



**United Nations Development Programme**  
**Country: Serbia**  
**PROJECT DOCUMENT<sup>1</sup>**

**Project Title:** Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

**Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD):** By 2020, there are improved capacities to combat climate change and manage natural resources, and communities are more resilient to the effects natural and human-induced disasters.

**Indicative Output(s):** 4.1: Capacities for policy-making and implementation of international agreements improved

**Executing Entity / Implementing Partner:** Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP)

**Implementing Entity/Responsible Partners:** Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP), UNDP Serbia

**Brief Description**

The objective of the proposed project is to improve implementation of MEAs in Serbia by strengthening consultative processes and integrating MEA provisions into high-priority policies and programs at national and municipal levels. The project will strengthen participation in MEAs through targeted research, a comprehensive overview of MEA issues and activities, and ongoing input from civil society. It will also enable national and local government units to include global environmental considerations in selected reports and strategies. Finally, it will develop capacity in key target groups (Members of Parliament, youth, and university and mid-career students) to understand and participate in activities that benefit the global environment.

Programme Period:	<u>2016-2020</u>
Atlas Award ID:	<u>00087663</u>
Project ID:	<u>00094606</u>
PIMS #	<u>5227</u>
Start date:	<u>Nov 15, 2016</u>
End Date	<u>Nov 14, 2021</u>
Management Arrangements	<u>NIM</u>
PAC Meeting Date	<u>Sep 1, 2016</u>

Total resources required:	<u>US\$ 1,930,000</u>
Total allocated resources:	<u>US\$ 1,930,000</u>
Regular UNDP (TRAC):	<u>US\$ 50,000</u>
GEF	<u>US\$ 950,000</u>
In-kind:	<u>US\$ 930,000</u>
• MoY	<u>US\$ 200,000</u>
• SCTM	<u>US\$ 280,000</u>
• BFPE	<u>US\$ 50,000</u>
• MAEP	<u>US\$ 280,000</u>
• UNDP	<u>US\$ 220,000</u>

Agreed by (Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Implementing Partner):

Agreed by (UNDP):

17.01.2017  
Date/Month/Year

23/11/16  
Date/Month/Year

<sup>1</sup> For UNDP supported GEF-funded projects, as this includes GEF-specific requirements

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>BFPE</b>	Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence
<b>CO</b>	UNDP Country Office
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUR</b>	Euros
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IPA</b>	(European Union) Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
<b>KOMS</b>	Serbian Youth Umbrella Organization
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MAEP</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
<b>NIM</b>	National Implementation
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PB</b>	Project Board
<b>PIR</b>	Project Implementation Review
<b>PMU</b>	Project Management Unit
<b>PPG</b>	Project Preparation Grant
<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>QPR</b>	Quarterly Progress Report
<b>RCU</b>	UNDP Regional Coordination Unit
<b>RSD</b>	Serbian dinars <sup>2</sup>
<b>PTA</b>	Principal Technical Advisor
<b>SCTM</b>	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEPA</b>	Serbian Environment Protection Agency
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Agency
<b>TPR</b>	Tripartite Review
<b>TTR</b>	Terminal Tripartite Review
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>UNCBD</b>	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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<sup>2</sup> Exchange rate as of 11 March 2016: 111 RSD to 1 USD

## 1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### 1.1. Context and global significance

1. The Republic of Serbia is located on the Balkan Peninsula in Southeastern Europe and covers an area of 88,361km<sup>2</sup>. Many environmental issues in Serbia are international in nature, as it has multiple international borders and three major transboundary waterways on its territory: the Danube, Sava and Tisa Rivers. Serbia has just over 7.1 million inhabitants, with a little more than half of the population (52%) living in urban areas. The two largest economic sectors are industry (30.3% of GDP), and agriculture, forestry and fishing (19.2%); agricultural land covers 57.6% of the country. In 2011, Serbia was granted candidate status by the European Commission, and an EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Agreement is currently in force.

2. Serbia is highly geographically and biologically diverse. The total number of species living in Serbia represents 43.3% of all existing species in Europe. Its terrain includes rich, fertile plains in the northern Vojvodina region, limestone ranges and basins in the eastern part, and ancient mountains and hills in the central and southeastern parts of the country. The territory of Serbia includes three mountain ranges, and its rivers flow into to three seas: the Black Sea, Adriatic Sea, and Aegean Sea. Most of Serbia has a temperate continental climate; however, in the southwestern part of the country, the climate is continental to subtropical. According to measurements taken in the period 1961 to 1990, mean annual air temperatures are between 3° C at altitudes above 1,500 metres and 12° C in the lowlands. Lately, annual temperatures have increased by 0.7 °C/year in almost all parts of the country. Precipitation ranges from less than 600 mm/year to more than 1,000 mm/year.

3. Because approximately 92 % of Serbia's surface water originates from outside the country's borders, the Government has a strong incentive to cooperate with other riparian countries on the development and utilization of international waters and enter into arrangements for such purposes.

4. Serbia completed its National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) in order to identify the priority cross-cutting capacity development needs of the country to meet and sustain obligations under the three Rio Conventions. The major limitations identified include institutional coordination, environmental databases, public awareness, and environmental mainstreaming. Serbia has made significant progress in strengthening its environmental policy and programming framework since the completion of its NCSA. The country has adopted numerous laws pertaining to environmental protection and has taken important steps to integrate global environmental obligations within its national developmental strategies. For example, National Sustainable Development Strategy for the period 2009-2017 (NSDS) was adopted in May 2008 (Official Gazette of RS No. 57/08). It defines strategic goals in the area of environment and natural resources, and contains clear references for adoption of legislation and their harmonization with international agreements in the field of biodiversity, climate change, air protection, land use. The Action Plan for implementation of NSDS was developed as well, however, implementation of the Strategy remained at a low level and the barriers remain. Taking these into account, the objective of this project is to improve implementation of MEAs in Serbia by strengthening consultative processes, integrating MEA provisions into high-priority policies and programs at national and municipal levels, and strengthening the capacity of selected target groups to understand and participate in activities with global environmental benefits.

#### ***Environmental Threats***

5. Critical environmental threats to biodiversity in Serbia as identified in official reports to the CBD include habitat loss and pollution/contamination. The initial Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan also identifies climate change as a key threat to biodiversity, because it "...leads to reduced precipitation and subsequent increases in water scarcity, leading further to changes in grasslands, riparian habitats, forested ecosystems, wetland and steppe habitats." Many other threats have links across the Rio conventions: for example, climate variability and climate impacts have influenced land degradation, while habitat loss and

land degradation have reduced carbon sequestration in soils and biomass. Illegal timber harvesting and forest fires also affect multiple convention areas.

6. The most visible cross-cutting issue at the national level is that of natural disasters. Research indicates that more than 80% of natural disasters in Serbia over the past decade have been related to climate change. In 2014, severe flooding killed 57 people in Serbia and caused an estimated EUR 1.55 billion in damages from flooding in several cities and landslides in the mountains. Disasters such as the 2014 flood and other cross-cutting threats reduce human security in the region. Serbia faces a dual challenge in implementing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): it must strengthen MEAs in a way that will generate global benefits while also responding effectively to global environmental concerns that threaten its population.

7. Exploitation and mismanagement of forest and agricultural land as well as uncontrolled urbanization exacerbate the impact of natural hazards such as torrential floods and landslides. Over the years, torrential floods have occurred more frequently and have become more destructive: former discharges with recurrence interval of 100 years are now events with a recurrence interval of 20 years. Various contributing factors can be identified, including the transformation of the watershed from rural to urban land uses, as diminishing surfaces under forest vegetation and unsustainable agricultural practices.

8. Dramatically reduced spending in the water sector over the last 25 years has contributed to the deterioration of the country's water infrastructure. Aging infrastructure and inadequate investments in the maintenance of public infrastructure puts many floods control structures at risk of losing their functionality. Similarly, drainage systems have not always received adequate attention and investments, which has resulted in siltation and weed growth, as well as the breakdown of associated drains and pumping stations.

9. As climate patterns change, Serbia may be confronted with more frequent and intense floods. While the impact of climate change on the overall intensity and frequency of hydrological hazards cannot be predicted with certainty, research suggests that extreme wet and dry episodes have increased in recent years in both frequency and in amplitude. This is likely to affect river runoff and lead to more frequent occurrence of floods, especially torrential floods. Without climate-informed planning and investments, Serbia will become even more vulnerable to extreme adverse natural events (Serbia Floods 2014).

## **1.2. Institutional Framework and Stakeholder Analysis**

Activities related to global environmental issues are primarily driven by multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). In addition to ratifying the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD) and the Ramsar Convention in 1992, Serbia has continued to express a commitment to MEAs through its ratification of the following:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Multilateral Environmental Agreement</i>
2000:	The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
2003:	ICPDR (Danube River Protection Convention) and the 2004 Tisza Group Memorandum of Understanding
2007:	Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
2009:	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; and the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (there are currently four regional Aarhus centres)
2010:	The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

10. Activities related to country-level environmental policies and programs are primarily driven by EU accession. At the level of national environmental legislation, Serbia is currently harmonizing its legislation related to environment and climate change with the EU *acquis communautaire*. The *acquis* contains some sections that are related to global environmental issues, but it is not exhaustive in its coverage, and current capacity is not sufficient to implement the legislation that has been adopted.

11. Framework environmental policies and strategies in Serbia exist, but they face barriers to implementation that are described in the subsequent section and summarized in Table 1 of this document. Key policies and strategies include the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2007), the National Environmental Protection Programme (2010), and statements related to Green Economy policies and strategies. Language on environment, and particularly on climate change, has been included in a number of sectoral strategies. Annex J provides a summary of the national strategic framework for the Rio Conventions.

12. The government legal framework for gender equality is determined by the 2009 Sexual Equality Law (Gazette No. 104/09), which is to be replaced by a Gender Equality Law (currently in draft form) that is fully harmonized with the EU *acquis*. Legal provisions of the draft law that are relevant to capacity strengthening for environment include Article 16 (which will forbid gender-based discrimination in education and science) and Article 20 (which will mandate gender equality in governing, managing and supervisory bodies of educational and scientific entities). While the research sector as a whole is relatively balanced (51% male, 49% female), there are significantly fewer women at higher levels, such as the management level of research institutes and in the Academy of Sciences.

#### National-Level Institutions

13. According to the Law on Ministries, the environmental policy of the Republic of Serbia is predominantly addressed by the following institutions: the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP), Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbian Environment Protection Agency, Institute for Nature Conservation, the Republic Hydrometeorological Service, the Regional and National Public Health Institutes, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection and municipalities. Agencies that are relevant to MEAs are described briefly in the following paragraphs.

14. The **Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP)** houses the Rio Convention focal points, and it has established a working group on green economy and sustainable development with the Ministry of Economy. Within MAEP, the Water Directorate (with the budgetary fund for waters) monitors the implementation of water management and protection policies and the work of public utility companies, responsible for flood protection (important to disaster risk reduction), water supply (excluding distribution), rational consumption of water, monitoring and maintenance of national and trans-boundary water flows, implementation of water protection measures, and regulation of water regimes. The Forestry Directorate at MAEP oversees forestry policy, forest conservation, improvement and use of forests and wildlife, implementation of forest and wildlife protection measures, control of seeds and seedlings in forestry, and hunting. Within MAEP, the Serbian Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) operates and performs tasks related to the development and management of a national information system for environmental protection, air and water quality monitoring, the collection and compilation of environmental data, and the preparation of the state of the environment report.

15. In the field of nature protection, the **Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia** and the **Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province** oversee the protection and improvement of Serbia's natural heritage, and their activities involve field research and preparation of studies for designation of protected areas; research on biodiversity and geodiversity; expert supervision related to monitoring the status of

protected areas; the establishment of protective guidelines for activities in protected areas; and the preparation of project documentation, programs and strategies for the sector.

16. The **Republic Hydro-meteorological Service** monitors key elements of air quality and climate change. Its activities include systematic meteorological, climatological, agro meteorological and hydrological measurements and observations; surface and groundwater monitoring, precipitation monitoring; maintaining a database of observed and measured hydrological and meteorological data; weather monitoring, analysis and forecasts, including the air and water quality; the development of methods, operating observation and warnings about adverse atmospheric and hydrospheric conditions; research into atmospheric and hydrospheric processes; systematic climate monitoring and forecasting; and weather and hydrological monitoring and forecasting.

17. The **Ministry of Health** is responsible for the implementation of health and safety regulations pertaining to environmental protection and biosafety; sanitary inspection; water supply for public consumption; and monitoring and oversight of health and safety conditions at various facilities and on the border.

18. The **Ministry of Mining and Energy**, which includes the Budgetary Fund for Energy Efficiency, oversees mining waste; energy policy and programs, such as the industrial emissions directive; fuel quality; energy efficiency; permits for extraction of mineral resources like extractive industry and its waste; and renewable energy resources. Its competencies also include the preparation of technical regulations pertaining to petroleum-derived liquid fuels; motor vehicle emissions; and noise from vehicles, aviation, machinery, and maritime transport.

19. The **Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure** oversees urban and spatial planning, construction permitting, and communal infrastructure – all of which may be related to the preparation of strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) and environmental impact assessments (EIAs). Ministry competencies also include transport (railway, road, water and air); internal, international and intermodal transport; and technical standards for vehicles and outdoor equipment.

The **Ministry of Interior**, which oversees the police, fire brigades, and civil defence, is in charge of emergency situations, including contingency planning, prevention, and response to natural disasters and major industrial accidents (e.g. floods, large fires, chemical hazards, and explosions). By law, the Ministry is mandated to coordinate and manage protection and rescue activities in emergencies and to mainstream disaster risk reduction policies. The Minister of Interior also chairs the National Emergency Management Headquarters (NEMH). The responsibilities of the NEMH are the coordination of the activities in the field of emergency management on national, regional and local level, as well as implementation of disaster risk reduction concept into national and local policies, sustainable development strategies, and protection and rescue strategies. In July 2015, Serbia became the 33rd participating state in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

20. The **Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development** is the main source of financing for basic and applied research, including work on land degradation, combating desertification, climate changes, and biodiversity. The Ministry is responsible for overseeing scientific research; planning and implementing this research; developing a national innovation policy and system; and encouraging technology and knowledge transfer in the economy. As part of its duties, the Ministry accredits institutes for scientific research and publishes annual calls for proposals for scientific research. In addition, the Ministry is the focal point for several European Commission community programs, such as FP7, CIP, Horizon 2020, and Erasmus Mundus, through which applicants from Serbia (mainly research institutes and universities) can apply for EU funds for projects/research in the fields of environment and climate change. In academic matters, the Ministry oversees post-secondary educational institutions, which provide a variety of programs related to environmental education (see the section below on academic institutions).

21. The **Ministry of Youth and Sport** regulates and addresses youth issues, and its Department for Youth is responsible for youth affairs and policy in Serbia. The Department's competencies include developing and implementing youth policy, strategy, action plans and programs; encouraging youth participation; providing guidance to young people and training them for the employment and volunteer work; and



cooperating with youth organizations. The Ministry is relevant to environmental activities because it provides grants for environmental projects to youth organizations, and it supports the implementation of the National Youth Policy, which has a specific goal of increasing young people's participation in environmental protection and sustainable development. This policy aims to support the establishment of environmental funds that would allocate a part of funds for youth activities designed to protect and improve the environment; the coordination of corporate sector activities consisting of the allocation of funds for youth programmes in the field of environmental protection; subsidies for youth entrepreneurial ideas with an environmental protection component through the promotion of renewable energy sources, ecotourism and other forms of green economy; environmental protection activities implemented by youth policy actors; and youth involvement in the implementation of programmes of environmental protection and sustainable development implemented by international organisations.

22. The **Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia** is responsible for the organization and conduct of statistical surveys; data collection, processing, analysis and publishing statistical data; determining statistical standards; maintaining statistical registers; and cooperation with international organizations so as to provide standardization and data comparability.

23. At the national government level, there is an independent **Office for Civil Society Cooperation** that was established by the government in 2011 to coordinate input from CSOs on various issues. The office oversaw the development of National Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in the Republic of Serbia (2015-2019) with support from the EU and USAID. The Office has also commissioned research on public participation and provides technical support to line ministries or other authorized institutions to conduct public hearings and other consultations. In addition, they have provided training for local officials on public participation under the Environment and Climate Change Chapter (Chapter 27) of the EU accession strategy for Serbia.

24. Budgeting for MEAs is overseen by two agencies. The **Ministry of Finance** oversees macroeconomic policy, national budget planning, monitoring, and auditing. The **Ministry of Economy** oversees national economic development, strategic policy development in various sectors of the economy, monitoring and implementation of measures for enhancing investment, support for SMEs, the provision of incentives and credits to companies, export promotion, strategic investments, competitiveness, privatization, and standardization. The Ministry of Economy is also responsible for regional development.

#### Sub-National Institutions

25. At the level of Vojvodina Province, the **Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection** oversees the development of plans and programmes on natural resources management; environmental program in line with national programmes; water management, floods protection, forests management, nature conservation, environmental monitoring plans, emergency response plans; land use planning and construction; environmental protection, natural resources management and protection, land rehabilitation, in accordance with (higher level) strategic documents; charges for the protection and improvement of the environment; inspections and enforcement. In addition, the Province of Vojvodina has adopted an *Action Plan for Youth* that includes funding for environment protection and sustainable development.

26. Over time, many environmental competencies have been delegated to **local governments**. In addition to water and waste issues, local government units now handle environmental assessments (specifically SEAs and EIAs), permitting, pollution registries, inspection oversight, development of monitoring plans, and numerous other important functions with international environmental implications. At present, 135 out of 165 local governments in Serbia have opened a local youth office.

