ASM-14461 - Quality Assurance - Design

Procedure Year: 2025

Procedure Rating: Not Completed

Procedure Status: Questionnaire

Procedure Name: ASM-14461

Procedure Department: CO - Moldova Republic

Procedure Type: Design

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Decision:

QA Summary/Project Board Comments:

RELATED PORTFOLIOS/PROJECTS(1)					
NAME	DEPARTMENT	STATUS	ATLAS PROJECT NUMBER	START DATE	END DATE
01004116	CO - Moldova Republic	Draft		3/1/2025	2/28/2029

QA Questionnaire:

Strategic

Status: Incomplete

Quality Rating: Needs Improvement

1. Does the project specify how it will contribute to higher level change through linkage to the programme's Theory of Change?

- (●) 3: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome level change and why the project's strategy will likely lead to this change. This analysis is backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context and includes assumptions and risks.
- ( ) 2: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has a change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy will likely lead to this change.
- ( ) 1: The project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without an explicit link to the programme's theory of change.

*Note: Projects not contributing to a programme must have a project-specific Theory of Change. See alternative question under the information icon for these cases.
*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The Project Document includes a theory of change that describes how the project will drive outcome-level change in alignment with UNSDCF Outcomes 3 and 4. It follows a clear change pathway, demonstrating that the sustainable management of natural resources, combined with the economic empowerment of women, will enhance climate resilience and promote gender equality in rural Moldova. By tackling both environmental and social challenges, the project aims to foster strong, resilient communities capable of adapting to climate change while reducing gender disparities.
This strategy is grounded in credible evidence, drawing on lessons from international partners and past climate adaptation initiatives supported by GEF, GCF, Swedish Embassy, ADA, etc. Additionally, the project identifies key assumptions and risks such as environmental challenges, political instability, limited financial resources, and shifts in gender norms ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to advancing climate resilience and women's empowerment in Moldova.

2. Is the project aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan?

- (●) 3: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan and adapts at least one Signature Solution. The project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)
- ( ) 2: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)
- ( ) 1: The project responds to a partner's identified need, but this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project is fully aligned with UNDP's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, particularly with Output 4.1: "Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods." It also supports UNDP's broader international engagement and strategic framework, with a strong emphasis on climate action and green development. Furthermore, the project aligns with UNDP's approach to integrating environmental sustainability across all development initiatives. This enables the project to leverage UNDP's global expertise and strategic priorities, ensuring lasting environmental and socio-economic benefits.

3. Is the project linked to the programme outputs? (i.e., UNSDCF/CPD, RPD or Strategic Plan IRRF for strategic interventions not part of a programme)

- ( ) YES
- ( ) NO

*Note: Project QA cannot be approved by Project QA Approver when the response is "No".

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project will respond to two of the priority areas established within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Republic of Moldova (2023-2027), which highlight the needs of promoting inclusive and sustainable economic development, ensuring equal access to decent

work, and fostering green and resilient growth through sustainable resource management and climate-responsive policies:
Outcome 3 - By 2027, all people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive, competitive and sustainable economic development and equal access to decent work and productive employment.
Outcome 4 - By 2027, institutions and all people of Moldova benefit from and contribute to green and resilient development, sustainable use of natural resources and effective gender responsive climate change action and disaster risk management.
In addition, the project will contribute to one CPD Output 4.2 Public and private actors are enabled to implement efficient and innovative practices for sustainable natural resource use, climate resilience, low-emission, and green development.

