

F. No 11/1/2023-UN&SF
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Economic Affairs
(BC&SF Division)

North Block, New Delhi
Dated 13th September 2024

To

Ms. Isabella Tschan,
Deputy Resident Representative
United Nations Development Programme
55, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110003
Email:- isabelle.tschan@undp.org

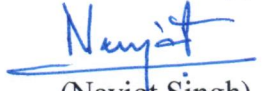
Sub:- Approved Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting held in hybrid mode on 12.08.2024 to consider UNDP proposals- regarding

Dear Ms. Tschan,

Please refer to the meeting of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) held on **12.08.2024** (hybrid mode) and find enclosed herewith approved minutes of the same for necessary action with regard to following UNDP project proposals:-

- (i) Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments
- (ii) Boosting Female Labor Force Participation through Strengthened Urban Care Ecosystem
- (iii) Strengthening Capacities for Integrated Tribal Development in Chhattisgarh
- (iv) Sustainable Finance Facility

Yours faithfully,


(Navjot Singh)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Tel:- 011-23095741

e-mail:- navjot.singh@nic.in

Copy to:-

- (i) Mr. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Adviser, Biodiversity Division, MoEFCC
- (ii) Dr. A Muralidharan, Deputy Adviser, NITI Aayog
- (iii) Mr. Sunil Kumar Yadav, Director (DAY-NULM), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (iv) Mr. Daya Shankar, Director, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)
- (v) Mr. Sanjay Gaur, Additional Director, Department of Tribal and Schedule Caste, Government of Chhattisgarh
- (vi) Mr. Pawan Aagrahari, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Forest and Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya
- (vii) Mr. Sudhansu Gupta, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest, Government of Tamil Nadu

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (DEA)**

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (LPAC) MEETING
12 AUGUST 2024**

The meeting of the Local Project Appraisal Committee was held on 12 August 2024 at 3:00 P.M, under the chairpersonship of Ms. Geetu Joshi, Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in hybrid mode.

The Committee considered the approval for the following projects:

1. UNDP-MoEFCC project titled “Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments”
2. UNDP-MoHUA project titled “Boosting Female Labor Force Participation through Strengthened Urban Care Ecosystem”
3. UNDP-Govt. of Chhattisgarh project titled “Strengthening Capacities for Integrated Tribal Development in Chhattisgarh”
4. UNDP-DEA project titled “Sustainable Finance Facility”

The agenda of the meeting along with the list of participants of the meeting is attached as **Annexure I** and **Annexure II** respectively.

The Chair welcomed all the participants and mentioned that the four projects being presented would address several priorities outlined in UNDP India’s Country Programme Document for 2023-2027.

Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, welcomed the participants and emphasized that the four projects exemplify the longstanding partnerships with the government at both national and state levels. She noted that these projects promote innovation, gender equality, and inclusivity, thereby reinforcing UNDP’s commitment of leaving no one behind.

The Chair requested the project development partners to make the presentations for the projects.

1. Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments

Project Information:

Project name: Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments

Location: Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu, India

Duration: Five years (August 2024- March 2029)

Project Budget: USD 4,880,000 (INR 40,96,13,780)

Implementation Modality: National Implementation Modality (NIM)

Gender Marker: GEN 2

Discussion Points:

- Mr. C Achalender Reddy,, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), shared the background and context of the project. He emphasized that the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-supported project, will promote collaboration across multiple ministries to enhance biodiversity conservation, contributing to India's commitment to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Shri Reddy acknowledged the feedback received from the various ministries and NITI Aayog, assuring that their suggestions/recommendations will be incorporated in the annual work plans.
- Dr. J Soundrapandi, Project Officer, NBA provided the details of the project. He presented the objectives, key components, landscapes and key challenges, expected outcomes, gender integration, value addition and innovation, and the governance arrangement for the project. The project aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use and management into village level self-governance institutional planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India.
- The NBA highlighted that the project includes innovative collaborations between local self-governance and biodiversity institutions to develop green Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) and District Panchayat Development Plans (DPDP), thereby integrating biodiversity values into the grassroots planning mechanisms.
- The Chair invited the project landscape states and various central ministries to share their views on the project.
- Mr. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Adviser, Biodiversity Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, shared that the Biodiversity Division had provided their inputs in the design phase of the project and the same have been incorporated in the project document. He noted that the project would be contributing to several targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- Mr. Sudhansu Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Tamil Nadu Forest Department, appreciated the project's intended benefits to the local communities in the state through its landscape conservation approach, which promotes sustainable livelihoods, resource use, and equity. The project also involves community participation and will provide baseline data on current livelihoods and biodiversity.
- Mr. Pawan Agrahari,, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Forest and Environment Department, State Government of Meghalaya, expressed support for the project, emphasizing its importance for the local biodiversity issues in Meghalaya, where 94% of the land is owned by local communities, making their involvement in conservation efforts essential. The project seeks to address local biodiversity challenges while complementing ongoing government initiatives.
- Dr. A Muralidharan, Deputy Adviser (Water and Land Resources), NITI Aayog, requested clarification on the project activities to address pollution, whether the project would be working with the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in Meghalaya, and the rationale behind the selection of the proposed project villages. UNDP shared that the NBA has responded to these comments received from NITI Aayog. The project has involved the ADCs during the design phase and will continue their involvement during implementation. The project will also aim to converge with other UNDP projects mandated on pollution. The representative villages have been identified from the two project landscapes in consultation with the local authorities.
- Dr. Muralidharan further suggested the NBA to discuss the matter of GPDP funds with Ministry of Panchayati Raj. In response, Chairperson, NBA referred to Section 41 of Biological Diversity Act of Government of India. The Section outlines the roles and responsibilities of the states and specifically mandates the state-level Panchayati Raj systems to form and manage Biodiversity Management Committees at the local level.

- Mr. Daya Shankar, Director, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), highlighted the role of Self-help Groups (SHGs) which need to be strengthened more in the project and suggested on maintaining gender-disaggregated data under the project.
- Dr. Mohd. Tauqueer Khan, Consultant, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), mentioned that the central ministry has further shared the project document with the respective state departments and will share their inputs/feedback with UNDP. He further highlighted that Meghalaya, being a Schedule 6 state, does not have GPDPs, so the project team will need to collaborate with the ADCs on DPDPs. UNDP confirmed that the project would be working with DPDPs in Meghalaya. Mr. Khan further enquired whether the project includes funding to conduct capacity-building trainings by the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD). UNDP shared that during earlier meetings with MoPR, the officials had confirmed the availability of resources for such activities under a government scheme. Hence, UNDP proposed the use of these government funds as co-financing commitment towards the project.
- The Chair requested UNDP to ensure that the project addresses all the queries and suggestions. She noted that the project, already approved by GEF, is very detailed and comprehensive, and it is crucial to implement it as planned. She further enquired about the landscape selection criteria, to which UNDP responded that a series of consultations were organized by MoEFCC, NBA, and UNDP, involving various state governments and biodiversity boards, including Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu, who agreed to co-finance the project. The landscapes in these two states were finalised based on one-to-one meetings with NBA, State Forest Departments, Biodiversity Boards and project design experts including scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- The Chair also requested information about the governance mechanism for the project. The UNDP outlined that the MoEFCC will constitute a National Steering Committee, the States will set up State Steering Committees, and at the district level, District Coordination Committees will be formed, chaired by the District Commissioner/Collector who will provide guidance to the project and ensure convergence with the government schemes and programmes.
- The Chair further recommended documenting and sharing the findings from the studies commissioned under the project with all the key stakeholders, including the ministries.

Decision: Based on the discussions, the project was approved by the LPAC.

2. Boosting Female Labor Force Participation through Strengthened Urban Care Ecosystem

Project Information:

Project Name: Boosting Female Labor Force Participation through Strengthened Urban Care Ecosystem

Location: Pan-India

Duration: Three years (2024-2026)

Budget: USD 2,584,585 (INR 215,799,363)

Implementation Modality: Direct Implementation Modality (DIM)

Gender Marker: GEN 3

Discussion Points:

- Mr. Amit Kumar, Head of Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Unit, UNDP India presented the project overview highlighting the context, scope of work, strategies, and the expected results. The goal of the project is to increase opportunities for urban poor women to participate in paid workforce, driven by the availability of accessible and affordable quality childcare services in their community/vicinity of workplaces. It was highlighted that the project has a dual agenda of supporting existing and innovative scalable childcare models and building evidence for urban India for increased public and private investment. The project's innovative strategies, partnerships, and responses to the queries/suggestions of relevant ministries, i.e., MoWCD, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), NITI Aayog, and Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) were also presented.
- Mr. Sunil Kumar Yadav, Director, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, shared that given the disproportionate burden of care work on women from low-income households in urban India, this project is imperative. He expressed that the Ministry has formed a Working Group committed to economically empowering care workers, who form one of the seven vulnerable occupation groups identified in urban poor regions of the country.
- Dr. Sakshi Khurana, Senior Specialist, NITI Aayog proposed that partnerships with industry associations and cluster-based organizations can be established to boost access to childcare for working women. She also suggested that learnings from the project can provide inputs on city-level planning to integrate care facilities. In response, UNDP indicated that in partnership with industry associations, piloting workplace model with near site creche facilities is already part of the planned activities. Additionally, MoHUA acknowledged that urban planning goes together with care planning and a holistic approach to integrating care philosophy into city design is being adopted for the states' livelihood plans.
- Mr. Daya Shankar, Director, MoWCD, acknowledged that the project contributes to the critical mission of the Government of India on boosting female labor force participation. However, he recommended expanding the number of creches beyond the current target of 12-15 centers, in consideration with the gap in public provisioning of urban poor childcare infrastructure. Additionally, he inquired about a few crucial aspects of the project, such as the locations of the pilot centers, implementation model, and the nature of training of the care workers. In response, UNDP underscored the importance of looking at the project as a pilot initiative to test innovative models and collect rigorous data to inform policy on childcare service provisioning for urban poor households. Further, Ms. Isabelle Tschan conveyed the role of UNDP as a policy ecosystem support organization to improve capacities of the Government of India and provide technical assistance to enhance quality of public delivery.
- The Chair recommended exploring convergence of the project with government schemes like Palna and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The Chair also emphasized the criticality of selecting the right cities and states to implement pilot centers in India. In response, UNDP expressed its plan to consult MoHUA for selection of the locations, preferably across urban regions of Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities in India.

- UNDP also mentioned that an Urban Childcare Coalition will be established to exchange project learnings and progress to facilitate knowledge exchange with various partners. The coalition aims to enhance awareness and capacity of public and private sector key stakeholders and enablers to increase investment and inform policy for childcare provisioning for low-income households. MoWCD, MoLE, NITI Aayog, MSDE, UN agencies, industry associations, childcare service providers, women-run Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) will be key partners of the network.
- The Chair sought information on the key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be used to track the performance of the project. In response, UNDP shared that KPIs are part of the project document and the same has been detailed out in the 'Section VI Result Framework'. These will be further enhanced after onboarding of the specialized monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) agency, to track the impact of access to formal childcare on women's empowerment, child development outcomes and households.

Decision: Based on the discussions, the project was approved by the LPAC.

3. Strengthening Capacities for Integrated Tribal Development in Chhattisgarh

Project Information:

Project name: Strengthening Capacities of the Integrated Tribal Development in Chhattisgarh
Location: Chhattisgarh, India
Duration: 3 years (2024 -2027)
Project Budget: USD 369,139 / INR 3,07,52,978
Implementation Modality: Direct Implementation Modality (DIM)
Gender Marker: GEN 2

Discussion Points:

- Mr. Sanjay Gaur, Additional Director, Tribal and Schedule Caste Department, Government of Chhattisgarh provided an overview of the state development context. He emphasized that the Department has been working on various schemes and programmes for the development of the Scheduled Tribes. He highlighted that this project will be crucial for the smooth implementation of the schemes and programmes.
- UNDP presented the objectives, interventions and outputs of the project, along with the innovation aspects, gender mainstreaming, sustainability measures and governance arrangements of the project.
- The overall aim of the project is to enhance the institutional capacities of the Tribal and Schedule Caste Department and implementing agencies to facilitate effective implementation of tribal development programmes in Chhattisgarh. The outputs of the project include 1) Enhanced operational effectiveness of the Tribal development programmes of the Government of Chhattisgarh 2) Strengthened the capacities of the

4. DEA – UNDP – EU project proposal entitled, “Sustainable Finance Facility”

Project Information:

Project name: Sustainable Finance Facility

Location: Pan India

Duration: 4 years (2024-2028)

Project Budget: Approx. INR 19,26,96,398/ USD 2.3 million

Implementation Modality: Direct Implementation Modality (DIM)

Gender Marker: GEN 1

Discussion Points:

- The Chair made the opening comments to introduce the project as it will be anchored with the DEA. Mr. Karanraj Chaudri, Advisor – Sustainable Finance, UNDP made a presentation covering an overview of the Sustainable Finance Facility (SFF) including the theory of change, the broad spectrum of instruments, illustrative instruments, governance structure as well as key expected results.
- The project aims to build on the recommendations of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) under India’s Presidency by providing technical assistance for the design of sustainable financing instruments. The project has two primary workstreams (i) on design of instruments and (ii) capacity building, knowledge management and thought leadership.
- The project would work at the national level where needed, and also at the sub-national level leveraging UNDP’s decentralised presence in the form of regional offices and SDG Coordination Centres.
- It was shared that inputs had been received from NITI Aayog, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Reserve Bank of India, which had been incorporated in the revised project document. The chair recommended that MEA’s inputs may be incorporated as and when received.
- The Chair made recommendations to be considered as part of project implementation including (i) ensuring capacity building efforts are aligned with G20 Technical Assistance Action Plan (TAAP) (ii) considering development of step-by-step guides for design and launch of financial instruments (iii) mapping and reporting SFF actions as part of the G20 SF Dashboard and (iv) leveraging (or forging) partnerships with institutions such as the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Impact Investors Council (IIC) and others that have worked on financing/ pay for success instruments.

Decision: Based on the discussions, the project was recommended by the LPAC, subject to the administrative approval of DEA.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Annexure I: Agenda

Meeting (virtual) of Local Project Appraisal Committee chaired by Advisor (BC&SF), DEA for approval of UNDP Projects

Date: 12 August 2024

Time: 3-4:30 pm

Time	Agenda Item
3-3:02 pm	Opening Remarks UNDP/DEA
3:02-3:20 pm	Presentation on MoEFCC Project titled "Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments" Discussion
3:20-3:40pm	Presentation MoHUA project titled "Boosting Female Labor Force Participation through Strengthened Urban Care Ecosystem" Discussion
3:40-4 pm	Presentation on Govt of Chhattisgarh project titled "Strengthening Capacities for Integrated Tribal Development in Chhattisgarh" Discussion
4-4:20 pm	Presentation on UNDP-DEA project titled 'Sustainable Finance Facility' Discussion
4:20-4:30 pm	Closing remarks by UNDP/DEA

Annexure II: List of Participants

Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India

- Ms. Geetu Joshi, Advisor (BC&SF)
- Mr. Navjot Singh, Deputy Secretary (UN&SF)
- Ms. Neha Singh, Deputy Director (UN&SF)
- Mr Amit Anurag, Section Officer (UN&SF)
- Mr. Vipin Kumar, ASO, (UN&SF)

NITI Aayog

- Dr. A Muralidharan, Deputy Adviser (Water and Land Resources)
- Dr. Sakshi Khurana, Senior Specialist- Skill Development, Labour & Employment
- Dr. Gagan Preet Kaur, Consultant- Skill Development & Employment
- Mr. Ramrao Mundhe, Senior Research Officer
- Ms. Gayatri Vidhate, Young Professional

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India

- Mr. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Adviser, Biodiversity Division

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India

- Mr. Sunil Kumar Yadav, Director, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
- Dr. Jeeban Jyoti Mohanty - Team Lead, Technical Support Unit (TSU)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India

- Dr. Mohd. Tauqueer Khan, Consultant

Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Government of India

- Mr. Daya Shankar, Director

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Government of India

- Mr. C Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.), Chairperson
- Dr. J Soundrapandi, Project Officer

Department of Tribal and Schedule Caste, Government of Chhattisgarh

- Mr. Sanjay Gaur, Additional Director
- Mr. Achhe Ram Navrang, Additional Director

Government of Meghalaya

- Mr. Pawan Agrahari, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Forest and Environment Department

Government of Tamil Nadu

- Mr. Sudhansu Gupta, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Tamil Nadu Forest Department

UNDP

- Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative
- Ms. Meenakshi Kathel, Chief Advisor, Strategic Planning and State Outreach
- Mr. Amit Kumar, Head, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Unit
- Dr. Ruchi Pant, Head, NRM and Biodiversity Portfolio, Action for Climate and Environment Unit
- Mr. Karanraj Chaudri, Advisor – Sustainable Finance
- Ms. Anusha Sharma, Head, Programme Support Unit
- Mr. Jeya Chandran, Regional Head, Southern India
- Ms. Sreetama Guptabhaya, Programme Lead, Tribal Development
- Ms. Siri Ahlzen, Gender Analyst
- Ms. Himanshi Goel, Policy Analyst (Gender), Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Unit
- Ms. Ankita Kumari, M&E Analyst, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Unit
- Ms. Shikha Srikant, Programme Officer, NRM and Biodiversity Portfolio
- Ms. Ruchika Tripathi, MEL Associate, Programme Support Unit
- Ms. Divya Saini, Research Assistant, Tribal Development