#### Other Institutions

27. **Academia**: Serbia currently has eight **public universities** with a total of 86 affiliated faculties (and two free-standing faculties). In addition, there are 10 **private universities** with 44 affiliated faculties (and 5 private free-standing faculties). Furthermore, there are 49 **other post-secondary educational institutions** (both academic and vocational), of which 42 are public and 7 are private. Serbian universities offer both



specific courses and programs of study that cover a variety of environmental issues directly and indirectly. Topics that are currently addressed include environmental science, nature and biodiversity issues, climate change, international and multilateral agreements, and changes in environment caused both by human activities and natural processes. Universities covering these subjects include the University of Belgrade (Faculties of Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Economy, Agriculture, Pharmacy, Forestry, Geography, Law, Security Studies, and Political Science); the University of Novi Sad (Faculties of Sciences and Agriculture); University of Kragujevac (Faculty of Science); University of Niš (Faculties of Sciences and Occupational Safety); University of Novi Pazar (Faculty of Biology); and two private universities – Singidunum University and EDUCONS University.

28. The University of Belgrade is the largest in Serbia, with 31 faculties and 11 affiliated research institutes. Its Faculty for Political Science includes the Center for Environmental Politics and Sustainable Development and offers a popular Environmental Policy and Politics Masters course. Its Agriculture Faculty has previously participated in an EU-funded FP-7 consortium on climate impacts on food safety (2010-2014), and its Economics Faculty is currently participating in a Horizon 2020 funded research consortium on sustainable finance for sustainable agriculture and fisheries (2015-2019). The Faculty of Law offers an LLM in Environmental Law, and a legal clinic program has been opened to train law students and provide expertise to clients and institutions, such as MAEP, on administrative law related to environmental issues. The clinic has also held seminars for judges on access to environmental information and environmental justice.

29. At the University of Niš, Faculty of Occupational Safety is participating in an Erasmus-funded project entitled "University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)", which will produce a sustainable development information portal. The Department is currently opening a master's degree program in environmental management, and they offer a master's level programme in Disaster Risk Management.

30. Researchers are also located at government *research institutes*. For example, the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Science participated in an FP-7 funded project studying health impacts of GHG reduction strategies in urban areas (2011-2014), and the Institute for Architecture and Urbanism of Serbia is currently participating in an FP-7 funded project "Transitioning towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability" (2011-2016).

31. *CSOs*: While the government does not maintain official statistics on *Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)*, there were 26,042 national CSOs in Serbia registered with the Serbian Business Registers Agency as of the end of 2014. This number includes 25,416 associations and 626 foundations and endowments. CSOs in Serbia include NGOs, political parties, foundations, minority councils, and religious organizations. Only a few CSOs have continuous and good cooperation with Ministries and government institutions, and mainly these are the CSOs located in administrative centers and in Belgrade. Most of the CSOs have good and successful cooperation with local authorities and other institutions on local level, particularly in the waste management and recycling. A few CSOs cooperate with research institutes and academia, mainly on a project-by-project basis.

32. According to a study carried out by the Regional Environmental Center on CSOs active in the field of environment, 33% of environmental organizations in Serbia reported that they operated without a budget (REC 2015). These groups were mostly small organizations with a small number of members that dealt with lobbying at the local level, organized small local events, or were inactive. Around 13% of environmental organizations reported a budget between EUR 1,000 and 5,000 EUR, while 11.5% reported an annual budget between EUR 5,000 and 10,000 EUR. Fewer than one third of organizations reported a budget above EUR 10,000 EUR, while only 6% of organizations reported budgets above EUR 100,000. It should be noted that there is a gender imbalance in CSO leadership: 72% of the legal representatives of associations and 64% of the legal representatives of foundations are men (OCCS 2015: 7).

33. In the area of access to environmental information and public involvement in environmental decision-making, there are five Aarhus Centers in Serbia administered by CSOs (the most recent Aarhus Center,

which is run by the Young Researchers of Serbia out of their office in Belgrade, opened in November 2015). The Aarhus Centers are affiliated with a regional network of similar centers.

34. In environmental education, the Regional Environmental Center (REC) has provided teacher training and developed environmental modules for primary schools, and universities across the country provide post-secondary training in fields such as energy engineering, biology, and soil science.

35. Other environmental CSOs, such as the Union of Ecologists, have also been active in disaster risk reduction. The Union of Ecologists has formed a regional network of CSOs in this area.<sup>3</sup> Serbian civil society organizations were also among the first responders who helped fellow citizens in the wake of the devastating floods in Serbia in 2014. CSOs mobilized citizen donations, recruited volunteers, organized logistics for storage and delivery of goods, and ensured safe distribution to those in need.

36. Another type of CSO in Serbia is the umbrella organization. The two umbrella organizations most relevant to this project are 1) the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, which provides a variety of training and networking opportunities for member governments; and 2) the Serbian Youth umbrella organization (KOMS<sup>4</sup>), which serves as an advocate for youth interests and seeks to improve the flow of information to youth organizations across Serbia.

37. One other category of stakeholder is that of **private companies**. Specifically, companies that prepare EIAs and SEAs can play an important role in improving the quality of those processes and the resulting information.

38. An overview of project stakeholders, their roles in project preparation, and their roles in project implementation is provided in Annex B.

### 1.3 Barriers and Root Causes

39. At present, the capacity of Serbia to achieve its stated environmental objectives is limited. While individual capacity has increased in some areas since the NCSA was completed in 2008, several cross-cutting constraints identified in that report are still present. At present, barriers and capacity constraints in Serbia include the following:

#### Institutional-Level Barriers

40. First, the *lack of coordination within and across government institutions (horizontal coordination)* is a major constraint to managing work on the global conventions. This issue was identified in all Rio Convention areas during the cross-cutting report compiled in 2007 (NCSA, p. 11). There is little communication and no formal coordination between focal points and agencies whose decisions may affect their area of work; for example, the National Council on Sustainable Development has not met since 2011. While working groups have been established across relevant institutions when it has been necessary to draft a strategic document (e.g. Biodiversity Strategy, National Communication to the UNFCCC), they have been dissolved after the documents are adopted and re-convened only if there was a need to develop additional documents such as action plans.

41. In the area of environment, very few line ministries have specific structures in place to cooperate with the MEAP, yet the Rio conventions address multiple sectors and therefore depend upon coordination. In addition, internal coordination between different departments within MEAP (such as those responsible for natural resources, desertification and land use, climate change, and biodiversity) is not formalized.

42. This issue also affects the availability of information for decision-makers; for example, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development does not have a mechanism for communicating with MEAP regarding MEA-related research findings and data for Serbia. Furthermore, the Ministry of

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<sup>3</sup> <http://prirodnirizici.rs/index.php/mreza-ocd>

<sup>4</sup> Krovna organizacija mladih - KOMS

Education, Science and Technological Development has not necessarily been involved in working groups related to MEAs. As a result, there is a lack of information flow on both applied research and environmental education efforts – two sectors where Rio Convention parties are supposed to provide information.

43. In addition, there is a need to strengthen for *vertical coordination* of the convention focal areas in Serbia. While the Law on Local Self-Government provides for a number of mechanisms with the aim to enable vertical coordination, practical implementation of such coordination is far from adequate. In practice, vertical coordination functions mostly through personal contacts between governmental officials rather than through well-established mechanisms. (UNECE 2015: 32). In other areas, there is no mandate for coordination: for example, local governments are not required to share information on the number or content of EIAs and SEAs that they oversee. As a result, the Ministry Focal Points do not have information on the number or quality of these procedures that are taking place at the local level.

44. Vertical coordination also affects reporting on government-funded research. At present, research institutes and universities participate in consortia that produce deliverables relevant for environmental data collection and the Rio conventions. However, the project outputs are not usually distributed to the relevant focal points and their respective institutions. As a result, these findings are not incorporated into MEA reporting.

45. The lack of an overview on work related to the conventions also affects the awareness levels of decision-makers in the executive and legislative branches of government, as it is difficult to compile a unified picture of the work that is being done in each focal area.

46. This lack of coordination can also make it difficult to ensure certain processes, such as public participation and public consultation. Both of these areas were identified in the 2014 European Commission Progress Report as needing improvement. Stakeholder consultations indicated that these shortcomings were not intentional; rather, they reflected a lack of capacity both on the part of the government and on the part of other entities, such as CSOs and the public. Consultations also identified informal cooperation between offices and individuals in areas related to MEAs – however, this cooperation was dependent on those involved and could disappear with restructuring and staff turnover.

47. Finally, this lack of formal coordination can make it difficult to align research and policy-making, as policy-makers may not be aware of research capabilities and opportunities for international cooperation on environmental issues. For example, there is currently no mechanism to get government-funded research into convention reporting or to target areas where research is needed. Ongoing research funded under IPA or the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development could provide excellent entry points for mainstreaming, and it has the advantage of relative continuity and stability in funding.

48. An additional offshoot of the lack of coordination is a lack of mainstreaming global environmental issues into national legislation and programs. Disaster risk reduction is an example of this phenomenon. While environmental protection is clearly mentioned under Priority 3 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, there is still a need to integrate these principles into local DRR plans in Serbia. It is also necessary to integrate global environmental issues and concerns into spatial and urban plans and the construction permitting process; and in strategic planning in the energy, agriculture, forest management, and mining sectors.

49. A second barrier identified in recent reviews by multilateral organizations such as the UNECE and the European Commission is a *lack of implementation for policies and programs that have been developed* in international environment in recent years. In part, this “implementation gap” results from incomplete legislation or regulation; for example, the 10-year National Environmental Protection Programme (2010), was never followed by the adoption and implementation of an action plan, and there is no current unit designated with overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the 2007 National Strategy on Sustainable Development. As the UNDP Country Programme Document for Serbia (2016-2020) notes,

“While the strategic policy framework to reform the *environmental sector* in Serbia is largely in place, the shift from planning to action is yet to be demonstrated. Inadequate and sectoral management of natural resources result in increasing pressures and overuse of resources, inappropriate agricultural and industrial practices, and the spread of invasive species” (UNDP 2015: 3).

50. In the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR), the implementation gap is visible in two ways. First, the number of municipalities submitting their required DRR plans is quite low. Second, as inspection and monitoring are critically important to effective DRR planning, the effectiveness of these plans may be compromised if regulations in forestry, watercourse management, and construction are not enforced.

51. It is also difficult to increase the implementation of policies and programs due to the lack of a mechanism for reporting on program implementation in various action plans and the fact that using monitoring to inform planning is not generally a part of institutional culture.

52. Problems at the institutional level have been exacerbated by periodic government restructuring, which has moved responsibilities across agencies and led to a *lack of continuity* in policies and programs. The decentralization of competencies in key environmental areas such as waste, water, and environmental impact assessment to local government units have also made oversight and information coordination more difficult. Furthermore, local governments often lack the capacity to manage complex environmental decision-making and investment (see below).

Continuity issues have also affected environmental financing, which in turn has affected planning and programming. Originally, the Law on Environmental Protection anticipated the use of economic instruments in the area of environmental policy and sustainable development. One of the instruments established was the Fund for Environmental Protection. However, it was abolished in 2012, creating a financing gap for environmental investments. In the absence of earmarked environmental funds, which enable sound financial planning and management in the environment sector, it has become more difficult to address the requirements of environmental regulations and treaties, including the three Rio Conventions. The European Commission has specifically cited the need for Serbia “to take measures to set up an effective and permanent financing system for environment and climate action, including a stable financing of essential basic services, such as environmental monitoring.” (EU 2015: 66). Amendments to the Environmental Protection Law in 2016 have created a legal basis for establishing the Green Fund of Serbia that should become operational on 1 January 2017 as a body within the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection. The Green Fund will exist as a budgetary fund for the development and implementation of programs, projects and other activities in the field of conservation, sustainable use, protection and improvement of the environment. However, its status as a budgetary (rather than extra-budgetary) fund means that it will be difficult to ensure continuity in funding for the programs it is supposed to support.

53. Continuity problems also affect coordination across organizations: for example, the Youth Council has held five meetings since its establishment in 2014. However, because the council appointments consisted of senior officials, there was turnover after elections that led to subsequent gaps in representation.

#### Organizational Barriers and Constraints

54. Most capacity constraints at the organizational level are shaped by institutional barriers and constraints. For example, the *lack of coordinated management of environmental issues* at specific agencies is primarily influenced by a lack of policies and practices to support this communication. Coordination is also hindered by a lack of staffing, as government agencies have many responsibilities but few staff to carry out their work. Over time, new MEAs have been added, while existing MEAs have broadened the activities that are requested by signatories, leaving individual departments with more work but the same amount of staffing and resources due to the current hiring freeze. In addition, CSOs—which are now consulted on a variety of environmental issues—have not been routinely involved by government agencies in consultations and briefings related to the Rio Conventions.

55. Furthermore, decentralization has placed new responsibilities on local governments that are straining their capacities. As a recent UNECE report found, “In the process of transfer of environmental protection responsibilities from national to local level, local self-government units received new competences but had no opportunities to increase staff resources, especially in small municipalities” (UNECE 2015: 33). As a result, “In general, Vojvodina, Belgrade and a few other large cities have good capacity to deal with SEA; however, small municipalities lack such capacity.” (UNECE 2015: 27). The same report found that “Capacity problems at the municipal level are significant, notably for EIA and IPPC. Short-time training delivered to representatives of local self- governments cannot compensate for the lack of staff and financing. In smaller municipalities there is a lack of qualified people to consider complex project/installation dossiers. Besides the issue of technical capacity, most of the 32 municipalities with competences on IPPC installations on their territory have serious problems with financing the permitting procedure, while the IPPC fee is entirely paid to the national budget.” (UNECE 2015: 41).

56. Staff resources and capacity are also an issue with water management and disaster risk reduction planning. For example, the new Law of Water has transferred most responsibilities related to torrential floods to local municipalities. These municipalities, however, often lack the technical knowledge and the financial means to comply with the Law and take the necessary actions. This, in turn, contributes to the increase of flood risks, particularly in Serbia’s mountainous regions.

57. In addition, there is a lack of institutional memory at the organizational level due to restructuring and shifting competencies. For example, biodiversity issues shifted in 2014 from two ministries (the Ministry of Mining, Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection) to a newly created Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

58. Among CSOs carrying out environmental projects for youth, one summary observed that environmental topics were interpreted narrowly, that topics were repeated from year to year, and that CSOs lacked innovative ideas on the variety of different issues that could be included in projects. The most frequent topics included education on environmental protection and sustainable development, recycling, protection of forests and rivers and nature conservation. The most dominant activities were awareness raising, trainings, organisation of educational workshops, campaigns and street actions and cleaning campaigns (Lutovac 2015: 14).

#### Individual Barriers and Constraints

59. The primary capacity constraint at individual level is a lack of awareness. This includes a lack of public awareness of all Rio Convention focal areas, which was identified in the 2007 NCSA report. Numerous projects since NCSA finalization worked on awareness raising for various environmental issues. For example, within GEF funded projects trainings for journalists on reporting on climate change and biodiversity issues were organized, biodiversity weeks with various events around the International Biodiversity Day, publications to promote the value of Serbian biodiversity and protected areas, etc. However, most of these activities were general in nature and targeting the general public so there are still barriers in individual sectors. Awareness of global environmental issues has been reported to be uneven across ministries and at various levels of government. More recently, the European Commission in its Progress Report for 2015 mentioned that in the area of climate change, “Considerable strengthening of administrative capacities is needed as well as awareness raising activities.” (EU 2015: 67).

60. Lack of awareness is also a significant constraint for certain stakeholder groups: parliamentarians, local government officials, civil society organizations, youth, and students in post-secondary education. While these groups have had access to training and education opportunities in the general area of environment, programs receiving funding have not focused on MEAs or the issues that they cover.

61. In some cases, weaknesses in individual capacity regarding global environmental issues is indicative of low capacity regarding environmental issues more generally. For example, at the local level, a 2015 environmental sectoral review found that “In many cases, there were not enough professionals on environment at the local level, and responsibilities on environmental protection were added to the portfolio of staff responsible for agriculture, utilities or urban planning.” (UNECE 2015: 33). Furthermore, there is a low level of awareness about the linkages between global environmental issues and high-priority national issues such as disaster risk reduction among local decision-makers, the public and other target groups.

62. The net result of the barriers and constraints described above is an environment in which work MEA related work may not get the visibility it deserves or be linked with reducing global environmental threats. The end result is that Serbia is limited in its ability to reduce its vulnerability to these threats. A summary of barriers and the proposed measures for addressing them are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Key Barriers to Effective Implementation of MEAs in Serbia

Barriers	Barrier Explained	Means of Overcoming Barrier
Institutional	Lack of horizontal coordination	Component 1: Annual MEA Report, systematic NGO consultations for Convention activities  Component 2: Mainstreaming global environmental issues into DRR plans and EIAs and SEAs at the local level
	Lack of vertical coordination	Component 2: Creation of an EIA/SEA database to provide a two-way flow of information between the Ministry focal points and local governments.
	Gap between policies/programmes and their implementation and enforcement.	Component 2: Training on integration of global environmental issues into DRR plans.  Component 3: Training and provision of legal expertise to parliamentarians on global environmental issues
	Lack of continuity in policies and investments	Component 2: Development of a resource mobilization roadmap
Organizational	Lack of coordinated management in specific agencies	Component 1: Alignment of R&D funding with MEAs; systematization of NGO consultations
	Lack of institutional memory	Component 1: Annual Report on MEA Activities  Component 2: EIA/SEA database
Individual	Lack of awareness among youth and the general public	Component 1: Annual Report on Rio conventions and related outreach  Component 2: Youth grants that strengthen awareness of global environmental issues
	Lack of awareness among policy makers, legislators, and local officials	Component 2: DRR training and EIA/SEA training for local officials  Component 3: Trainings and legal expertise for members of parliament. Legal expertise for MAEP.
	Lack of awareness among students and researchers (potential practitioners)	Component 1: Call for proposals in applied research on global environmental topics.  Component 3: Support for the establishment of a PhD program in sustainable development. Development of

Barriers	Barrier Explained	Means of Overcoming Barrier
		informational resources in Serbian for students on global environmental issues.