Relevant | Status: Complete | Quality Rating: Exemplary

4. Does the project identify target groups , and particularly those marginalized, vulnerable and left further behind (LNOB)

- (●) 3: The LNOB target groups are clearly specified, prioritising discriminated, and marginalized groups left furthest behind, identified through a rigorous process based on evidence.
- ( ) 2: The LNOB target groups are clearly specified, prioritizing groups left furthest behind.
- ( ) 1: The LNOB target groups are not clearly specified.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1. Projects that build institutional capacity should still identify targeted groups to justify support.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project clearly identifies target groups, particularly marginalized, vulnerable populations, and those at risk of being left further behind, in line with the "Leaving No One Behind" (LNOB) principle. It specifically focuses on rural women who are disproportionately affected by climate change and socio-economic exclusion. The project integrates a rights-based approach to dismantle barriers in education and governance that hinder women's full participation. Through inclusive governance frameworks and targeted interventions, it empowers marginalized women by improving their access to resources, enhancing their socio-economic status, and strengthening community support systems. These efforts help reduce their vulnerability to exploitation and violence while promoting their health, safety, and autonomy.
Additionally, the project aligns with Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addresses gender inequalities by fostering women's leadership in decision-making processes. It provides targeted training in leadership and climate-smart practices, facilitates access to financial resources, and promotes entrepreneurship, ensuring women are not just participants but also leaders in sustainable natural resource management.
By aligning with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy and UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy (2022-2025), the project prioritizes systemic change and the meaningful inclusion of women in addressing climate change and environmental challenges. These efforts reinforce UNDP's commitment to human rights, gender equality, and equitable development, ensuring that those most at risk are supported and empowered.

5. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design?

- (●) 3: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by credible evidence from sources such as evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and/or monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to justify the approach used by the project.
- ( ) 2: The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources but have not been used to justify the approach selected.
- ( ) 1: There is little, or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references made are anecdotal and not backed by evidence.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

Knowledge and lessons learned from other similar interventions at the country level, as well as corporate policies and strategies, have been used in project design to develop the intervention and justify the proposed approach to the project implementation. This intervention will build on the development assistance previously provided by UNDP.

6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national / regional / global partners and other actors?

- (●) 3: An analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and credible evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project, including identification of potential funding partners. It is clear how results achieved by partners will complement the project's intended results and a communication strategy is in place to communicate results and raise visibility vis-à-vis key partners. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have been considered, as appropriate. (all must be true)
- ( ) 2: Some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the proposed engagement of and division of labour between UNDP and partners through the project, with unclear funding and communications strategies or plans.
- ( ) 1: No clear analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area that the project intends to work. There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

UNDP Moldova is supporting the country's transition to low carbon and climate resilient economies and ecosystems which involves the promotion of nature-based solutions, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, both at the level of policies and the level of concrete interventions on the ground. UNDP Moldova also brings not only its own expertise and capacity, but also the expertise, knowledge and best practices from the region, made available through the regional advisors and service centre and collaboration with other UNDP offices from Central and Eastern Europe and CIS countries.
UNDP Moldova has effective structures and procedures to ensure results-based management and delivery, including extensive experience with implementing local development, self-government and

participatory projects. The UNDP country office, including its operations unit, is highly experienced with large scale procurement and recruitment at national and international level.

Principled | Status: Complete | Quality Rating: Exemplary

7. Does the project apply a human rights-based approach?

(●) 3: The project is guided by human rights and incorporates the principles of accountability, meaningful participation, and non-discrimination in the project's strategy. The project upholds the relevant international and national laws and standards. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true)

( ) 2: The project is guided by human rights by prioritizing accountability, meaningful participation and non-discrimination. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget. (both must be true)

( ) 1: No evidence that the project is guided by human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project applies a human rights-based approach. It actively works to dismantle barriers in education and governance that restrict rural women's full participation, ensuring they have access to resources and can advocate for their rights.
Furthermore, the project aligns with broader human rights objectives by strengthening community support systems to promote women's health, safety, and autonomy. Enhancing their socio-economic status also reduces their vulnerability to exploitation and violence. The initiative is firmly rooted in UNDP's commitment to human rights and the "Leaving No One Behind" (LNOB) principle, as outlined in the UNDP Strategic Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design?

