LPAC Note

Appraisal of the "EU4BiodiversityinSevan: Enhancing Lake Sevan Ecosystem Restoration" Project

(CRISIS/OPSYS Ref: 700004803)

Background

The EU4BiodiversityinSevan Project aims to contribute to restoration and long-term sustainability of the Lake Sevan ecosystem through strengthened governance, ecosystem restoration interventions, biodiversity conservation and the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms.

The Project will strengthen governance, institutional coordination, and evidence-based decision-making to improve the planning, implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of environmental policies. It will support ecosystem restoration measures, including riverbank restoration, forest rehabilitation, and biodiversity conservation interventions, contributing to improved ecosystem health, water and air quality, sustainable resource management, and enhanced resilience to climate change. To ensure the long-term sustainability of these efforts, the Project will promote sustainable financing through private-sector engagement, enhanced financial sustainability of Sevan National Park, and appropriate economic incentive mechanisms, complemented by gender-responsive awareness-raising and communication activities to strengthen public participation in biodiversity conservation.

A Contribution Agreement for the Project was signed between the European Union and UNDP on 15 May 2026. The implementation period is 36 months, ending on 15 May 2029.

The Description of Action (Annex I to the Contribution Agreement) and the Project Budget (Annex III) were approved by both the European Union and UNDP. The UNDP Project Document has been developed in full accordance with these approved documents and includes Development Challenge, Strategy, Results and Partnerships, Theory of Change, Project Management arrangements, Results Framework, Monitoring and Evaluation, Multi-Year Workplan, Governance and Management Arrangements, Risk Management and other required corporate sections.

The total Project budget amounts to EUR 1,530,000 (USD 1,765,688), comprising an EU contribution of EUR 1,500,000 (1,731,126) and a UNDP contribution of EUR 30,000 USD (34,562).

Stakeholder Consultation and Internal Appraisal

The Project design was developed through a highly participatory and consultative process. This included series of meetings and consultations with the project stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries during the project design phase in early 2025. The process included bilateral meetings with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Economy, international organizations implementing projects

related to Lake Sevan, and donor organizations[1]. These consultations helped identify existing gaps and determine how the proposed project could best address them. In addition, a validation workshop was organized in March 2025 to discuss the draft project document. Participants confirmed that the proposed project activities reflected recommendations made during the bilateral meetings and were aligned with the Government of Armenia's priorities for the restoration and sustainable management of the Lake Sevan ecosystem.

Taking into account the extensive stakeholder consultations, the incorporation of the recommendations into the Project design, and the fact that Project implementation commenced in June 2026, the Project underwent UNDP's internal portfolio review process, which was completed on 28 May 2026.

The Project incorporated the comments received from the Results-Based Management (RBM) Manager into the ProDoc, except for the comment related to the Project Organization Structure. UNDP and MNv are identified as the Implementing Organization and Implementing Partner, respectively. As the EU has approved this organizational structure, the Project Organization Structure remains as stated in the DoA. The other relevant UNDP portfolios did not provide any comments or observations during the internal review. Accordingly, the Project is submitted for appraisal and approval by the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC).

Conclusions

- The Project Document is fully aligned with the approved Description of Action, and Project Budget.
- The Project objectives, expected outputs, implementation arrangements, and resource allocation are technically sound and consistent with UNDP programming principles and corporate requirements.
- The Project is fully aligned with the Government of Armenia's priorities for the restoration and sustainable management of the Lake Sevan ecosystem.
- Extensive consultations with Government counterparts, development partners, technical institutions, and other stakeholders were undertaken during project formulation, and their recommendations have been reflected in Project design.
- The LPAC process constitutes an internal UNDP quality assurance mechanism and does not affect the project scope, results framework, implementation arrangements, or budget already agreed by the European Union and UNDP

The UNDP Project Team will maintain close coordination with Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Economy and other relevant national, regional, local stakeholders, as well as international and local partners throughout Project implementation.

Annexes:

List of Invitees EU4BDinSevan_Workshop.docx

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[1] RA Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP) with its departments of: International Cooperation Department of MNP, Department of Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Policy, Strategic Policy Department, Ministry of Water Policy Department, Department of Bioresources Management, Hydromet SNCO, Eco-Patrol Service, Sevan National Park SNCO, MTAI, Water Committee, Local Government Policy Department of MTAD, ME, MTAI with its Water Committee, Local Government Policy Department, Agriculture and Environmental Protection Department of Gegharkunik Marzpetaran, ME with its Department on Agricultural Program Design, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Biodiversity and Protected Areas" component of the KfW GIZ EU4Sevan Project, "ECOServ" Project, "Biodiversity and Sustainable Local Development in Armenia" project, Caucasus Nature Fund, EU4Green Recovery Programme, erican University of Armenia, Scientific Center for Zoology and Hydroecology of the NAS of Armenia, International Aid/Cooperation EU Delegation to Armenia.

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Date Signed:

28 May 2026

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Date Signed:

28 May 2026

Approved by:

Konstantin Sokulskiy, Deputy Resident Representative

Date Signed:

28 May 2026