#### 1.4 Baseline Projects and Other Related Past and On-going Activities

63. There are no other on-going GEF-funded or donor-funded projects in Serbia with a particular focus on global environmental issues across the conventions. A summary of project stakeholders, their role in project preparation, and their envisioned roles in project implementation, is provided in Annex B.

##### *Activities related to Component 1*

64. *Component 1.1:* The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development is currently preparing a Call for Proposals for a new research cycle. In terms of EU support for R&D, “as of February 2015, 428 Serbian institutions participated in 321 projects of the Horizon 2020 Programme. Out of that, 40 projects in which 64 Serbian institutions participate were approved.”<sup>5</sup> (ZSI 2015: 3). The Center for the Promotion of Science has held Information Days on Horizon 2020, and it has trained 16 people in financial and project management for EU research grants.

65. *Component 1.2:* With support from the GEF, several Rio Convention reports are currently under preparation, such as the Second National Communication to the UNFCCC, the First Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC, and support for the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Serbia (UNDP is the GEF implementing agency for all three projects). From the EU, IPA funding for research is currently supporting areas that could also be relevant to convention reporting, such an IPA project to develop a climate change strategy and its action plan.

66. *Component 1.3:* At the government level, the Office for Civil Society Cooperation has overseen the development of a National Strategy for Public Participation and is coordinating public participation for government agencies as requested. With support from the OSCE, Aarhus Centers are under operation with the goal of enabling cooperation between government institutions and the public with respect to access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making and environmental justice.

##### *Activities related to Component 2*

67. *Component 2.1:* MAEP is currently leading efforts to update the Laws on EIAs and SEAs.

68. *Component 2.2:* The Standing Committee for Towns and Municipalities has established a network of municipalities and is providing training on selected topics of interest to local governments.

69. *Component 2.3:* The new Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Program of Serbia serves as a good opportunity to integrate environmental management into DRR processes. The Action Plan includes several training and capacity building activities as well as measures to improve the policy-science interactions. The 2015 UNDP National Human Development Report highlighted DRR issues and was titled “Awareness, preparedness and ability to respond to natural disaster risks in Serbia: the role of social capital.” Currently, a SIDA-funded project, coordinated by the Standing Conference on Towns and Municipalities, is supporting municipalities in drafting local risk assessments and compiling local DRR plans. In addition, the Aarhus Center in Novi Sad is currently implementing a project entitled “Strengthening local communities’ resilience to natural disasters in Novi Sad” with the OSCE. The project aims to strengthen competency, awareness and knowledge of local authorities and CSOs for disaster risk reduction, and it will hold workshops that convene representatives of local authorities, relevant institutions, CSOs, private sector and the media.

<sup>5</sup> The success rate for grants has ranged from 5-10% for grant proposals with Serbian participation as opposed to 14% for Horizon 2020 proposals as a whole.



70. *Component 2.4:* In the CSO sector, the Catalyst Foundation<sup>6</sup> has tracked flood-related philanthropy in Serbia, and it continues to update its statistics. The European Commission has stated that the need to ensure a continuous source of financing for environmental investments is a priority for Serbia under Chapter 27 of its accession strategy, and IPA funding is currently available for investments in the environmental sector.

#### *Activities related to Component 3*

71. *Component 3.1:* The Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence is supporting a CSO coalition that has created a Green Parliamentarians group to provide training and education for legislators on environmental issues. The Legal Clinic of the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade has also provided training to legislators and judges on environmental law. UNDP is currently implementing a program to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians that has touched on the topic of climate change.

*Component 3.2:* Since 2008, when the first grant scheme was initiated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport, 32 projects dealing with environmental protection have been supported<sup>7</sup> that have included approximately 5,700 youth. From 2008 to 2014, the total amount of funds allocated for the implementation of youth environmental projects was approximately EUR 186,000, with the average amount per project around EUR 4,000.

*Component 3.3:* There are currently a number of faculties at public and private universities that address topics related to global environmental issues and environmental policy and management in various forms.

## **2. PROJECT STRATEGY**

### **2.1. Project Objective, Outcomes and Outputs**

72. The objective of the proposed project is to improve implementation of MEAs in Serbia by strengthening consultative processes and integrating MEA provisions into high-priority policies and programs at national and municipal levels.

73. The overall project approach is based on the strategy of targeting funds in areas where it is possible to make clear improvements in global environmental management and to build sustained capacity in the central government, in local governments, and in civil society. At central government level, the project will strengthen the ability of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection to address the Rio conventions as inter-linked, cross-cutting documents by reporting on the conventions as a whole. The project is also designed to strengthen environmental governance by engaging government institutions that have not focused directly on international environmental issues, such as the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development; the Ministry of Youth and Sports; and the Office for Civil Society Coordination. In addition, the project will work with the Serbian Parliament in order to strengthen its capacity to handle legislation that relates directly and indirectly to global environmental concerns, fostering communication between the executive and legislative branches of government on this issue.

74. At the level of local government, the project will be critically important to local government units struggling to handle a variety of environmental issues with international implications. By strengthening the capacity of these units to conduct or oversee environmental assessments (SEAs and EIAs), the project will address local and global environmental concerns, and it will provide information that is currently lacking at the country level and in reporting to the conventions. Finally, the project will address several of the “ongoing” mandates that are common to the Rio Conventions, such as research (through Component 1), education (through Component 3), and awareness-raising (all Components and project management).

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.facebook.com/CatalystBalkans>

<sup>7</sup> In 2008, 1 project was supported; in 2009, 6 projects; in 2010, 6 projects; in 2011, 5 projects; in 2012, 2 projects; in 2013, 4 projects and in 2014, 8 projects.

75. The project is also designed to create synergies in the implementation of MEAs. For example, Component 1 includes an annual overview of the implementation of Rio Conventions that will provide a clear picture of government MEA activities to decision-makers across agencies and branches of government. Non-governmental stakeholders will benefit both from the annual report and from the Convention-related consultations, which will allow for broader information sharing between CSOs and convention focal points.

76. The project will also create synergies between global environmental obligations and national socio-economic development priorities through its work under Component 2. The project will work closely with officials at the National Implementing Partner, MAEP, in order to develop tools, training, and a database for EIAs and SEAs. These activities will build capacity to implement MEAs (through tools and training) and provide valuable information for MEA reporting (through the database). The project may also influence legislation and policy that affects local and regional development, as MAEP project counterparts also oversee draft legislation and policies related to the Espoo Convention and requirements for local governments and other entities. In addition, Component 2 also links MEA activities to disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programs, which will also create synergies because of the two-way relationship between natural disasters and the areas of biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. In addition, mainstreaming global environmental concerns into the environmental assessment process will raise awareness of these issues among local government units and will strengthen their capacity to comply with MEAs related to environmental information and decision-making.

77. The project strategy was developed using a logical framework approach. The essence of this approach is that outputs are clustered by outcomes, which together will achieve the project objective. These are discussed briefly below, with further details in the Project Results Framework in Section 3 of this document. The incrementality of each component is discussed below in Section 2.3.

78. The proposed outcomes of the project are as follows:

- 1) Participation in MEAs is strengthened by targeted research, a comprehensive overview of MEA activities, and on-going input from civil society;
- 2) National and local governments include global environmental considerations in selected reports and strategies; and
- 3) Selected target groups have the capacity to understand and participate in activities that benefit the global environment.

79. The following text describes the outputs and activities associated with the above outcomes.

#### Component 1: Using Research and Information to Strengthen Policy-Making

##### *Output 1.1: Applied research on global environmental issues supported.*

This output will support the government in aligning research with policy needs in global environmental sectors. Activities will leverage existing research capacity in Serbia and support country-level and international research that is related to MEAs through outreach activities and integration of MEA issues into calls for proposals.

##### *Activities:*

- 1.1.1 Establish communication channels between MEA-related institutions through an MEA working group that will meet twice a year
- 1.1.2 Finalize specific priority areas of research for the call for proposals in consultation with the MEA working group
- 1.1.3 Conduct in-depth training on research design and proposal development for researchers who plan to submit proposals on global environmental topics in response to Serbian and international calls for proposals
- 1.1.4 Report on MEA-related research through an annual symposium

- 1.1.5 Identify women researchers in Serbia whose work directly or indirectly relates to MEAs and provide targeted support to 2 of these researchers to allow them to attend international conferences in their fields and to present their findings
- 1.1.6 Undertake periodic evaluation of the following: 1) the linkages between support for researchers and alignment of research with policy needs; 2) the relationship between targeted support for women researchers and the gender distribution of funding and publishing in MEA-related research; and 3) the relative effectiveness of support at various points in the funding process

*Output 1.2: Annual report on Rio Conventions and other MEAs developed and promoted*

This output is designed to provide an accessible and highly-visible overview of the government's work related to MEAs. It is designed specifically to address the lack of horizontal and vertical coordination within government on these issues. The annual report may be linked with World Environment Day in order to raise the profile of these issues and provide an impetus for moving towards proactive management in this area. The annual report will also benefit reporting to MEAs and provide some additional support to convention focal points.

*Activities (on an annual basis):*

- 1.2.1 Convene a task force for a discussion of the initial report and, if appropriate, select a theme for emphasis for the initial report
- 1.2.2 Collect data from MAEP, EPA, other government ministries and agencies, researchers, and CSOs where relevant
- 1.2.3 Compile the report in an accessible format with non-technical language directed towards a relatively broad audience
- 1.2.4 Hold a launch for the publication to coincide with World Environment Day (June 5th)
- 1.2.5 Evaluation of lessons learned and feedback from the report

*Output 1.3: Regular preparatory consultations with CSOs established*

Activities under this output are designed to involve CSOs in preparation for and participation in Conferences of the Parties (COPs) Meetings of the Parties (MOPs) and other meetings important to MEA implementation, such as the UNECE Environment for Europe Ministerial Conferences. Activities will encourage a two-way flow of information, increasing awareness of environmental NGOs regarding MEAs and providing local perspectives and technical expertise to government delegations and platforms. They will also include debriefings for CSOs and support for CSO participation in COPs and MOPs.

*Activities:*

- 1.3.1 Establish a master calendar of key MEA events that accept input from Serbia at the COP/MOP and Working Group level (i.e. subsidiary body level)
- 1.3.2 Work with the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society to schedule and conduct hearings and debriefings with convention focal points
- 1.3.3 Target CSOs that would benefit from debriefings and establish regular communication with them through a newsletter
- 1.3.4 Monitor CSO participation, including the number of women participating in consultations

Component 2: Strengthening Mechanisms for Integrating MEAs into Other Sectors

*Output 2.1: National-level guidance developed for municipalities that mainstreams global environmental issues into the preparation of SEAs and EIAs*

Activities are designed to strengthen capacity regarding the conduct of SEAs and EIA. They will support the implementation of SEA and EIA laws through guidance, the establishment of a database of local-level SEAs and EIAs, and an analysis of the SEAs and EIAs compiled in the database.

*Activities:*

- 2.1.1 Support for the development of guidance materials related to the new law on SEA
- 2.1.2 Support for the development of guidance materials related to the revised law on EIA
- 2.1.3 Creation of a basic on-line database for reporting EIAs and SEAs conducted at the local level
- 2.1.4 Support for legal provisions or regulations that would encourage or require local self-governing entities to provide EIAs and SEAs conducted at the local level with the MAEP
- 2.1.5 Conduct a stock-taking exercise based on the content of the EIA and SEA database and commission a report highlighting general characteristics, trends in influencing local investment, and recommendations for improvement, including any recommendations for quality control and assurance

*Output 2.2: Training provided on the integration of global environmental issues in SEAs and EIAs prepared at the local level.*

Training activities will focus on how to integrate biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation concerns into SEAs and EIAs. The project will focus on providing broad access to training for as many municipalities as possible. This output can also provide timely feedback to the implementing partner on the areas of SEA and EIA implementation that are most problematic for local governments. Training will also be offered to private sector organizations carrying out assessments. Finally, the project will work with beneficiaries to develop a plan to scale up this work so that subsequent activities could provide training on a larger scale and in greater depth. This work will be closely coordinated with Output 2.4.

*Activities:*

- 2.2.1 Develop training modules about the SEA and IEA processes targeting local self-governing units regarding their obligations related to SEAs and EIAs and the companies that perform SEAs and EIAs
- 2.2.2 Develop a training module on legal aspects of SEAs and EIAs that are important to local self-governing units and to the companies that perform SEAs and EIAs
- 2.2.3 Identify suitable participants for trainings
- 2.2.4 By Quarter 8 of the project, schedule and deliver trainings for at least 75 employees of local self-governing units in 4 regions
- 2.2.5 Schedule and deliver a training for at least 4 companies preparing SEAs and EIAs
- 2.2.6 Provide on-call expert support to local self-governing units with questions regarding commissioning, conducting, and interpreting SEAs and EIAs in the form of an expert placed in MAEP focusing on SEA/EIA procedures and the database
- 2.2.7 Evaluate training and modify materials and approach based on participant and expert feedback
- 2.2.8 By the end of the project, schedule and deliver a second round of trainings for at least 100 employees of local self-governing units in 4 regions.

*Output 2.3: Global environmental issues mainstreamed into disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programs*

The current draft government strategy on disaster risk reduction includes a provision for mainstreaming global environmental concerns, such as climate change adaptation and biodiversity protection, into DRR policies and programs. However, there is a lack of technical capacity to achieve mainstreaming, particularly for anticipated local DRR plans. Activities will focus on providing expertise and training at central and local levels of government to achieve this mainstreaming and ensure that it is reported to the relevant conventions. The project will also provide support to 4 municipalities in the preparation of their DRR plans in order to pilot effective mainstreaming of global environmental concerns into these documents.

*Activities:*

- 2.3.1 Provide guidance materials and a briefing for policy-makers and officials at the country level on mainstreaming global environmental issues into DRR policies and plans
- 2.3.2 Conduct a review of DRR policy and plans to identify good practice and gaps and report findings to relevant MEAs
- 2.3.3 Provide support to 4 local self-governing units in the preparation of their DRR plans

***Output 2.4: Roadmap for resource mobilization developed***

While many needs have been identified at both the local and country level in the area of capacity development related to international environmental agreements, there is very low awareness on how to identify and mobilize resources to support ongoing capacity development activities. Activities under this output will focus on raising awareness and skills at the individual and organizational level related to resource mobilization. They will also support the development of a resource mobilization roadmap that will improve coordination among actors and provide clear steps for mobilizing the resources necessary to continue activities following the conclusion of this project.

***Activities:***

- 2.4.1 Conduct an assessment to identify current and potential in-country and international sources of financing for MEA implementation
- 2.4.2 Draft a report conveying the findings, including a resource mobilization roadmap and recommendations on maximizing the amount of financing obtained for MEA implementation
- 2.4.3 Present the report to key stakeholders at the Project Results Conference

**Component 3: Targeted Education and Training to Support MEA Implementation**

***Output 3.1: Members of Parliament trained and supported on issues and legislation related to MEAs***

This work will build upon activities conducted to date by the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE) to encourage Green Parliamentarians, expanding current training and outreach to both Green Parliamentarians and Women Parliamentarians to include global environmental issues. Training and outreach, including supporting materials, will be designed so that participants can share them easily with their constituencies. In addition, the project will provide research support under this output to the Green Chair of the Serbian Parliament.

***Activities:***

- 3.1.1 Work with BFPE to provide training on international environmental agreements, treaties, and oversight to the Green Parliamentarians group comprised of Serbian MPs
- 3.1.2 Establish a partnership between a university and Parliament to provide research support to the Green Chair of the Serbian parliament
- 3.1.3 Work with BFPE to sponsor a joint training with Green Parliamentarians and Women Parliamentarians on women's issues in global environment
- 3.1.4 Provide additional training following parliamentary elections as necessary
- 3.1.5 Monitor the gender profile of participants and actively encourage women's participation in all trainings

***Output 3.2: Existing grants to youth organizations broadened to include global environmental issues***

This component will support the development of strong proposals on global environmental topics for the call for grants for youth organizations supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports through advisory support, information days, and the dissemination of good practice examples in global environmental youth projects. The project activities will also collect lessons learned to share in Serbia, in other countries, and in official reporting to the conventions under their relevant sections on education, awareness-raising, and outreach.

*Activities:*

- 3.2.1 Compile good practice examples of projects that engage youth and address global environmental issues (with a special emphasis on projects involving girls and young women) for a Serbian-language publication targeted at policy-makers, youth organizations, and youth offices at the level of local governments.
- 3.2.2 Design and conduct Information Days for youth organizations in each region of Serbia on how to develop high-quality grant proposals for projects on global environmental issues
- 3.2.3 Provide advisory support to youth organizations interested in developing environmental proposals involving global environmental issues
- 3.2.4 Identify or organize events where grantees will present the results of their work
- 3.2.5 Monitor trends in environmental grants to youth organizations (including the ratio of participation by girls and young women) and fine-tune outreach and training sessions accordingly

*Output 3.3: Specialized curricula and/or coursework developed at the university level to provide skills on global environmental management and/or analysis.*

Several universities in Serbia support student education that is related to convention focal areas (e.g., energy engineering, biology, and soil science); several offer coursework in environmental law, policy, and management; and one is introducing a masters program that specifically addresses sustainable development. Activities under this output will increase the access of students in Serbia to Serbian-language educational materials on global environmental issues, increase opportunities for environmental law students to participate in a practicum in a governmental agency, and create a multi-disciplinary PhD program in global environmental studies. Materials and lessons learned under this output will be collected to share in Serbia, in other countries, and in national reporting to MEAs under their relevant sections on education, awareness-raising, and outreach.