(●) 3: A participatory gender analysis has been conducted and results from this gender analysis inform the development challenge, strategy and expected results sections of the project document. Outputs and indicators of the results framework include explicit references to gender equality, and specific indicators measure and monitor results to ensure women are fully benefitting from the project. (all must be true)

( ) 2: A basic gender analysis has been carried out and results from this analysis are scattered (i.e., fragmented and not consistent) across the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework may include some gender sensitive outputs and/or activities but gender inequalities are not consistently integrated across each output. (all must be true)

( ) 1: The project design may or may not mention information and/or data on the differential impact of the project's development situation on gender relations, women and men, but the gender inequalities have not been clearly identified and reflected in the project document.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

Yes, the project applies gender analysis in its design. It integrates gender considerations and gender-disaggregated data to address the distinct experiences and challenges faced by women, with a strong focus on mitigating barriers that disproportionately affect them. Women's involvement in sustainable resource management is monitored to ensure inclusive decision-making.
The project also addresses systemic gender issues such as women's representation in decision-making roles within forest and natural resource management, access to financial resources, entrepreneurship, and gender-sensitive training on climate-smart practices. By incorporating gender-responsive policies and targeted support, it strengthens women's participation in community governance and ensures their equitable access to development benefits.
By aligning with regional and international frameworks, the project applies gender analysis to promote inclusive, sustainable development while reducing gender disparities in climate resilience and economic opportunities.

9. Did the project support the resilience and sustainability of societies and/or ecosystems?

(●) 3: Credible evidence that the project addresses sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges, which are integrated in the project strategy and design. The project reflects the interconnections between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true)

( ) 2: The project design integrates sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, and relevant management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (both must be true)

( ) 1: Sustainability and resilience dimensions and impacts were not adequately considered.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

Yes, the project's ultimate goal is to enhance climate resilience and gender equality in rural Moldova through sustainable forest, pasture, and agricultural management, alongside women's economic empowerment.

Each intermediary outcome contributes to the resilience and sustainability of societies and ecosystems:

Intermediary Outcome 1 – By the end of 2029, target regions will benefit from healthier and more resilient ecosystems through the implementation of sustainable forest and pasture management practices. Community-based forest enterprises will engage both women and men, increasing biodiversity and improving ecosystem services.

Intermediary Outcome 2 – By the end of 2029, rural women in selected districts will implement economic and income-generating activities in climate-responsive agri- and forest-based businesses. Supported by business development assistance, financial literacy programs, and leadership training, they will gain equitable access to economic resources and decision-making processes.
Intermediary Outcome 3 – By the end of 2029, local public authorities (LPAs), educational institutions, and communities will have developed and implemented inclusive governance frameworks that

promote sustainable forest and pasture management. Women's participation in decision-making will be strengthened through collaborative policies, while specialized institutions will provide gender-sensitive, climate-smart curricula and training.
The project integrates environmental sustainability, ensuring the development of resilient communities and ecosystems.

10. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of the preparation and dissemination of reports and communication materials; organization of events, workshops, or training; strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences; partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks; and global/regional projects with no country-level activities as well as Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects. [If yes, upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, Select all exemption criteria that apply.]

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) SESP not required because project consists solely of (Select all exemption criteria that apply)

***Applicable only to option "SESP not required"**

- [ ] 1: Preparation and dissemination of reports, documents and communication materials
- [ ] 2: Organization of an event, workshop, training
- [ ] 3: Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences
- [ ] 4: Partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks
- [ ] 5: Global/regional projects with no country level activities (e.g. knowledge management, inter-governmental processes)
- [ ] 6: UNDP acting as Administrative Agent
- [ ] 7: Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects

*Note: Project QA cannot be approved by Project QA Approver when the response is "No".

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

SESP has been conducted, the project was listed as a "Moderate Risk". See related procedure in Quantum +

Management & Monitoring Status: Complete Quality Rating: Exemplary

11. Does the project have a strong results framework?

- (●) 3: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the key expected development changes, each with credible data sources and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. (all must be true)
- ( ) 2: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. (all must be true)

1: The project's selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. (if any is true)

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The Project's Results Framework captures all required sets of data. The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART principles and measure the expected development changes in a result-oriented manner, each with credible data sources and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate (see further in the enclosed Project Document and Results Framework p.34).

