor the exchange rates fluctuation impact on budget and

			Output 4: (1) One unit of wheel loader to enhance the Ministry of Environment inhouse capacities on the cleaning of the Lake Sevan riparian zone has been procured and delivered. A user training was conducted. A field trip was organized by EU4Sevan UNDP project with donors and partners to inspect and test the wheeled bucket loader in action. (2) Developed and agreed technical specifications on detailed site assessment for determination of a new bill of quantities for further cleaning works of the Lake’s flooded forest and surrounding swamp areas. (3) Developed and agreed technical specifications on support in the design of the afforestation/reforestation program.		Twinning, ADB, EUWI+, WWF, etc. The Project established cooperation with other UNDP portfolios and with projects within the CER portfolio, to insure synergy of results and efficient use of resources.	it’s impact on the pending activities possible implementation.
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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.

- Border situation impacts the priorities of local population and the timing of the on ground activities.
- Exchange rate fluctuations and high inflation have caused considerable budget losses.

LESSONS LEARNED

Describe briefly key lessons learned during the project:

- Border situation impacts the priorities of local population and the timing of the on ground activities.
- Exchange rate fluctuations and high inflation have caused considerable budget losses, requiring continuous monitoring and adjustments.

Participants in the field visit:

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



CER Portfolio team leader Hovhannes Ghazaryan