*Activities:*

- 3.3.1 Work with the Ministry of Science, Education and Technological Development to support access to Serbian-language educational materials on global environmental issues and research, such as producing a bibliography for students, translating an interface for the new Education for Sustainable Development port, or developing a Serbian-language webinar or lecture series and making it accessible on the Internet.
- 3.3.2 Work with the Legal Clinic at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law to place law students in policy advisory positions in government related to international environmental issues
- 3.3.3 Select a partner university and faculty for the creation of a multi-disciplinary PhD in global environmental studies
- 3.3.4 Provided targeted support to the partner faculty to enhance its current offerings and resources in order to offer a accredited PhD program in global environmental studies.

## **Project Indicators, Risks and Assumptions**

80. In accordance with Objectives 2 and 3 of the GEF-6 Multi-Focal Area Strategy, project indicators are aligned with the following objectives: to strengthen consultative and management structures and mechanisms; and to integrate Multilateral Environmental Agreements' provisions within national policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks.

81. Baseline information for indicators is provided in the Project Results Framework (Section 3) and in the Capacity Development Scorecard (Annex A). Project indicators are described in Project Results Framework, and the corresponding Monitoring & Evaluation Plan is provided in Section 6 of this document.

82. The main identified risks to the successful implementation of the project include the following:

Table 2: Overview of Identified Risks and Measures to Reduce Project Risk

Risk	Risk Level	Approach to Risk Mitigation
<b>Risk 1:</b> The mechanisms created by the project would not be sustainable beyond the end of the project implementation period.	Low/ Moderate	The project design will enable existing organizations with a proven track record of operations to design and provide training and awareness raising activities. Furthermore, specific activities under Component 2 will address post-project resource mobilization.
<b>Risk 2:</b> MEAs would not be considered sufficiently important by the government to ensure adequate participation in and support for project activities; resources and attention would be diverted to other issues.	Low/ Moderate	The project is explicitly designed to link MEAs to high-priority issues in Serbia such as EU accession and disaster risk reduction. This linkage will ensure that the project maintains high-level support.
<b>Risk 3:</b> The lack of horizontal coordination across ministries and agencies could hinder a coordinated approach to managing MEAs.	Low/ Moderate	The MEA Working Group and MEA Annual Report under Component 1 will build horizontal communication into the project and foster information sharing and coordination.
<b>Risk 4:</b> Re-organization of government ministries and departments and turnover in the executive and legislative branches could cause delays and institutional disruption affecting progress towards project outcomes.	Moderate	While it is not possible to control changes in governmental organizations or turnover, the duration of the project (60 months) is designed to safeguard against any delays in implementation caused by re-organizations and the subsequent need to await appointments and educate new counterparts. Furthermore, trainings have been scheduled in such a way as to cover a new cohort of participants if necessary.

83. The project has undergone an environmental and social review (Annex D), and the overall risk rating for the project is "low," as the project does not involve any investments in infrastructure. Furthermore, the project design incorporates a human rights-based approach, it includes specific activities and approaches to promote women's equality and empowerment, and it explicitly promotes environmental sustainability.

84. Further details on project risks, including their estimated probability and impact, are presented in the "Offline Risk Log" in Annex G of this document.

## 2.2. Expected Global, National and Local Benefits

85. The benefits at the global level generated indirectly by capacity-strengthening activities may include, but are not limited to, the following identified by the GEF: 1) Conservation of globally significant biodiversity (via improved SEAs and EIAs); 2) Conservation and enhanced carbon stocks in agriculture, forest, and other land use (through improved local planning); and 3) Reduced pollution and siltation of international waters.

86. There are a variety of associated national and local benefits. Some benefits relate to improved governance: national-level policy-makers and legislators and local decision-makers will have additional capacity to develop and implement environmental policies and programs. Applied research on global environmental issues will provide policy-makers with information that can be used in decision-making. Finally, improved EIAs and SEAs and local DRR plans will have tangible effects on air and water quality and disaster resilience.



87. The project will also support efforts to promote gender equality in Serbia. First, the project will encourage gender-balanced participation in project bodies and training. Second, the project will monitor the gender balance of project beneficiaries. Third, the project will target women researchers for participation in international research consortium activities. This type of experience can improve women's chances for professional advancement, which in turn addresses the limited presence of women at the management level of research institutions.

### 2.3. Project Rationale and GEF Policy Conformity

88. The proposed activities and approach are closely aligned with GEF-6 programming directions and its Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Strategy. The strategic objective of "Strengthening consultative and management structures and mechanisms" is directly addressed by the establishment of cross-cutting annual reports, preparatory consultations with CSOs, and capacity strengthening among legislators. The strategic objective of "Integrating MEAs provisions within national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks" is addressed by integrating MEA principles into disaster risk reduction policies and programs, strategic environmental assessments, and environmental impact assessments. In addition, project activities support the integration of environmental sustainability across various actors, including the central government (both the executive and legislative branches), local governments, CSOs, young people, and academia.

#### *Incrementality*

89. In the absence of GEF financing, it will not be possible to improve the implementation of MEAs. The incremental cost reasoning for the project by component is as follows:

Table 3: Overview of the incremental contribution of the project by component

Project Component	Baseline	Increment
Component 1	The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology Development will finance national research programs in applied science. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection will task designated convention focal points to conduct activities, albeit on an ad hoc basis. Certain civil society organizations will devote staff and limited funding to promote environmental issues, but they will not be able to participate in the Rio Conventions in a systematic way.	GEF co-financing will integrate research topics related to the global environmental into Calls for Proposals and encourage Serbian participation in international consortia, which will allow for research to be targeted at global environmental issues. It will also support the production of an MEA annual report, which will provide a clear and comprehensive overview of MEA activities in Serbia in a single document. Finally, it will support consultations with CSOs as a part of convention-related activities in order to ensure ongoing inputs from civil society.
Component 2	The government will continue to require local government units to participate in SEAs and prepare EIAs, but it will not be able to fund specialized guidance or support for this work. Local governments will fund assessments related to investments, but they will not have additional expertise or training to reflect the necessary issues in biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. Both the government and UNDP will fund disaster risk reduction activities, but local governments may not have the	GEF co-financing will provide support for the development of guidance regarding environmental assessments in key areas such as water and waste that will address concerns about biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. It will also support training and capacity building for local governments struggling to prepare high-quality SEAs and EIAs, and it will introduce a database that will improve vertical coordination and quality control in this area. Furthermore, it will support the integration of global environmental issues into disaster risk reduction policies and programs at the national and local level through targeted

Project Component	Baseline	Increment
	tools to integrate MEAs into their work.	guidance, training, and awareness-raising activities. Finally, it will support the development of a plan to scale up these training activities and the development of a roadmap for resource mobilization that will ensure the sustainability of project activities in the form of subsequent initiatives.
Component 3	The Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection and the Green Parliamentarians will engage with environmental legislation, but their awareness of global issues and opportunities to link global and country-level environmental priorities will remain very limited. The Ministry of Youth and Sports will provide grants for environmental activities, but they will not address global environmental activities explicitly, which will limit the ability of groups to provide programs in this area. Finally, universities will support student education that is related only indirectly to convention focal areas in global environmental management.	GEF co-financing will support MEA training for parliamentarians, it will provide technical support for integrating MEA issues into youth activities, and it will support the establishment of an information portal for university students and a doctoral program in global environmental studies to strengthen implementation of the Rio conventions.
Project management	The Government of Serbia will provide staff for project guidance and management (through the National Project Director and the Project Board) and will support its experts in training and other activities. It will also provide office space. UNDP will support project administration through events, publications, and the partial support of project management.	GEF co-financing will support a Project Manager and Project Assistant to coordinate activities, and it will support monitoring, evaluation, and learning through funding for in-country missions, audits, and a mid-term and final evaluation.

## 2.4. Country Ownership: Country Eligibility and Country Drivenness

90. In accordance with the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, Serbia qualifies for GEF financing on the following grounds:

- It has ratified key United Nations environmental framework conventions (listed on pages 4-5); and
- It receives development assistance from UNDP's core resources.

91. The barriers identified in project development are highly consistent with findings from Enabling Activities reports and from national environmental strategies in Serbia. Reports to the UNCBD have cited the need for capacity development in several areas of the sector. The Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC identified a need for targeted research on both mitigation and vulnerability/adaptation in different sectors and systems. The National Capacity Self-Assessment found "specific systemic, institutional and human resource constraints that need to be addressed for each of the conventions" (NCSA 2007: 5), citing coordination and awareness issues as cutting across all three Rio conventions

92. The project is also highly aligned with the National Sustainable Development Strategy, which is based on principles of public participation in decision-making, knowledge as a factor of development, integration of environmental issues in other sectoral policies, and the precautionary principle (NSDS 2007: 15). It is also aligned with the draft National Programme for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2019, as one of the priorities for action is “partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk, such as for climate change, sustainable development, environment...” (NPDRR 2015: draft).

93. Finally the project is fully aligned with UNDP’s global and country-level strategies. At the global level, UNDP’s strategic plan for 2014-2017 calls for solutions at the national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste (Output 1.3) and Effective institutional, legislative and policy frameworks in place to enhance the implementation of disaster and climate risk management measures at national and sub-national levels (Output 5.2). The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) that concluded in 2015 established sustainable development as one of its three main outcomes. Environmental sustainability remains a priority in the new UNDAF (2016-2020), and one of the five pillars of the current UNDAF is “Environment, Climate Change, and Resilient Communities.” The project is directly aligned with Outcome 4 (“By 2020, there are improved capacities to combat climate change and manage natural resources, and communities are more resilient to the effects natural and human-induced disasters.”) and Output 4.1 (“Capacities for policy-making and implementation of international agreements improved.”) of the UNDP Country Programme Document (2016-2020) for Serbia. The CPD also states that “UNDP will continue to strengthen the capacity of Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and other government structures to formulate and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and measures and to monitor and report under international treaties.” and “This will be closely coordinated with the work to advance disaster risk identification, mitigation and preparedness.” (UNDP 2015: 5).

94. The project is also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and project activities will directly contribute to SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (climate change), and SDG 15 (life on land). Work on MEAs across the project will also contribute to SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

95. The GEF Operational Focal Point of Serbia, Ms. Stana Božović, has endorsed the project with a letter signed on April 15, 2015.

## **2.5. Financial Modality and Cost-Effectiveness**

96. The project will be financed from grant from the Global Environmental Facility ([USD 950,000) and from UNDP (USD 50,000). UNDP will also provide USD 220,000 in in-kind financing in the form of support for advisory services in each project component. Section 4 of this document provides a “Summary of Project Co-Financing” by donor, outcome, and type of contribution.

97. The project is cost-effective in that it use existing government initiatives, such as research calls for proposals and grants programs, to address global environmental issues. In addition, the project will leverage co-financing from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The in-kind contribution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, which is the implementing partner, is expected to cover the costs of:

- the cost of the National Project Director and Project Board;
- the cost of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection contributing to project implementation;
- contributions of experts from other public entities to participate in project implementation, as needed;
- provision of office space for the project staff located and working in the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection;

- provision of information and data to the project staff and consultants as may be required for the implementation of project activities and the realization of project objectives; and
- provision of information gathering services and logistical support to the project staff for the implementation of the project's activities.

Other sources of in-kind co-financing include the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence. Cooperation with these organizations, which have strong existing networks among key stakeholder groups, will also allow the project to maximize its resources.

## 2.6. Sustainability (including Financial Sustainability)

98. In order to ensure the sustainability of the capacity strengthening activities in the project, the project activities will 1) Provide multiple training and awareness-raising sessions to key stakeholders that will strengthen their capacity to address MEA-related issues following the conclusion of the project; 2) Support the creation of an academic program that will continue to educate environmental researchers following the conclusion of the project; and 3) Develop a resource mobilization roadmap that will identify funding to continue capacity strengthening activities in the post-project period.

99. **Rights-based approaches** have been incorporated into the project through its focus and activities relating to public access to environmental information and environmental justice (Sub-Components 2.1 and 2.2) and through activities to improve public participation in environmental decision-making (Sub-Component 1.3).

100. **Gender issues** are an important element of project sustainability. Project preparation has involved consultation with gender specialists, consultations about gender issues with officials and CSOs working in other sectors (environment, youth, science, and education officials), and a review of current policies and practices (see Annex E). The project results framework includes sex-disaggregated indicators, and several activities will monitor gender in project participation (e.g. in grants given to youth organizations). Furthermore, Activity 1.1.5 directly supports women researchers in Serbia.

101. Serbia has made strong progress in recent years in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Currently, women hold around 34 percent of seats in the National Assembly. Additionally, Serbia met the target (under MDG 3) of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education. Article 15 of the 2006 Constitution of Serbia endorses the equality of women and men and the policy of equal opportunity, and the Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination were adopted in 2009. Despite these improvements, there still remain several gender equality issues in Serbia. These issues include labor market participation and the gender pay gap.

102. In much the same way that the GEF is supporting countries to mainstream the global environment into their national sustainable development planning frameworks, so too are they calling for gender equality issues to be mainstreamed in the GEF-funded capacity development interventions. This strategy is consistent and complementary to UNDP's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan that similarly calls for projects implemented by UNDP to meet high standards to meeting gender equality criteria. Similarly, UNDP has prepared important guidance on their policy on Gender Equality, notably the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 and Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability. Gender mainstreaming from a project construct requires deliberate action to address the policy and institutional barriers that marginalize women. While culture is certainly an important issue that generally have minimized or restricted access to economic and social benefits equal to their male counterparts, awareness-raising and alternative roles for women offer an opportunity for them to play a greater role in promoting ethical approaches to sustainable development.

103. The GEF policy for mainstreaming gender in the projects that they finance call for three requirements to be met (GEF, 2013): 1) Gender mainstreaming and capacity building within GEF staff to improve socio-economic understanding of gender issues; 2) A designated focal point for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally; and 3) Working with experts in gender issues to utilize their expertise in developing and

implementing GEF projects. Notwithstanding, this is not to be misinterpreted that the GEF will finance activities that promote gender equality. This is not an eligible use of GEF finance, but rather a new requirement of the strategic design of GEF-financed projects since April 2011<sup>[1]</sup>.

Gender issues will be one of the social issues that will be monitored throughout project implementation. The project design and implementation will ensure both an adequate balance of participation in the project, and the equitable distribution of benefits. Additionally, to help ensure that gender does not become a marginalized issue, gender sensitive indicators to be monitored per good practice are listed in the Action Plan under Annex E of this document. At the time of project initiation, UNDP gender markers will be tracked. These will be tracked on an annual basis as part of the Annual Progress Report/Project Implementation Review. Other gender-relevant markers will be identified and tracked as appropriate.

104. **Environmental sustainability** is implicit in the project design: capacity-strengthening activities are designed to improve the capacity of stakeholders to implement MEAs, which support environmental sustainability. The project directly addresses **financial sustainability** through Output 2.4 ("Roadmap for Resource Mobilization Developed").

## **2.7. Replicability**

105. Replication within the project is ensured through activities such as training trainers and the codification of project work in manuals and courses that can be used across Serbia. For example, the knowledge products for municipalities developed under Output 2.2 (EIA and SEA guidance) and under Output 2.3 (DRR plans) will be available for study and use in all municipalities, not just those municipalities participating in training and planning activities. On a similar note, project-related publications related to MEA-related youth projects and MEA-related legislative issues will be available for distribution during implementation and following the conclusion of the project.

106. At the international level, Output 1.1 (a Call for Proposals for applied research on global environmental topics) is unique among GEF-funded CCCD projects. Activities and publications related to that output will be documented in a format that can be shared with other CCCD projects and with other countries where UNDP is active.

107. Given the interest across countries in increasing the capacity of students to understand and address global environmental issues, the doctoral program in global environmental studies created under Output 3.1 may be of direct interest to other countries in the Western Balkans.

## **2.8. Innovativeness**

108. The proposed project is highly innovative in seeking to align country-level research priorities with global environmental concerns. The project activities not only encourage research in support of MEAs, but they also encourage linkages between researchers in Serbia and the international research community in fields related to MEAs. In this sense, the proposed project will represent a first in the global CCCD portfolio."

109. The project will also pilot several innovations that could be highly relevant to other countries. For example, the Annual Report on MEAs Implementation will provide a unique overview of all convention-related activities and raise the visibility of MEAs within Serbia. In addition, the integration of MEA concerns with DRR strategies and programs, which are very visible in the Balkans, is a new approach that will frame these concerns as high-priority issues. The experience gained from producing local DRR plans that integrate MEA concerns will be very valuable to other countries in the Europe and Central Asia region, and these results will be shared with other UNDP Country Offices and their relevant stakeholders.

110. Finally, strengthening the capacity of local governments to conduct environmental assessments will yield important new tools and findings that can be used elsewhere in the region.

## **2.9. Knowledge Management**

111. The project seeks to facilitate continuing contacts and co-operation between different stakeholder groups at the national level by organizing seminars, workshops and other public events. In particular, the Annual Report on Rio Conventions and other MEAs in Serbia that will be produced under Output 1.2 will provide a highly visible summary of on-going activities for a broad audience.

112. The project will also identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Results from the project will be disseminated beyond Serbia through existing information sharing networks and forums, particularly through those maintained by UNDP. UNDP will also support the two-way flow of information between this project and other GEF CCCD projects. Project knowledge products will continue to be available through UNDP following the conclusion of the project.