12. Is the project's governance mechanism clearly defined in the project document, including composition of the project board?

3: The project's governance mechanism is fully defined. Individuals have been specified for each position in the governance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) Project Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as specified in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been attached to the project document. (all must be true)

2: The project's governance mechanism is defined; specific institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but individuals may not have been specified yet. The project document lists the most important responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager and quality assurance roles. (all must be true)

1: The project's governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project document, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later date. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the governance mechanism is provided.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project governance mechanism is fully and clearly defined in the Project Document, including the Project Board composition with Development Partners (UNDP, UN Women, and Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development of Canada), Executive (UNDP), and Beneficiaries (Ministry of Environment and subordinated institutions, Ministry of Agriculture, and Food Industry, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Local Public Authorities, NGOs). The ToR of the composition of the Project Board has been discussed and approved at the Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting.

13. Have the project risks been identified using the risk assessment tools (Project Quality Assurance, Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, Partner Capacity Assessment Tool, Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer, Private Sector Due Diligence, etc., if applicable), with clear plans stated to manage and mitigate each risk?

3: Project risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in the project risk register, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the programme's theory of change, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation analysis, capacity assessments and other analysis such as funding potential and reputational risk. Risks have been identified through a consultative process with key internal and external stakeholders, including consultation with the UNDP Security Office as required. Clear and complete plan in

place to manage and mitigate each risk, including security risks, reflected in project budgeting and monitoring plans. (both must be true)

○ 2: Project risks related to the achievement of results are identified in the initial project risk register based on a minimum level of analysis and consultation, with mitigation measures identified for each risk.

○ 1: Some risks may be identified in the initial project risk register, but no evidence of consultation or analysis and no clear risk mitigation measures identified. This option is also selected if risks are not clearly identified, no initial risk log is included with the project document and/or no security risk management process has taken place for the project.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project document provides a clear and comprehensive outline of the risks, identified in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders. These are: environmental risks, social risks, economic risks, institutional risks, resistance to change in gender norms, limited financial resources, and political instability. In addition, the SESP has been conducted and the project listed as having a "Moderate Risk" (see related SESP Procedure in Quantum+).

Efficient | Status: Complete | Quality Rating: Exemplary

14. Have specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been explicitly mentioned as part of the project design?

◉ Yes
○ No

*Note: Risk management must be done when the response is "No".

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

To enhance cost efficiency and effectiveness, the project will adhere to UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) and undergo regular reviews under the governance mechanism of the UNDP Country Programme for Moldova (2023–2027). Cost-saving measures will include leveraging global and local Long-Term Agreements for goods and services and implementing joint procurement where relevant. Continuous coordination with public authorities, donors, and financing entities will prevent duplication and maximize impact.

Financial oversight will be maintained through annual Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs), and any remaining funds will be managed in consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada, in accordance with established agreements.

This project leverages the combined expertise and resources of UN Women and UNDP to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. By fostering a collaborative approach, the initiative aims to maximize impact while ensuring cost-effectiveness.

As the Lead Agency, UNDP Moldova is responsible for the overall management, administration, and achievement of project outputs and outcomes, as well as reporting to the donor. Additionally, UNDP will provide programmatic support, quality assurance, procurement, and financial management.

The Project Team will actively seek synergies with other initiatives to enable joint activities and cost-sharing, ensuring higher value for money.

15. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates?

(●) 3: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Realistic resource mobilisation plans are in place to fill unfunded components. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. Adequate costs for monitoring, evaluation, communications and security have been incorporated.

( ) 2: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget, but no funding plan is in place. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates.

( ) 1: The project's budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

he Project's Annual Work Plan (March 2025 – February 2029) and budget are based on thorough estimations of costs as part of the Project Document. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects and activities. Cost implications from inflation and exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget.

16. Is the Country Office / Regional / Global Project fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation?

(●) 3: The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.)

( ) 2: The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant.

( ) 1: The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross-subsidizing the project.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1. The budget must be revised to fully reflect the costs of implementation before the project commences.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

Cost recovery for the CO is included as part of the Multi-Year Work Plan and Budget based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL).