113. 104. Finally, UNDP will bring in experiences from other countries to support Serbian research institutions to deploy innovative tools in using open data, data collection, monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, the project will strive to ensure that software developed under project activities will be open-source software (OSS) if possible.

### 3. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

**This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Output as defined in CPD:** By 2020, there are improved capacities to combat climate change and manage natural resources, and communities are more resilient to the effects of natural and human-induced disasters.

**Country Programme Outcome Indicators:** Number of laws, plans or policies aligned to convention implementation requirements

**Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area:**  
Mainstreaming environment and energy

**Applicable GEF Focal Area Objective:** MFA, CCCD-2 and CCCD-3

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
<b>Project Objective<sup>a</sup>:</b> Improve implementation of MEAs in Serbia by strengthening consultative processes and integrating MEA provisions into high-priority policies and programs at national and municipal levels	Number of laws, plans or policies aligned to convention implementation requirements	While a few sectoral policies related to EU accession address MEA issues indirectly, policies are not directly aligned with MEAs	At least three laws, plans and/or policies aligned to convention implementation requirements by the end of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports to Rio Conventions</li> <li>Government Gazette</li> <li>Annual EU Accession Progress Reports</li> <li>Project documentation</li> <li>Independent mid-term and final evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk: Financial support for MEAs and related research and capacity development may be diverted by other government priorities</li> <li>Assumption: The project will be executed in a transparent, holistic, adaptive, and collaborative manner</li> <li>Assumption:</li> </ul>
	Number of programs at the national level where MEA	Programs such as government-sponsored R&D and grants for youth do are not	At least two government calls for proposals integrate issues related to the global environment by the end of the project.		

<sup>a</sup>Objective (Atlas output) monitored quarterly in ERBM and annually in APR/PIR



	Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	provisions are integrated	aligned with MEA provisions		reports	Participants will be actively engaged in the project training and activities
	Number of programs at the municipal level where MEA provisions are integrated.	Local self-governing units do not integrate MEA provisions into required activities such as the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments, and Disaster Risk Reduction Plans	At least 4 municipalities integrate global environmental concerns into their plans and procedures by the end of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Scorecard</li> </ul>	
<b>Outcome 1: Participation in MEAs is strengthened by targeted research, a comprehensive overview of MEA activities, and on-going input from civil society</b>					
<b>Output 1.1 Applied research on global environmental issues supported</b>	Presence of a call for research proposals that integrates global environmental issues into scientific R&D	No alignment between government support for research and global environmental issues	By the end of Q12, Ministry of Science and Education will promote funding for R&D related to MEAs through a targeted call for proposals.	Ministry documentation  Project documentation, including participation rates by gender	Risk: Ministry of Science R&D priorities could change  Assumption: Continued general government support for R&D
<b>Output 1.2 Annual Report on Rio Conventions and</b>	Annual Reports produced on MEA	Information about various conventions and other MEAs is not	By the end of the project, four cross-cutting Annual Reports will be produced and distributed on activities	Annual Reports	Assumption: Government organizations will

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
other MEAs developed and promoted	activities in the Republic of Serbia	available in an easily-accessible and synthesized format	related to MEAs in the Republic of Serbia	Project documentation	provide data and respond to requests for information
Output 1.3 Regular preparatory consultations with CSOs established	Presence of a system of regular consultations  Number of MEAs with regular CSO consultations	Consultations with CSOs are held with certain government programs and policies, but there are not regular preparatory consultations for the Rio Conventions	By Q8, regular preparatory consultations <sup>9</sup> with CSOs will be held for each of the three Rio Conventions (FCCC, CBD, CCD).  By the end of the project, preparatory consultations will be held for at least two other MEAs in addition to the three Rio Conventions.	Reporting from the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society  Project documentation	Assumption: CSOs will be interested in attending consultations regarding MEAs and will participate actively
<b>Outcome 2: National and local governments include global environmental considerations in selected reports and strategies</b>					
Output 2.1 National-level guidance developed for municipalities mainstreaming global environmental issues into the preparation of EIAs and SEAs	Presence of guidance on global environmental issues in legislation or regulations on SEAs and EIAs in Serbia  Presence of a comprehensive database on SEAs	Current laws and policies do not provide explicit guidance to local governments on how to incorporate global environment issues into the EIA and SEA process  Convention focal points and their ministry lack an overview of EIAs and	By the end of Q8, guidance has been developed on how local self-governing units should take global environmental issues into consideration when preparing or commissioning EIAs and SEAs  By the end of Q12, a database of EIAs and SEAs for the local level is available to the relevant focal points at the	Project monitoring and evaluation reports  SEA/EIA Database	Continuing political support both at the central government and municipal level, allocations of adequate budget and/or other financial resources to support continuing operation of the centers and success in overcoming

<sup>9</sup> Regular consultations are defined as consultations that are held prior to all high-level Convention-related meetings, such as Conference of Parties (CoP) or Meeting of Parties (MoP) meetings.

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	and EIAs conducted at the local level	SEAs conducted at the local level	Ministry for Agriculture and Environmental Protection.		the identified institutional barriers.
<b>Output 2.2 Training provided on the integration of global environmental issues in SEAs and EIAs prepared at the local level.</b>	Number of companies conducting SEAs and EIAs trained to integrate global environmental issues into these procedures	Companies that conduct SEAs and EIAs for local self-governing units lack experience with incorporating global environmental issues into these procedures	By the end of Q8, at least four companies conducting EIAs and SEAs for local self-governing units trained in the integration of global environmental issues into these processes.	Registration sheets; training documentation; project reports	Risk: Local officials address so many infrastructure and investment issues that they may not be able to set aside time for a dedicated training session
	Number of officials in local self-governing units trained to integrate global environmental issues into SEAs and EIAs	Local officials lack knowledge and awareness of how to take global environmental concerns into consideration when conducting or commissioning SEAs and EIAs	By the end of Q10, at least 75 employees from local self-governing units across four regions trained in the integration of global environmental issues into SEAs and EIAs.  By the end of the project, at least 100 local employees in local self-governing units across four regions have received either new or refresher training in the integration of global environmental issues into SEAs and EIAs.		Assumption: Local officials and companies will continue to be interested in participating in training regarding SEAs and EIAs.
<b>Output 2.3 Global environmental issues</b>	Number of local Disaster Risk	Few local self-governing units have mandated	By the end of Q12, at least four Disaster Risk Reduction Plans for local	DRR plans	Risk: The low level of compliance with

Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
mainstreamed into disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programs	Reduction Plans that integrate global environmental concerns	DRR plans and those that do lack consideration of global environmental concerns	self-governing units incorporate global environmental concerns.  Project documentation	requirements to submit local DRR plans could reduce motivation to participate in developing an "integrated" DRR  Assumption: Local officials and communities will be available for participation in the DRR planning process
Output 2.4 Roadmap for resource mobilization developed	Availability of a roadmap for resource mobilization for the implementation of MEAs	There have been no systematic attempts to identify sustainable funding for MEA implementation in the Republic of Serbia.	Roadmap  Project documentation	Risk: Once developed, the roadmap may not be utilized fully by government organizations and CSOs  Assumption: The EU accession process will continue as anticipated
Outcome 3: Selected target groups have the capacity to understand and participate in activities that benefit the global environment				
Output 3.1 Members of Parliament (MPs) trained and supported on issues	Number of MPs trained on MEA – related	MPs have some general training on environmental issues	By the end of Q10, at least 30 members of parliament trained on	Assumption: Green Parliamentarians will be interested in

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
and legislation related to MEAs	<p>commitments, compliance, and issues</p> <p>Availability of training on global environmental issues and women</p> <p>Legal expertise provided to the Green Chair of the Serbian Parliament</p>	<p>but no specialized training on environmental treaties and conventions, no training on women and global environmental issues</p> <p>Limited research support is available to MPs but there is not access to advisors with legal training</p>	<p>MEA commitments, compliance, and issues.</p> <p>By the end of Q12, at least one training session held on global environmental issues and women</p> <p>By the end of the project, at least 20 MPs participate in a second round of training (both refresher and additional training) on MEA commitments, compliance, and issues.</p> <p>By the end of Q4, legal expertise will be provided to the Green Chair (and additional MPs as time permits) on a year-to-year basis in support of MEA-related research and guidance.</p>	<p>Project documentation</p> <p>Interviews with MPs and the Green Chair</p> <p>Project reports</p>	<p>training that addresses international environmental issues</p>
Output 3.2 Existing grants to youth organizations broadened to include global environmental issues	<p>Number of Information Days for youth organizations to promote global environmental projects for youth</p>	<p>No specific informational resources exist for youth groups looking for environmental project ideas</p>	<p>By the end of Q6, Information Days held for youth organizations in four regions on good practice on projects related to global environmental issues.</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth reports</p> <p>Project reports, including participation rates by gender</p>	<p>Assumption: The grant-making mechanism and levels of support for youth grants will be consistent with recent years</p>

	Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
				Information Day registration and sign-in lists Interviews	
Output 3.3 Specialized curricula and/or coursework developed at the university level to provide skills on global environmental management and/or analysis.	Number of students applying knowledge of international environmental issues in a practicum or legal clinic setting	At present, government institutions lack access to legal expertise on international environmental law	By the end of the project, at least 20 law students have provided legal support to government institutions on issues related to MEAs.	Published university study offerings  Interviews  Project	Risk: Students obtaining a PhD in global environmental studies could struggle to find employment in Serbia due to a limited number of jobs in the sector
	Availability of post-graduate (doctoral) studies in global environmental issues in Serbia	While universities offer coursework in environmental subjects and interdisciplinary environmental studies at the master's degree level, there is not a PhD-level cross-cutting degree program that addresses global environmental issues directly	By the end of Q12, at least one PhD program in Serbia focuses on environmental studies directly relevant to global environmental issues.	reporting, including rates of participation by gender	Assumption: Government organizations can identify areas where legal expertise is needed in intl. environmental issues  Assumption: Government employees will be interested in pursuing part-time degree studies at the masters level while continuing to work in their

Indicator	Baseline	Targets (by project quarter "Q" or end of project)	Source of verification	Risks and Assumptions
				respective organizations



## Project Implementation Plan

Project component	2016		2017				2018				2019				2020				2021	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
<b>Outcome 1</b>																				
Output 1.1																				
Output 1.2																				
Output 1.3																				
<b>Outcome 2</b>																				
Output 2.1:																				
Output 2.2																				
Output 2.3																				
Output 2.4																				
<b>Outcome 3</b>																				
Output 3.1:																				
Output 3.2																				
Output 3.3																				
<b>Project Management</b>																				
Monitoring and Evaluation																				
Outreach and coordination																				

#### 4. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN

<b>Award ID:</b>	00087663	<b>Project ID(s):</b>	00094606
<b>Award Title:</b>	Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of MEAs		
<b>Business Unit:</b>	SRB10		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of MEAs		
<b>PIMS no.</b>	5227		
<b>Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection		

GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budget Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
OUTCOME 1: Participation in MEAs is strengthened by targeted research, a comprehensive overview of MEA activities, and on-going input from civil society	MAEP/UNDP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	5000	5000	2000	2000	2000	16000	1
				71300	Local Consultants	2500	2500	3000	3000	3000	14000	2
				71600	Travel	5000	5000	9500	5000	5000	29500	3
				72100	Contractual services – comp.	5000	30000	30000	32000	22000	119000	4
				74500	Miscellaneous	700	700	700	700	700	3500	
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	0	14000	7000	12000	7000	40000	5
				Sub-total GEF		18200	57200	52200	54700	39700	222000	
				71200	International Consultants	2000	2000	1000	1000	1000	7000	1
				71300	Local Consultants	2000	2000	2000	1000	1000	8000	2
				Sub-total UNDP		4000	4000	3000	2000	2000	15000	
Total Outcome 1					22200	61200	55200	56700	41700	237000		

GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budget Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
OUTCOME 2: National and local governments include global environmental considerations in selected reports and strategies	MAEP/UNDP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	9000	5000	2000	2000	2000	20000	6
				71300	Local Consultants	4000	3000	2000	2000	0	11000	7
				71400	Contractual services – indiv.	1200	16200	13700	13700	4200	49000	8
				71600	Travel	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	25000	9
				72100	Contractual services – comp.	0	7500	0	17500	10000	35000	10
				72800	IT Equipment	15000	0	0	0	0	15000	11
				72600	Grants	1000	11000	19000	10000	0	41000	12
				72800	IT Equipment	20000	30000	3500	0	0	53500	13
				74500	Miscellaneous	700	700	700	700	700	3500	
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	0	25000	0	25000	0	50000	14
				Sub-total GEF		55900	103400	45900	75900	21900	303000	
				71200	International Consultants	1000	2000	2000	2000	2000	9000	6
				Subtotal UNDP		1000	2000	2000	2000	2000	9000	
Total Outcome 2						56900	105400	47900	77900	23900	312000	
OUTCOME 3: Selected target groups have the capacity to understand and participate in activities that benefit the global environment	MAEP/UNDP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	1000	16000	1000	1000	1000	20000	1
				71300	Local Consultants	5000	7000	2000	2000	1000	17000	15
				71400	Contractual services – indiv.	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	40000	16
				71600	Travel	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	25000	17
				72100	Contractual services – comp.	7000	7000	7000	7000	0	28000	18
				72600	Grants	22000	22000	20000	20000	6000	90000	19

GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budget Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
				74200	Audio-visual and printing production costs	15000	2500	2500	2500	2500	25000	20
				74500	Miscellaneous	1300	1300	1300	1300	1300	6500	
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	40000	21
				Sub-total GEF		72300	75800	54800	54800	32800	291500	
				71200	International Consultants	0	4000	4000	4000	2000	14000	1
				72600	Grants	0	5000	5000	2000	0	12000	19
				Sub-total UNDP		0	9000	9000	6000	2000	26000	
				Total Outcome 3		72300	85800	63800	60800	34800	317500	
				71200	International Consultants	0	0	6750	0	12000	18750	22
				71400	Contractual services - indiv.	1000	0	0	0	3000	4000	23
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	MAEP/UNDP	62000	GEF	71600	Travel	0	0	1500	0	1500	3000	24
				74100	Professional services	3750	3750	3750	3750	3750	18750	25
				74200	Audio-visual and printing production costs	500	0	0	0	1500	2000	26
				74500	Miscellaneous	200	200	200	200	200	1000	
				Sub-total GEF		5450	3950	12200	3950	21950	47500	
				Total Monitoring and Evaluation		5450	3950	12200	3950	21950	47500	
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	MAEP/UNDP	62000	GEF	71400	Contractual services - indiv.	13400	13400	13400	13400	13400	67000	27
				74598	Direct project cost - GoE	3800	3800	3800	3800	3800	19000	28
				Project Management GEF		17200	17200	17200	17200	17200	86000	
				Total Project Management		17200	17200	17200	17200	17200	86000	

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budget Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
TOTAL GEF	MAEP/UNDP	62000	GEF			169050	258550	182300	206550	133550	950000	
TOTAL UNDP	MAEP/UNDP	4000	UNDP			5000	15000	14000	10000	6000	50000	
GRAND TOTAL						174050	273550	196300	216550	139550	1000000	

### Budget Notes

Number	Note
1	IC / Project Adviser supporting planning and adaptive management of the project and IC / Post-Graduate Environmental Education and Research Expert
2	NC / Environmental Capacity Specialist
3	International travel costs for ICs and local travel costs for ICs and LC; international travel costs for selected women researchers attending conferences in their fields
4	Contracts to identify research areas for Call for Proposals; to convene the MEA working group; to design trainings for researchers; to compile, produce, and launch the MEA Annual Report; and to conduct consultations with CSOs regarding MEA meetings
5	Trainings for researchers and annual research symposium
6	IC / Project Adviser and IC / Legal Adviser
7	NC / Legal Adviser
8	Expert database administration support for the SEA / EIA database
9	International travel costs for ICs and local travel costs for ICs and LC
10	Trainings for companies that conduct SEAs and EIAs; Resource Mobilization guide and event
11	Hardware for SEA / EIA database
12	Expenses related to development of four local DRR plans and provision of the necessary guidance to local governments
13	Development of the SEA / EIA database and accompanying technical documentation and user manuals
14	Eight local-level trainings on good practice in SEA / EIA procedures, regulatory developments, and SEA / EIA management
15	Support for identifying good practice in youth grants on global environmental issues; support in the development of a PhD program in global environmental studies
16	Provision of youth advisory services

Number	Note
17	International and in-country travel costs for the Project Adviser and the IC / Post-Graduate Environmental Education and Research Expert; travel for local consultants as necessary
18	Support for the organization of four youth grant events
19	1) Grant to provide legal expertise to the Green Chair in Parliament and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection; 2) grant for work with the Green Parliament and other parliamentary relevant parliamentary groups (i.e. Women Parliamentarians) on MEA-related issues. Grants will be granted in accordance to UNDP Guidance on Micro-Capital Grants.
20	Support for the production of educational materials related to global environmental issues
21	Youth Information Days
22	IC / Evaluation Specialist for the MTE and TE
23	NC for Inception Report and Lessons Learned Report
24	International and in-country travel for IC / Evaluation Specialist(s)
25	Audit cost, 3,750 USD per year
26	Translation, printing and production of the Inception Report and the project Lessons Learned Report
27	Project Coordinator and Assistant
28	Direct project costs will be charged according to GEF rules on DPCs. Please see Annex F. Direct project cost – staff: Direct Project Costs (DPC) are the costs of administrative services (such as those related to human resources, procurement, finance, and other functions) provided by UNDP in relation to the project. Direct project costs will be charged based on the UNDP Universal Pricelist (UPL) or the actual corresponding service cost, in line with GEF rules on DPCs. The amounts indicated here are estimations, however as part of annual project operational planning the Direct Project Costs would be defined and the amount included in the yearly budgets. The account 64398 can only be used for operational cost per transaction; it is not a flat fee.

#### Summary of Funds<sup>10</sup>

Source of Funding	Amount Year 1	Amount Year 2	Amount Year 3	Amount Year 4	Amount Year 5	Total
GEF	176,050	264,550	177,300	201,550	130,550	950,000
UNDP (cash and in-kind)	12,000	113,500	111,000	28,500	5,000	270,000
Other co-financing in-kind	161,000	156,000	181,000	136,000	76,000	710,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>349,050</b>	<b>534,050</b>	<b>469,300</b>	<b>366,050</b>	<b>211,550</b>	<b>1,930,000</b>

<sup>10</sup> Summary table should include all financing of all kinds: GEF financing, co-financing, cash, in-kind, etc.



## SUMMARY OF PROJECT CO-FINANCING (USD)

		Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection	Ministry of Youth and Sports	Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities	UNDP	TOTAL
<b>Outcome 1</b>	Cash					14,000	14,000
	In-kind	100,000					100,000
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Cash					10,000	10,000
	In-kind	30,000			280,000		310,000
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Cash					26,000	26,000
	In-kind		200,000	50,000		220,000	470,000
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	Cash						
	In-kind						
<b>Project management</b>	Cash	50,000					50,000
	In-kind						
<b>TOTAL</b>	Cash					50,000	50,000
	In-kind	180,000	200,000	50,000	280,000	220,000	930,000
<b>Description</b>		<u>Outcome 1:</u> The Ministry will provide data and experts in support of CoP preparation and an MEA Annual Report	<u>Outcome 3:</u> The Ministry will provide grant funding to youth organizations in Serbia for projects on environmental topics.	<u>Outcome 3:</u> BFPE will provide support for parliamentary education and the Green Chair program	<u>Outcome 2:</u> The Standing Conference will provide support for training and outreach to municipalities	<u>Outcome 1:</u> Funding for specialists in research and education and in environmental capacity	
		<u>Outcome 2:</u> The Ministry will provide data and experts for the EIA/SEA database and local training				<u>Outcome 2:</u> Cash support for a legal adviser	
		<u>Project management:</u> See Section 2.5				<u>Outcome 3:</u> Cash and in-kind support for legal advisory and training for parliament	

Budget Revision and Tolerance: As per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP, the project board will agree on a budget tolerance level for each plan under the overall annual work plan allowing the project manager to expend up to the tolerance level beyond the approved project budget amount for the year without requiring a revision from the Project Board. Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager and UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the UNDP-GEF team as these are considered major amendments by the GEF: a) Budget re-allocations among components in the project with amounts involving 10% of the total project grant or more; b) Introduction of new budget items/or components that exceed 5% of original GEF allocation.

Any over expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount will be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g. UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing).

Refund to Donor: Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the UNDP-GEF Unit in New York.

Project Closure: Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP.<sup>11</sup> On an exceptional basis only, a no-cost extension beyond the initial duration of the project will be sought from in-country UNDP colleagues and then the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator.

Operational completion: The project will be operationally completed when the last UNDP-financed inputs have been provided and the related activities have been completed. This includes the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report (that will be available in English) and the corresponding management response, and the end-of-project review Project Board meeting. The Implementing Partner through a Project Board decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the relevant parties will have already agreed and confirmed in writing on the arrangements for the disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.

Financial completion: The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met: a) The project is operationally completed or has been cancelled; b) The Implementing Partner has reported all financial transactions to UNDP; c) UNDP has closed the accounts for the project; d) UNDP and the Implementing Partner have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

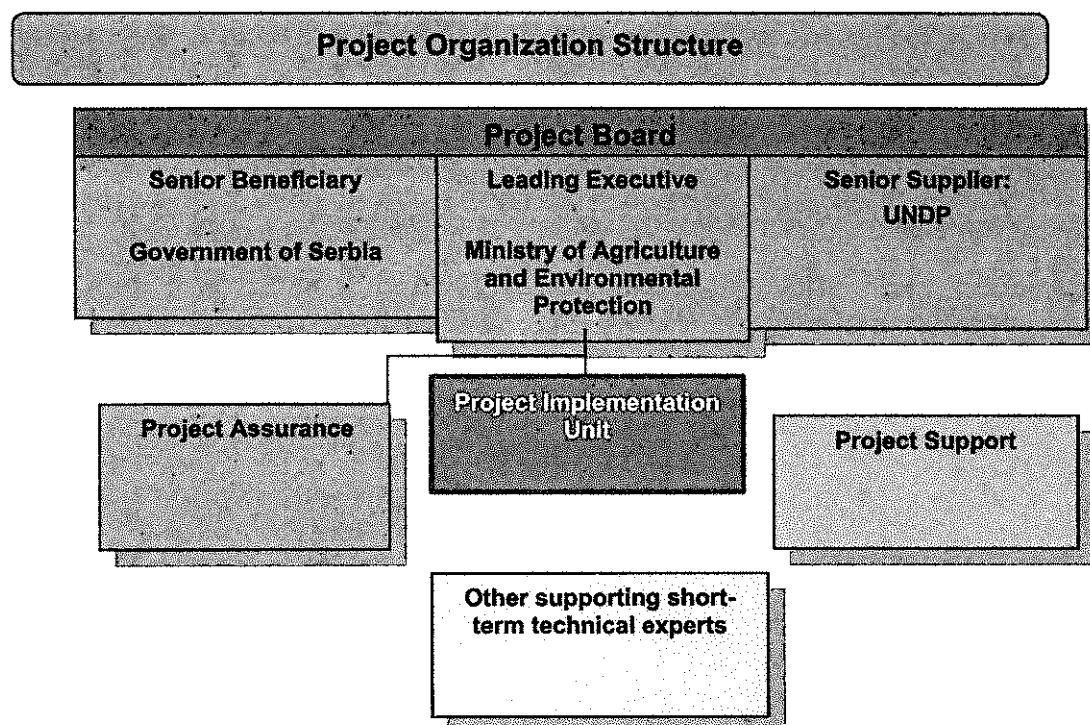
The project will be financially completed within 12 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation. Between operational and financial closure, the implementing partner will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The UNDP Country Office will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to the UNDP-GEF Unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Atlas by the UNDP Country Office.

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<sup>11</sup> see <https://info.undp.org/global/popp/pnm/Pages/Closing-a-Project.aspx>



## 5. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS



105. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP) under the National Implementation Modality following UNDP guidelines for nationally implemented projects. The Ministry will sign a Letter of Agreement with UNDP and will be accountable to UNDP for the disbursement of funds and the achievement of the project goals, according to the approved work plan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection will assign a senior officer as the National Project Director to: (i) coordinate the project activities with the activities of other Government entities; (ii) certify expenditures in line with approved budgets and work plans; (iii) facilitate, monitor and report on the procurement of inputs and delivery of outputs; (iv) approve the Terms of Reference for consultants and tender documents for sub-contracted inputs; and (v) report to UNDP on project delivery and impact.

106. A Project Board will be established at the inception of the project to monitor project progress, to guide project implementation and to support the project in achieving its listed outputs and outcomes. The Project Board will also play an important role in further resource mobilization. In addition to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, which will be represented by the National Project Director, the Board is expected to include representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology Development and UNDP. The final list of Project Board members will be completed at the outset of project operations and presented in the Inception Report. During project implementation, new members of the Project Board or participants in Project Board meetings may be invited by the decision of the Board; however, the Board should remain sufficiently lean to facilitate its effective operation.

107. The Project Board will meet regularly (at least twice a year) to review project progress and to discuss and agree on project work plans. One of the key tasks of the Board will be to ensure coordination and synchronization of central and local-level activities supported by the project. In this respect, the Board will serve as a platform for key project stakeholders to meet regularly and develop a joint strategy of work

to reach the envisaged project results. Based on the decision of the Project Board, smaller working groups can also be established to implement or to oversee specific project activities.

108. Taking into account all of the above, the Project Board will contain three distinct roles:

- **Executive Role:** It will represent the project “owners” and will chair the group. It is expected that the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection will appoint the National Project Director, a senior official who will ensure full government support to the project, to fill this role.
- **Senior Supplier Role:** This role requires the representation of the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier’s primary function within the Board will be to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This role will rest with UNDP Serbia as represented by the Resident Representative.
- **Senior Beneficiary Role:** This role requires representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary’s primary function within the Board will be to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This role will rest with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

109. **Project Assurance:** The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Assurance role will rest with the UNDP Serbia.

110. UNDP will appoint a Project Manager, who will be delegated the authority for the day-to-day implementation of the project, including supervision, management and co-ordination of all project activities and financial matters. The Project Manager will also provide advice on the technical, legal and financial aspects of the project. The Project Manager’s prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. To fulfil this responsibility, it will be important for the Project Manager to undertake public outreach and establishment of contacts and co-operation with the key local and international stakeholders and expert institutions; and to have the ability to use adaptive management and new innovative approaches. These qualities will be emphasized during recruitment. In addition to the Project Manager, the Core Project Team will include a Coordinating Officer and Project Assistant, all to be recruited by UNDP. Furthermore, the project will contract an experienced international project adviser (part time) to support the project inception phase and project’s annual planning and adaptive management when needed. The need for complementary international expertise will be determined on a case-by-case basis during the project implementation. When working with international experts, the project will place particular emphasis on building the capacity of local experts in parallel through on-the-job training and otherwise. The Terms of Reference of the key project personnel are presented in Annex C of this Project Document.

111. The decision-making discretion of the Project Manager, without a Project Board decision, is limited to 10% deviation in funds from the agreed upon Annual Work Plan and a one-month deviation in terms of the deadlines set for implementation by the Annual Work Plan. Any proposed budget revisions should be discussed with and forwarded early to the UNDP-GEF RTA together with a clear explanation of the changes proposed as any significant changes require review and approval by the GEF Secretariat. The project manager will participate as a non-voting member in the Board meetings and will also be responsible for compiling a summary report of the discussions and conclusions of each meeting. He/she will report quarterly to the Project Board and to UNDP Serbia on the status of the project including, as necessary, independently audited financial statements.

112. At the outset of project operations, a project inception report will be prepared in co-operation with the key stakeholders and the international project adviser. The inception report will include detailed work plans for each subcomponent (output) of the project at the specific activity level and elaboration of the

required resources and stakeholders to be involved for reaching the stated targets. These output specific work plans will provide the main basis for day-to-day management, implementation and monitoring of the progress of the project, complemented by the annual monitoring to be done at the Outcome level by the GEF-mandated Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs). Prior to starting the actual implementation of the work plan, the work plan will be reviewed and must be approved, together with the associated revised budget, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and UNDP Serbia. For further details about the project's overall monitoring and evaluation framework, see Section 6.

113. In order to achieve the objective and outcomes of the project, it is essential that the progress of different project components is closely monitored both by key local stakeholders and authorities as well as by the international project adviser, starting with the finalization of detailed, component-specific work plans and implementation arrangements and continuing through the project's implementation phase. The purpose of this monitoring is to facilitate the early identification of possible risks threatening successful completion of the project and the use of adaptive management and early corrective action when needed.

114. There are several activities where it will be important to work through existing organizations in order to sustain capacity, avoid duplication, and reach key target audiences. Specifically, in Component 1, the Center for the Promotion of Science is responsible for outreach to the research community on leveraging grants at the country level and internationally. In Component 2, the project will use the Standing Conference on Towns and Municipalities to organize training to towns and municipalities on EIAs and SEAs. In Component 3, the project will use 1) the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE) to provide training and support to Green Parliamentarians, as BFPE established the group and oversees its activities; and 2) the Legal Clinic at the University of Belgrade Law Faculty to provide support on international environmental law to MAEP and to the Parliament, as the Legal Clinic is the only institution of its kind in the country.

115. The activities of other donors and the foreseen synergies and opportunities for co-operation have been discussed in Section 1.4 of this document. During project implementation, proper care is to be taken to have adequate communication and co-ordination mechanisms in place to ensure that areas of common interest can be addressed in a most cost-efficient way. By promoting information exchange between participating institutions through the Project Board and otherwise, the project seeks to identify, to create links to, and to use the results of all the other prior or on-going activities relevant to the project. From the financial point of view, the project activities will be co-ordinated closely with parallel activities supported by other sources of financing, such as the EU.

116. UNDP Direct Project Services as requested by Government (if any): will be charged in line with GEF Specific guidance and the Letter of Agreement (Annex G). These rules are stated in the POPP here and are included as Annex 3 to Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter.

Following consultations on the project implementation UNDP and the Government agreed that the UNDP country office will provide support services to the project at the request of the National Implementing Partner. These support services may include assistance with reporting requirements, procurement and direct payments (see Annex G). In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the Government-designated institution is strengthened.

The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the designated institution, the following support services for the activities of the programme/project:

- (a) Identification and/or recruitment of project and programme personnel;
- (b) Identification and facilitation of training activities;
- (c) Procurement of goods and services;

The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project and programme personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures

#### *Prerequisites for implementation*

117. The Government of Serbia will allocate the necessary funds to support the project. In addition, it will ensure that the project execution and implementation arrangements will be in place at the outset of project operations, including the establishment of the Project Board to oversee the overall implementation of the project.

118. Should the national experts hired by the project be directly employed by the Government of Serbia, they will have to obtain a leave of absence without payment for the duration of their work for the project. A document to this effect, signed by an authorised person, must be attached to the request for payment.

119. The Project Document will be signed by the Government of Serbia and UNDP. Assistance for the project will be provided only if the prerequisites stipulated above have been fulfilled or are likely to be fulfilled. When anticipated fulfilment of one or more prerequisites fails to materialise, UNDP may, at its discretion, either suspend or terminate its assistance.

#### **Capacity Assessment of Implementing Partner**

*Results of capacity assessments of Implementing Partner (including HACT Micro Assessment) - former Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.*

In 2014, upon Parliamentary elections, the competencies of the former Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection in the field of environment have been transmitted to the newly established Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

120. UNDP Serbia has conducted HACT Macro- and Micro-Assessments for all UNDP Implementing Partners in the Republic of Serbia. A Macro-Assessment was conducted in 2010 by an independent authority that indicated the lack of the capacity and resources of the Supreme Audit Institution as well as imminent risk related to cash management, budget reporting and internal audit functions in the public sector in the Republic of Serbia. In November 2011, UNDP Serbia also conducted a Micro-Assessment of all key Implementing Partners of UNDP Serbia, including the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning.

121. The Micro-Assessment was conducted by Baker Tilly, Ltd., an independent audit company that was selected through UNDP procurement. The key audit areas with medium risk findings were as follows: Staffing, Internal Audit, and Reporting and Monitoring. Other risk areas, which were all defined as "low," were as follows: Implementing Partner, Funds Flow, Accounting Policies and Procedures, External Audit, Information Systems. The overall report assessed a low risk status for the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning.

122. After the elections in the Republic of Serbia in July 2012; i.e., since 26 July 2012, the Ministry competent for energy and Ministry competent for environmental protection was merged, forming the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia. The section of the Ministry dealing with environmental protection has had long-lasting cooperation in the implementation of GEF projects with UNDP; therefore, the newly formed Ministry has experience in cooperation with United Nations organizations, which has formed a solid foundation for continuing cooperation in developing new proposals.

123. Due to the fact that the new Ministry was established and in line with UNDP requirements, a separate 2013 Micro-Assessment was performed by UNDP Country Office with the new Ministry, in line with UNDP POPP, Project Implementation, Project Definition/Initiation requirements. The assessment was conducted by UNDP Serbia Prog/Finance and the Ministry's Head of Finance Unit. In the meantime, UNDP Serbia will continue engaging external private audit firms to conduct annual audits for NIM/NGO projects until further notice. Since 2003 (the year of initial NIM project implementation), UNDP Serbia has undergone annual external audits every year. All reports have been found no high audit risks. Every year, UNDP Serbia conducts a review of all audit findings for all projects in the Country Office.

124. Moreover, UNDP has contacted the Republic of Serbia Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) and inquired about the possibility to include UNDP projects in regular SAI annual audits but no positive response was received from SAI due to the lack of staff and no possibility to commit to additional work to be performed by the Institution that started audit exercises in 2007 only. Full Micro-Assessment is attached to the project proposal. Key audit areas defined were: Staffing, Internal Audit and External Audit. UNDP is of the opinion that the Ministry is to be appointed as fully-fledged Implementing Partner to this project.

125. UNDP is of the opinion that the Ministry is to be appointed as fully-fledged Implementing Partner to this project.

In terms of adherence to HACT, in 2016 UNDP Serbia conducted Macro-Assessment, Assessment of the Supreme Audit Institution of the Republic of Serbia and has created pre-conditions for HACT Micro-Assessment of potential key Implementing Partners in the Republic of Serbia (CPD 2016 - 2020). Micro-Assessments have been planned for September 2016. UNDP Serbia is about to endorse CO Assurance Plan (CPD 2016-2020).

#### **Communications and Visibility Requirements**

126. Full compliance is required with UNDP's Branding Guidelines. These can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>, and specific guidelines on UNDP logo use can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/branding/useOfLogo.html>. Amongst other things, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP logo needs to be used, as well as how the logos of donors to UNDP projects needs to be used. For the avoidance of any doubt, when logo use is required, the UNDP logo needs to be used alongside the GEF logo. The GEF logo can be accessed at: [http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF\\_logo](http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo). The UNDP logo can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>.