Effective | Status: Complete | Quality Rating: Exemplary

17. Have targeted groups, and particularly those marginalized, vulnerable, and left further behind (LNOB), been engaged in the design of the project?

(●) 3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising discriminated, vulnerable and marginalized populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of

target groups as stakeholders throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (e.g., representation on the project board, inclusion in samples for evaluations, etc.)

- 2: Some evidence that key targeted groups have been consulted in the design of the project.
- 1: No evidence of engagement with targeted groups during project design.
- Not Applicable

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project applies a rights-based and gender-responsive approach, integrating feedback from women's groups, local communities, and civil society organizations to design inclusive solutions. This participatory process ensures that the project responds directly to the needs of those most at risk, reinforcing the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and aligning with UNDP's and UN Women's commitment to human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development.

18. Does the project plan for adaptation and course correction if regular monitoring activities, evaluation, and lesson learned demonstrate there are better approaches to achieve the intended results and/or circumstances change during implementation?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

*Note: Risk Management must be done when the response is "No".

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

Yes, the project has a structured plan for adaptation and course correction based on regular monitoring, evaluation, and lessons learned. Through annual and bi-annual progress tracking, risks are identified, and performance data is reviewed to assess whether the project is on track to achieve its intended results. If progress is slower than expected, project management will take corrective actions.
The risk management framework, which includes quarterly risk monitoring and maintaining a risk log, ensures that emerging challenges are identified early and addressed proactively.
Additionally, annual project quality assurance reviews and project board meetings provide opportunities to assess strengths, weaknesses, and necessary adjustments.
The project also incorporates learning mechanisms, capturing good practices and lessons from other initiatives, which are then integrated into decision-making. In its final year, an end-of-project review will evaluate achievements, document lessons, and explore opportunities for scaling up successful approaches.
These adaptive management strategies ensure that the project remains flexible, responsive to changing circumstances, and aligned with its intended outcomes.

19. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a minimum.

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

*Note: Risk management must be done when the response is "No".

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project's outputs are scored at GEN3, indicating that gender equality is a principal objective of the project. By incorporating gender-responsive strategies, such as targeted interventions for women's economic empowerment, leadership development, and inclusive governance frameworks, the project ensures that women's participation and benefits are maximized. Additionally, gender-sensitive policies, training programs, and data collection (including sex-disaggregated data) are embedded within project activities to address systemic inequalities and promote sustainable, inclusive development. This full mainstreaming of gender considerations aligns with international commitments, including UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy (2022–2025) and Global Affairs Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, reinforcing the project's role in advancing women's rights and empowerment in Moldova.

20. Have societal digital risks and opportunities been taken into account when designing the project's approach and have digital or data technology solutions been considered to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and scalability of project results?

- (●) 3: To the extent possible, societal digital risks and opportunities have been investigated when designing the strategy and Theory of Change, and the potential use of digital or data technologies in project activities has been considered in line with UNDP's digital standards and data principles. (All must be true)
- ( ) 2: Only the potential use of digital or data solutions in project activities has been considered in line with UNDP's digital standards and data principles, but there is no or limited evidence that aspects of inclusive digital societies have been considered in the design of the strategy or Theory of Change.
- ( ) 1: Neither societal digital risks and opportunities, nor digital or data technology solutions were specifically considered in the project design or, UNDP's digital standards and data principles are not taken into account when intending to use digital or data technology solutions in project activities.
- ( ) Digital considerations are not relevant to this project.