127. Full compliance is also required with the GEF's Communication and Visibility Guidelines (the "GEF Guidelines"). The GEF Guidelines can be accessed at: [http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08\\_Branding the GEF%20final 0.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf). Amongst other things, the GEF Guidelines describe when and how the GEF logo needs to be used in project publications, vehicles, supplies and other project equipment. The GEF Guidelines also describe other GEF promotional requirements regarding press releases, press conferences, press visits, visits by Government officials, productions and other promotional items.

128. Where other agencies and project partners have provided support through co-financing, their branding policies and requirements should be similarly applied.

## 6. MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

129. The project will be monitored through the following M&E activities. The M&E budget is presented at the end of this chapter.

130. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for complying with all UNDP project-level M&E requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP. This includes ensuring the UNDP Quality Assurance Assessment during implementation is undertaken annually; that annual targets at the output level are developed, and monitored and reported using UNDP corporate systems; the regular updating of the ATLAS risk log; and, the updating of the UNDP gender marker on an annual basis based on gender mainstreaming progress reported in the GEF PIR and the UNDP ROAR. Any quality concerns flagged during these M&E activities (e.g. annual GEF PIR quality assessment ratings) must be addressed by the UNDP Country Office and the Project Manager.

131. The UNDP Country Office will retain all M&E records for this project for up to seven years after project financial closure in order to support ex-post evaluations undertaken by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) and/or the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).

132. UNDP-GEF Unit: Additional M&E and implementation quality assurance and troubleshooting support will be provided by the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor and the UNDP-GEF Directorate as needed.

133. **Audit**: The project will be audited according to UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies on NIM implemented projects.<sup>12</sup>

Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:

134. Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within two months after the project document has been signed by all relevant parties to, amongst others:

- a) Re-orient project stakeholders to the project strategy and discuss any changes in the overall context that influence project strategy and implementation;
- b) Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting and communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms;
- c) Review the results framework and finalize the indicators, means of verification and monitoring plan;
- d) Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP in M&E;
- e) Update and review responsibilities for monitoring the various project plans and strategies, including the risk log; Environmental and Social Management Plan and other safeguard requirements; the gender strategy; the knowledge management strategy, and other relevant strategies;
- f) Review financial reporting procedures and mandatory requirements, and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit; and

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<sup>12</sup> See guidance here: <https://info.undp.org/global/popp/frm/pages/financial-management-and-execution-modalities.aspx>

g) Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first year annual work plan.

135. The Project Manager will prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop. The inception report will be cleared by the UNDP Country Office and the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser, and will be approved by the Project Board.

136. GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR): The Project Manager, the UNDP Country Office, and the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser will provide objective input to the annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) for each year of project implementation. The Project Manager will ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the PIR submission deadline so that progress can be reported in the PIR. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR.

137. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. The UNDP Country Office will coordinate the input of the GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders to the PIR as appropriate. The quality rating of the previous year's PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent PIR.

138. Lessons learned and knowledge generation: Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to the project. The project will identify, analyse and share lessons learned that might be beneficial to the design and implementation of similar projects and disseminate these lessons widely. There will be continuous information exchange between this project and other projects of similar focus in the same country, region and globally.

#### **Periodic Monitoring Through Site Visits**

139. The UNDP CO and the UNDP RCU will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first-hand project progress. UNDP will secure Quality Assurance of project activities by implementing Quality Assurance Exercise on a regular basis. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

140. Independent Mid-term Review (MTR): MTR is not mandatory for Medium-sized projects. If UNDP deems that a mid-term evaluation will be useful, an independent mid-term review process will begin after the second PIR has been submitted to the GEF, and the MTR report will be submitted to the GEF in the same year as the 3<sup>rd</sup> PIR. The MTR findings and responses outlined in the management response will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's duration. The terms of reference, the review process and the MTR report will follow the standard templates and guidance prepared by the UNDP IEO for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center (ERC). As noted in this guidance, the evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The consultants that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the UNDP-GEF Directorate. The final MTR report will be available in English and will be cleared by the UNDP Country Office and the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser, and approved by the Project Board.

141. The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools (in this case the Capacity Scorecard) will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

142. Terminal Evaluation (TE): An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terminal evaluation process will begin three months before operational closure of the project allowing the evaluation mission to proceed while the project team is still in place, yet ensuring the project is close enough to completion for the evaluation team to reach conclusions on key aspects such as project sustainability. The Project Manager will remain on contract until the TE report and management response have been finalized. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance prepared by the UNDP IEO for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. As noted in this guidance, the evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The consultants that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the UNDP-GEF Directorate. The final TE report will be cleared by the UNDP Country Office and the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser, and will be approved by the Project Board. The TE report will be publically available in English on the UNDP ERC.

143. The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools (in this case the Capacity Scorecard) will also be completed during the final evaluation.

The UNDP Country Office will include the planned project terminal evaluation in the UNDP Country Office evaluation plan, and will upload the final terminal evaluation report in English and the corresponding management response to the UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC). Once uploaded to the ERC, the UNDP IEO will undertake a quality assessment and validate the findings and ratings in the TE report, and rate the quality of the TE report. The UNDP IEO assessment report will be sent to the GEF IEO along with the project terminal evaluation report.

During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also make recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure the sustainability and replicability of the project's results.



## M & E WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$	Time frame
Inception Workshop	UNDP Country Office	USD 4,000	Within first two months of project document signature
Inception Report	Project Manager	None	Within two weeks of inception workshop
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	UNDP GEF RTA/Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members.		Start, mid- and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on output and implementation	Oversight by Project Manager Project team	To be determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	Project manager and team UNDP CO, UNDP PTA		Annually
Periodic status/progress reports	Project manager and team		Quarterly
Mid-term Evaluation	Project manager and team UNDP CO, UNDP RCU External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	USD 9,500	Not mandatory for MSP. If deemed necessary, at the mid-point of project implementation.
Final Evaluation	Project manager and team UNDP CO UNDP RCU External Consultant	USD 14,250	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Project Terminal Report	Project manager and team UNDP CO local consultant	USD 1,000	At least three months before the end of the project
Audit	UNDP CO Project manager and team	USD 18,750 <sup>13</sup>	Annually or other frequency as per UNDP Audit policies
Visits to field sites	UNDP CO UNDP RCU (as appropriate) Government representatives	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Annually
<b>TOTAL INDICATIVE COST</b> (excluding UNDP staff and travel expenses as well as the in-kind contributions of the other project implementing and co-financing partners)		<b>USD 47,500</b> (5% of total budget)	

<sup>13</sup> Assumes an annual audit: i.e., USD 3,750 over 5 years.

## 7. LEGAL CONTEXT

144. This document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA and all CPAP provisions apply to this document.

145. Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner.

146. The implementing partner shall:

- put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

147. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

148. The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

149. Audit Clause: The Audit will be conducted in accordance with UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies on UNDP projects.

## ANNEX A: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SCORECARD

Project/Programme Name: Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Project/Programme Cycle Phase: RCE Submission Date: 15 April 2016

Capacity Result / Indicator		Staged Indicators		Rating	Score	Comments	Next Steps	Contribution to which Outcome
CR 1: Capacities for engagement								
Indicator 1 – Degree of legitimacy/mandate of lead environmental organizations	2	Institutional responsibilities for environmental management are not clearly defined	0	1-2		Authority and legitimacy of lead organizations responsible for environmental management are identified and recognized in some areas of activity, but not in others.	Increase visibility of global environmental issues  Increase capacity of Parliament to oversee environmental management	Outcome 1  Outcome 3
		Institutional responsibilities for environmental management are identified	1					
		Authority and legitimacy of all lead organizations responsible for environmental management are partially recognized by stakeholders	2					
		Authority and legitimacy of all lead organizations responsible for environmental management recognized by stakeholders	3					
Indicator 2 – Existence of co-operational management mechanisms	2	No co-management mechanisms are in place	0	2		Some co-management mechanisms are formally established, although this depends on the government organization. Ad hoc cooperation is less stable.	Formalize data sharing on EIAs and SEAs between the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and local self-governing units	Outcome 2
		Some co-management mechanisms are in place and operational	1					
		Some co-management mechanisms are formally established through agreements, MOUs, etc.	2					
		Comprehensive co-management mechanisms are formally established and are operational/functional	3					
Indicator 3 – Existence of cooperation with stakeholder	3	Identification of stakeholders and their participation/involvement in decision-making is poor	0	1-2		Stakeholders in some areas of environmental management are identified, and mechanisms for their participation exist, but targeted efforts to support consultations on international	Establish regular stakeholder consultations in the areas covered by MEAs	Outcome 1
		Stakeholders are identified but their participation in decision-making is limited	1					

Capacity Result / Indicator		Staged Indicators		Rating	Score	Comments	Next Steps	Contribution to which Outcome
		Stakeholders are identified and regular consultations mechanisms are established		2		environmental issues (and consultations in this area) are not established.		
		Stakeholders are identified and they actively contribute to established participative decision-making processes		3				
CR 2: Capacities to generate, access and use information and knowledge								
Indicator 4 – Degree of environmental awareness of stakeholders		Stakeholders are not aware about global environmental issues and their related possible solutions (MEAs)		0	0-1	Stakeholders are aware of climate change issues, but they are not aware of other global environmental issues and the associated MEAs.	Establish trainings that cover all Rio Conventions and other MEAs for Parliament  Increase opportunities to study MEA-related issues and to conduct research in areas related to the global environment.	Outcome 3  Outcome 1 & 3
		Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues but not about the possible solutions (MEAs)		1				
		Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues and the possible solutions but do not know how to participate		2				
		Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues and are actively participating in the implementation of related solutions		3				
Indicator 5 – Access and sharing of environmental information by stakeholders		The environmental information needs are not identified and the information management infrastructure is inadequate		0	2	While environmental information is partially available to stakeholders and the public, stakeholders have voiced concerns about the quality and accuracy of some of the information that generated.	Support for local self-governing units and companies on the preparation of EIAs and SEAs  Assessment of quality of EIAs and SEAs produced at the local level  Pilot DRR plans that integrate global environmental concerns	Outcome 2  Outcome 2  Outcome 2
		The environmental information needs are identified but the information management infrastructure is inadequate		1				
		The environmental information is partially available and shared among stakeholders but is not covering all focal areas and/or the information management infrastructure to manage and give information access to the public is limited		2				
		Comprehensive environmental information is available and shared through an adequate information management infrastructure		3				
Indicator Existence	6 of	No environmental education programmes are in place		0		At the youth level, grants have been given for environmental education projects, but	Provide support to organizations developing	Outcome 3

Capacity Result / Indicator			Staged Indicators		Rating	Score	Comments	Next Steps	Contribution to which Outcome
environmental education programmes	Environmental education programmes are partially developed and partially delivered				1	1	the grants have not focused on MEA-related environmental issues. However, primary and secondary level environmental education programmes are not in place. At the undergraduate and graduate level, there are now a variety of courses that address environmental issues indirectly and directly in faculties as diverse as Biology, Law, Political Science, and Occupational Safety. However, global environmental issues are not generally covered.	environmental education projects for youth focusing on MEA-related issues.  Promote comprehensive environmental education curricula that include global environmental issues.	Outcome 3
	Environmental education programmes are fully developed but partially delivered				2				
	Comprehensive environmental education programmes exist and are being delivered				3				
Indicator 7 – Extent of the linkage between environmental research/science and policy development	No linkage exist between environmental policy development and science/research strategies and programmes				0	0	There is currently no linkage between environmental policy development and science / research strategies and programmes	Support the development of a call for proposals that encourage targeted research in areas related to global environmental issues.	Outcome 1
	Research needs for environmental policy development are identified but are not translated into relevant research strategies and programmes				1				
	Relevant research strategies and programmes for environmental policy development exist but the research information is not responding fully to the policy research needs				2				
	Relevant research results are available for environmental policy development				3				
Indicator 8 – Extent of inclusion/use of traditional knowledge in environmental decision-making	Traditional knowledge is ignored and not taken into account into relevant participative decision-making processes				0	0	Traditional agrarian practices are not recognized as important or taken into account in participatory decision-making processes.	Acknowledge traditions patterns of land use and farming when preparing local DRR plans.	Component 2
	Traditional knowledge is identified and recognized as important but is not collected and used in relevant participative decision-making processes				1				
	Traditional knowledge is collected but is not used systematically into relevant participative decision-making processes				2				
	Traditional knowledge is collected, used and shared for effective participative decision-making processes				3				

Capacity Result / Indicator		Staged Indicators		Rating	Score	Comments	Next Steps	Contribution to which Outcome
CR 3: Capacities for strategy, policy and legislation development								
Indicator 9 – Extent of the environmental planning and strategy development process	The environmental planning and strategy development process is not coordinated and does not produce adequate environmental plans and strategies	0	0-1	Planning and strategy depends heavily on the environmental subject matter, but multiple stakeholders have identified issues with coordination and implementation.	Support pilot DRR plans  Support training for parliamentarians on environmental policies and strategies.	Outcome 2  Outcome 3		
	The environmental planning and strategy development process does produce adequate environmental plans and strategies but there are not implemented/used	1						
	Adequate environmental plans and strategies are produced but there are only partially implemented because of funding constraints and/or other problems	2						
	The environmental planning and strategy development process is well coordinated by the lead environmental organizations and produces the required environmental plans and strategies; which are being implemented	3						
Indicator 10 – Existence of an adequate environmental policy and regulatory frameworks	The environmental policy and regulatory frameworks are insufficient; they do not provide an enabling environment	0	2	Adequate environmental policy and legislation frameworks exist but there are problems in implementing and enforcing them.	Support training for parliamentarians on environmental policies and strategies.	Outcome 3		
	Some relevant environmental policies and laws exist but few are implemented and enforced	1						
	Adequate environmental policy and legislation frameworks exist but there are problems in implementing and enforcing them	2						
	Adequate policy and legislation frameworks are implemented and provide an adequate enabling environment; a compliance and enforcement mechanism is established and functions	3						

Capacity Result / Indicator		Staged Indicators		Rating	Score	Comments	Next Steps	Contribution to which Outcome
Indicator 11 – Adequacy of the environmental information available for decision-making		The availability of environmental information for decision-making is lacking		0	0-1	While some environmental information exists, there are substantial information gaps when dealing with the economic analysis of environmental issues and policies and with local-level environmental information.	Support training for local governments on EIAs and SEAs  Support targeted research for the Green Chair of the Parliament.	Outcome 2  Outcome 3
		Some environmental information exists but it is not sufficient to support environmental decision-making processes		1				
		Relevant environmental information is made available to environmental decision-makers but the process to update this information is not functioning properly		2				
		Political and administrative decision-makers obtain and use updated environmental information to make environmental decisions		3				
CR 4: Capacities for management and implementation								
Indicator 12 – Existence and mobilization of resources		The environmental organizations don't have adequate resources for their programmes and projects and the requirements have not been assessed		0	2	Resource mobilization has been negatively affected by the re-design of designated Environmental Funds, which are now organized as a budgetary line item rather than an extra-budgetary, fee-based fund.	Assess possible measures to address the shortcoming (by Q18 of the project) and to identify other sources of financing for the activities of lead environmental organizations.	Outcome 2
		The resource requirements are known but are not being addressed		1				
		The funding sources for these resource requirements are partially identified and the resource requirements are partially addressed		2				
		Adequate resources are mobilized and available for the functioning of the lead environmental organizations		3				
Indicator 13 – Availability of required technical skills and technology transfer		The necessary required skills and technology are not available and the needs are not identified		0	0		Work with companies and local self-governing units to assess required skills and technology for DRR and for assessing environmental impacts.	Outcome 2
		The required skills and technologies needs are identified as well as their sources		1				
		The required skills and technologies are obtained but their access depend on foreign sources		2				
		The required skills and technologies are available and there is a national-based		3				

Capacity Result / Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	Score	Comments	Next Steps	Contribution to which Outcome
	mechanism for updating the required skills and for upgrading the technologies					
<b>CR 5: Capacities to monitor and evaluate</b>						
Indicator 14 – Adequacy of the project/programme monitoring process	Irregular project monitoring is being done without an adequate monitoring framework detailing what and how to monitor the particular project or programme	0	0	Outputs and results of environmental projects and programmes are generally not monitored or assessed.	Cross-cutting Annual Report on MEA implementation  Creation of database and assessment of local-level SEAs and EIAs	Outcome 1  Outcome 2
	An adequate resourced monitoring framework is in place but project monitoring is irregularly conducted	1				
	Regular participative monitoring of results in being conducted but this information is only partially used by the project/programme implementation team	2				
	Monitoring information is produced timely and accurately and is used by the implementation team to learn and possibly to change the course of action	3				
Indicator 15 – Adequacy of the project/programme monitoring and evaluation process	None or ineffective evaluations are being conducted without an adequate evaluation plan; including the necessary resources	0	0	Government environmental programs do not include evaluations	For evaluating of adequacy of project/programme monitoring, the progress reports will be prepared periodically. In addition, an independent terminal evaluation report will be prepared for the proposed project.	Cross-cutting
	An adequate evaluation plan is in place but evaluation activities are irregularly conducted	1				
	Evaluations are being conducted as per an adequate evaluation plan but the evaluation results are only partially used by the project/programme implementation team	2				
	Effective evaluations are conducted timely and accurately and are used by the implementation team and the Agencies and GEF Staff to correct the course of action if needed and to learn for further planning activities	3				



## ANNEX B: STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
<b>Governmental Institutions</b>		
Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP)	Houses the Rio Convention focal points. Lead government agency on environmental issues. The project preparation team held multiple interviews with MAEP experts at the project concept stage and during the preparation of the project document. These experts, in turn, provided specific suggestions and feedback on the project concept and activities.	MAEP will serve as the National Implementing Partner for the project, it will provide co-financing for project activities, and it will appoint a National Project Director. Convention Focal Points will be actively involved in project activities, particularly under Components 1.2 (Annual MEA Report), 1.3 (CSO consultations for MEAs), 2.1 (SEA and EIA guidance and database); and 2.4 (resource mobilization roadmap).
Republic Hydro-meteorological Service	This institution is responsible for monitoring key elements of air quality and climate change. In addition, it conducts surface and groundwater monitoring, and it oversees warnings about adverse weather and flood conditions. While its activities on climate monitoring make it directly relevant to the UNFCCC, its work is also important to land degradation, international waters agreements, and disaster risk reduction.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Service, particularly regarding Components 1.1 (Call for Research Proposals); 1.2 (Annual MEA Report); and 2.3 (Disaster Risk Reduction plans).
Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	SEPA, a government agency that is under the supervision of MAEP, is responsible for coordinating environmental information systems in Serbia. Its responsibilities and activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with SEPA, particularly regarding Component 1.2 (Annual MEA Report).
Ministry of Youth and Sport	The Ministry regulates and addresses youth issues, and its Department for Youth is responsible for youth affairs and policy in Serbia. The Ministry is relevant to environmental activities because it provides grants for environmental projects to youth organizations, and it supports the implementation of the National Youth Policy, which has a specific goal of increasing young people's participation in environmental protection and sustainable development. Meetings were held with the Ministry to discuss its work and the scope of project activities during the project preparation period.	The Ministry will serve as a supporting partner for the project, and it will provide co-financing for project activities. Furthermore, it will be directly involved in Components 2.4 (Resource mobilization roadmap); and 3.2 (Youth grants for MEA projects).
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development	The Ministry is the main source of financing for basic and applied research, including work on land degradation, combating desertification, climate change, and biodiversity. The Ministry is responsible for overseeing scientific research and planning and implementing this research. As part of its duties, the Ministry accredits institutes for scientific research, publishes annual calls for proposals, and serves as the focal point for several European Commission R&D programs, such as FP7, CiP, Horizon 2020, and	The Ministry will serve as a supporting partner for the project, and it will provide co-financing for project activities. It will be directly involved in Components 1.1 (Call for Research Proposals) and 3.3 (Establishment of a doctoral program for global environmental studies).