***Applicable only to option "Digital considerations are not relevant"**

- [ ] 1: Societal digital transformation is not a government or contextual priority
- [ ] 2: A non-digital approach yields higher effectiveness and efficiency
- [ ] 3: Other (specify in the "Evidence" section)

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

Yes, societal digital risks and opportunities have been carefully considered in the project's design, ensuring that digital and data-driven solutions enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and scalability while mitigating potential risks.
The project integrates various digital technologies, such as automation, robotics, precision irrigation, and plant health monitoring, to improve sustainability and productivity. A robotic planter will automate seed and seedling planting, ensuring uniform spacing and depth. Advanced automated irrigation systems will optimize water use in the nursery established with project support, utilizing soil moisture sensors to trigger irrigation only when necessary, reducing waste and promoting sustainable agroforestry practices. Additionally, multispectral and hyperspectral cameras will enable early detection of plant stress, nutrient deficiencies, and diseases, allowing for timely interventions. These digital solutions will enhance productivity, reduce resource consumption, and improve overall plant health, leading to more sustainable and profitable nursery operations.
At the same time, the project acknowledges societal digital risks, including the digital divide and barriers to access for rural women, and incorporates strategies to bridge these gaps. Targeted efforts

will focus on enhancing digital literacy, particularly among marginalized groups, ensuring their full participation in digital learning opportunities, resource management, and governance processes.

Sustainability & National Ownership | Status: Incomplete | Quality Rating: Satisfactory

21. Have national / regional / global partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the country / regional / global project, respectively?

- ○ 3: National / regional / global partners have full ownership of the country / regional / global project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP.
- ○ 2: The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national / regional / global partners.
- ○ 1: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners.

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project has actively engaged national and international partners in the design of the project, in particular the Ministry of Environment and subordinated institutions, and UN Women and the Donor – Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development of Canada.

22. Are key institutions and systems identified, and is there a strategy for strengthening specific / comprehensive capacities based on capacity assessments conducted?

- ◉ 3: The project has a strategy for strengthening specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on a completed capacity assessment. This strategy includes an approach to regularly monitor national capacities using clear indicators and rigorous methods of data collection, and adjust the strategy to strengthen national capacities accordingly.
- ○ 2: A capacity assessment has been completed. There are plans to develop a strategy to strengthen specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on the results of the capacity assessment.
- ○ 1: Capacity assessments have not been carried out
- ○ Not Applicable

*Note: Risk management must be done for criteria with score of 1.

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

Yes, key institutions and systems have been identified, and the project includes a strategic approach to strengthening their capacities based on assessed needs.
The project works closely with local public authorities (LPAs), educational institutions, and community organizations to develop and implement inclusive governance frameworks for sustainable forest and pasture management. By 2029, these institutions will be better equipped to promote gender-sensitive policies, climate adaptation strategies, and disaster risk reduction plans, ensuring long-term resilience.
Capacity-building efforts include collaborative policy development, training in climate-smart governance, and the integration of gender-sensitive curricula in specialized educational institutions. Additionally, the project provides financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership training for rural women, empowering them to participate in decision-making and economic development.
By strengthening institutional capacities and fostering inter-institutional collaboration, the project

ensures that governance structures, educational systems, and community organizations can effectively support climate resilience, gender equality, and sustainable resource management in rural Moldova.

23. Is there is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.,) to the extent possible?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) Not Applicable

*Note: Risk management must be done when the response is "No".

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project incorporates a strategy to utilize national systems wherever possible while ensuring effective implementation through UNDP's established frameworks. It prioritizes the engagement of qualified national expertise and suppliers for technical and thematic support, while also leveraging UNDP's Global Policy Network and regional expertise.
Implementation and monitoring will adhere to UNDP regulations, ensuring accountability, quality assurance, and efficiency. Where applicable, national procurement, recruitment, and financial management systems will be used, complemented by UNDP's operational support services to maintain effectiveness. Additionally, continuous coordination with national stakeholders will strengthen alignment with existing systems, ensuring coherence, sustainability, and optimal resource utilization.

24. Is there a clear transition arrangement / phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilisation and communications strategy)?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

*Note: Risk management must be done when the response is "No".

Evidence (Enter a short explanation or upload a document that provides evidence for your response)

The project will ensure ownership of all goods and services. UNDP will involve key stakeholders, local communities, NGOs to ensure participation in the project. UNDP will further identify and secure financial resources from various sources, such as government funding, international grants, and private sector investments, to sustain and scale up the project.