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
	Erasmus Mundus. In academic matters, the Ministry oversees post-secondary educational institutions, which provide a variety of programs related to environmental education. Meetings were held with the Ministry to discuss its work and the scope of project activities during the project preparation period.	
Office for Coordination with Civil Society (OCCS)	OCCS oversaw the development of National Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in the Republic of Serbia (2015-2019) with support from the EU and USAID. The Office has overseen research on public participation and provides technical support to line ministries or other authorized institutions to conduct public hearings and other consultations. In addition, they have provided training for local officials on public participation under the Environment and Climate Change Chapter (Chapter 27) of the EU accession strategy for Serbia.	OCCS will serve as a partner for the implementation of Sub-Component 1.3 (Public Participation in MEAs).
Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia	The Statistical Office is responsible for the organization and conduct of statistical surveys; and data collection, processing, analysis and publishing statistical data. The Office's activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Office, particularly regarding Component 1.2 (Annual MEA Report).
Ministry of Health	The Ministry is responsible for the implementation of health and safety regulations pertaining to environmental protection and biosafety; sanitary inspection; water supply for public consumption; and monitoring and oversight of health and safety conditions at various facilities and on the border. The Ministry's activities are relevant to both MEAs and to disaster risk reduction. The Ministry's activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will promote the distribution of relevant convention-related decisions and information to the Ministry and will monitor the Ministry's activities with regards to MEAs and disaster risk reduction.
Ministry of Mining and Energy	The Ministry oversees mining waste, which is relevant to several MEAs. Its oversight of energy sector development and investments and its role as the agency responsible for extraction permits makes it an important participant in SEAs and EIAs. In addition, its role in the preparation of technical regulations pertaining to petroleum-derived liquid fuels and motor vehicle emissions is related to greenhouse gas emissions, and thus, the UNFCCC. The Ministry's competencies and activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Ministry, particularly regarding Components 1.2 (Annual MEA Report); 1.3 (Consultations); and the 2.1 (EIA and SEA guidance and database).
Ministry of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure	The Ministry oversees urban and spatial planning, construction permitting, and communal infrastructure – all of which are directly related to the preparation of strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) and environmental impact assessments (EIAs). The Ministry competencies also include transport (railway, road, water and air), which is relevant to the UNFCCC and to international waters agreements. The Ministry's competencies and	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Ministry, particularly regarding Components 1.2 (Annual MEA Report); 1.3 (Consultations); and the 2.1 (EIA and SEA guidance and database).

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
	activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	
Ministry of Interior	The Ministry oversees emergency situations, including contingency planning, prevention, and response to natural disasters. The Ministry is also responsible for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction policies, and it chairs the National Emergency Management Headquarters (NEMH). It is relevant to the project because of its responsibility to introduce the disaster risk reduction concept into national and local policies, sustainable development strategies, and protection and rescue strategies. The Ministry's competencies and activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will promote the distribution of relevant convention-related decisions and information to the Ministry and will support the two-way flow of information regarding the Ministry's activities in disaster risk reduction (Component 2.3).
Ministry of Finance	The Ministry oversees macroeconomic policy, national budget planning, monitoring, and auditing. At present, it is also responsible for allocating money to the budget line for the environmental fund (previously a free-standing fund). The Ministry's competencies and activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Ministry, particularly regarding Component 2.4 (Resource mobilization roadmap)
Ministry of Economy	Ministry responsibilities include economic development, strategic policy development in various sectors of the economy, and strategic investments. The Ministry's competencies and activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Ministry, particularly regarding Component 2.4 (Resource mobilization roadmap)
National Parliament	The Parliament (National Assembly) consists of 250 members who are elected to 4-year terms. The Committee for the Protection of Environment is the official parliamentary committee that deals with environmental issues. A "Green Chair" mechanism was introduced in 2013 by which CSOs are able to participate in the Committee. In addition, there is an informal group of Green Parliamentarians, who meet to discuss environmental issues and whose members have participated in training on environmental issues. The Parliament's activities informed the development of the project concept and were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will work with the Green Chair and the Green Parliamentarians, particularly on activities under Sub-Component 3.1 (Parliamentary Training).
Center for Science Promotion	The Center, which was established by the Government in 2010, acts as a bridge between the science community and the general public. They have conducted science-related events upon key environmental issues such as water. They have also provided training to research institutions on grant management. The Center was consulted during the project preparation phase.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Center for Science Promotion, particularly in promoting funding for R&D related to MEAs under Component 1.1 (Call for MEA Research Proposals).
Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction, and Environment	The Secretariat oversees environmental protection for the Vojvodina Province. Its responsibilities and activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Secretariat, particularly regarding Components 1.2 (Annual MEA Report), 2.4 (Resource mobilization roadmap), all sub-

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
		national training activities, and activities relating to universities in the province.
Local municipal administrations	Local municipal administrations handle many water and waste issues, and they are also responsible for environmental assessments (specifically SEAs and EIAs), permitting, pollution registries, inspection oversight, development of DRR plans, and numerous other important functions with international environmental implications. At present, 135 out of 165 local governments in Serbia have opened a local youth office. The project design and activities have drawn upon UNDP experience and programming undertaken in partnership with local governments.	The project will engage local governments directly through Sub-Components 2.1 (SEA/EIA database), 2.2 (SEA/EIA training), and 2.3 (DRR Plans). The projects will also disseminate information regarding Sub-Component 3.2 (Youth grants for global environmental projects) to local Youth Offices.
<b>Private Sector</b>		
Companies that prepare EIAs and SEAs	Several companies prepare SEAs and EIAs for local governments. These companies are known to MAEP, and because they produce multiple studies, they can have a relatively large influence on the quality of these procedures and documents and the extent to which global environmental issues are mainstreamed into them.	These companies are targeted for training under Sub-Component 2.2 (EIA/SEA training).
<b>NGOs and professional associations</b>		
Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities	The Standing Conference is an association that represents the interests of municipalities in Serbia and provides information, training, and project services to its members. It is the fifth largest association in Serbia by total revenue (as of 2013). The Standing Conference was consulted during the development of the project concept regarding training and awareness raising at the municipal level.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Standing Conference, particularly in publicizing training activities under Component 2.
KOMS (National Youth Umbrella Organization)	KOMS serves as an advocate for youth interests and seeks to improve the flow of information to youth organizations across Serbia. Its responsibilities and activities were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will provide information to KOMS, particularly when publicizing activities for youth groups under Sub-Component 3.2 (youth grants for global environmental issues).
Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE)	BFPE is a CSO that has implemented a variety of projects in the areas of good governance and sustainable development. Their "Green Parliamentarians" program has provided training for members of parliament who are interested in environmental issues and "Youth is the New Green" – an outreach program for Serbian youth related to climate change awareness. BFPE was consulted during the project concept stage and during the project preparation period.	BFPE will be directly involved in Sub-Component 3.1 (Parliamentary training).
Aarhus Centers	Five Aarhus centers are now open in Belgrade and other regions under CSO administration with funding from the OSCE. These centers were studied during the concept phase and during the project preparation period, and two consultation meetings were held with the Aarhus Focal Point at MAEP.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Aarhus Focal Point at MAEP and centers, particularly regarding Sub-Components 1.2 (MEA Annual Report), 1.3 (public consultations

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
		for MEAs), 2.1 (EIA/SEA guidance and database), and 2.2 (EIA/SEA training).
<b>Universities and other scientific, research and educational entities</b>		
Researchers and Research Institutions	These stakeholders are mentioned because of their eligibility to participate in national and international calls for research proposals. Researchers are located both at institutes and at universities; for example, consortium participants in EU-funded research range from the Institute of Medical Research, and the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences to the University of Novi Sad. The project consulted with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology Development, which oversees in-country funding to these institutions, during the project concept development and project preparation phase.	The project will involve researchers and research institutions directly activities under Component 1.1 (Call for MEA Research Proposals).
Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia and Institute for Nature Conservation for of Vojvodina Province	Both institutes oversee the protection and improvement of Serbia's natural heritage on national and provincial level (respectively), and their activities include the preparation of studies for designation of protected areas; research on biodiversity, and monitoring the status of protected areas. This work is relevant to all three Rio Conventions, and the activities of both institutes were reviewed in the course of project preparation.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the institutes, particularly with regards to Components 1.1 (Call for Research Proposals on Global Environmental Topics) and 1.2 (Annual MEA Report).
University of Belgrade	<p>The University of Belgrade is the largest in Serbia, with 31 faculties and 11 affiliated research institutes.</p> <p>The Faculty of Political Science includes the Center for Environmental Politics and Sustainable Development and offers a popular Environmental Policy and Politics Masters course.</p> <p>The Faculty of Law offers an LLM in Environmental Law. A legal clinic program has been opened to train law students and provide expertise to clients and institutions, such as MAEP, on administrative law related to environmental issues. The clinic has also held seminars for judges on access to environmental information and environmental justice.</p> <p>Consultations were held with the Vice Rector and representatives of the Political Science Faculty and the Law Faculty / Legal Clinic during the project preparation period.</p>	<p>The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the University, particularly regarding Sub-Components 1.1 (Call for MEA Research Proposals) and 3.3 (Supporting post-secondary global environmental studies).</p> <p>The Legal Clinic of the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade will serve as a partner in providing legal expertise to Parliament (Sub-Component 3.1).</p>
University of Nis (Faculty of Occupational Safety)	The Faculty has good coordination with similar programs in other countries, and it has participated in the University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD) consortium, which is funded by Erasmus – that project will produce a sustainable development information portal (in English). The Department is currently opening a 5 <sup>th</sup> master's degree program (in environmental management), and they offer a Master's programme in Disaster Risk	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the University, particularly regarding the information portal on sustainable development, which may contribute to Sub-Component 3.3.

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
	Management. The project preparation team consulted with the Faculty during the project preparation period.	
Other universities and faculties	There are eight public universities in Serbia with a total of 86 faculties (and two free-standing faculties). In addition, there are 10 private universities with 44 faculties (5 private free-standing faculties). Furthermore, there are 49 other post-secondary educational institutions (both academic and vocational), of which 42 are public and 7 are private. Serbian universities offer courses and curricula covering a variety of environmental issues, including environmental science, nature and biodiversity issues, climate change, international and multilateral agreements, and changes in environment caused both by human activities and natural processes. Universities with these types of courses include the University of Belgrade (Faculties of Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture, Pharmacy, Forestry, Geography, Law, Security Studies, and Political Science); the University of Novi Sad (Faculties of Sciences and Agriculture); University of Kragujevac (Faculty of Science); University of Niš (Faculties of Sciences and Occupational Safety); University of Novi Pazar (Faculty of Biology); and two private universities – Singidunum University and EDUCONS University. A survey of universities, both public and private, was undertaken as a part of the project preparation activities.	Universities will serve as partners for activities under Sub-Component 3.3, and a university will be selected for the establishment of a PhD program in Global Environmental Management. Universities will also provide education for the government employees selected for scholarships to Masters programs in environmental management under this sub-component.
<b>International organisations and financing entities</b>		
European Union – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)	Under the IPA-2 funding window, Serbia's funding allocation for 2014-2020 is EUR 1.5 billion. In the environmental sector (7-year budget: EUR 160 million) priorities are alignment with the environment and climate <i>acquis</i> <sup>14</sup> ; a stronger institutional framework at central and local levels; better treatment of waste and water; and improved air quality. Examples of current IPA projects with MEA-related activities include: 1) capacity to implement aspects of the <i>acquis</i> related to nature protection and the Natura 2000 network; 2) the establishment of a framework for emissions trading; and 3) investments in water- and waste-related infrastructure. IPA activities were studied during the development of the project concept in order to ensure complementarity, and the EU Delegation was consulted during the project preparation phase.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the EU Delegation in Serbia, particularly regarding investments that may support implementation of MEAs (for Sub-Component 1.2) and the development of a resource mobilization roadmap (Sub-Component 2.4).
European Union – Horizon 2020	The Horizon 2020 program provides funding for researchers and institutions through specific calls for proposals. Co-funding is often provided by national	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the Delegation and the Ministry, which

<sup>14</sup> The *acquis communautaire*; i.e., the body of law common to EU countries.

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
	governments. A number of proposals address environmental and sustainable development issues. The program was studied, and the project preparation team met with the EU delegation and the Serbian government focal point (the Ministry for Education, Science and Technology Development) in the course of project preparation.	will serve as a key partner under Sub-Component 1.1 (Call for Proposals on Global Environmental Issues).
European Union – LIFE Programme	The LIFE Programme is the financial instrument of the EU for environment and climate change, and it is open to member states and candidate countries. Topics include Nature and Biodiversity, Environment and Resource Efficiency, Climate Change Adaptation, and Environmental Governance and Information. The program scope was reviewed during project preparation to ensure complementarity of activities and support. In addition, UNDP Serbia is carrying out an assessment of capacities of relevant institutions and organizations in Serbia to develop and implement EU LIFE projects in Serbia in order to prepare adequately for joining the LIFE programme, thus improving access to environmental financing.	The project will maintain a two-way flow of information with the EU Delegation in Serbia regarding the program, particularly regarding Sub-Components 1.2 (MEA Annual Report), and 2.4 (Resource Mobilization Roadmap).
UNDP – DRR Project	The UNDP project entitled “Increased Resilience to Respond to Emergency Situations,” which concluded in February 2016, was a USD 3.64 million project funded by the Government of Japan. The project focused on increasing municipal capacity to prepare for disasters. The project also piloted grants to mainstream gender issues into DRR planning. The DRR Project was consulted during the project preparation phase.	Although the DRR project has concluded, the project will draw upon its lessons learned, particular for outreach to municipalities and for mainstreaming and DRR planning.
UNDP – GEF EA Activities	UNDP is currently serving as the GEF implementing agency for several Rio Convention reports are currently under preparation, such as the Second National Communication to the UNFCCC, the First Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC, and support for the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 for Serbia.	UNDP will be a member of the Project Board, and the EAs will exchange information on a regular basis, particularly regarding Component 1.2 (MEA Annual Report).
UNDP – Parliamentary Project	UNDP’s project entitled “Strengthening the Oversight Function and Transparency of Parliament” (which is primarily funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) is designed to improve the Parliament’s outreach to citizens, emphasizing oversight mechanisms. The Parliamentary Project was consulted during the project preparation phase.	UNDP will be a member of the Project Board, and the two projects will exchange information on a regular basis, particularly regarding Components 2 (Mainstreaming global environmental issues into policies) and 3.1. (Parliamentary training).
UN Gender Resources (UN Women, UNDP)	Examples of recent UNDP activities on gender and sustainable development include recent grants mainstreaming gender issues into DRR planning and a report on gender and climate change (December 2015).  A representative of UN Women in Serbia and the UNDP Serbia gender adviser were consulted during	The project will make use of available UN in-country gender expertise across its activities throughout the course of implementation.

Stakeholder	Relevance to Project and Role in Project Development	Envisaged role and potential areas for co-operation during project implementation
	the project preparation period on project scope and activities.	



## **ANNEX C: TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Project Board**

#### **Duties and responsibilities:**

The Project Board is the main body to supervise the project implementation in accordance with UNDP rules and regulations and referring to the specific objectives and the outcomes of the project with their agreed performance indicators.

The main functions of the Board are:

- General monitoring of project progress in meeting its objectives and outcomes and ensuring that they continue to be in line with national development objectives;
- Providing strategic leadership and serving as coordination mechanisms for various partners involved;
- Facilitating the co-operation between the different Government entities, whose inputs are required for successful implementation of the project, ensuring access to the required information and resolving eventual conflict situations raising during the project implementation when trying to meet its outcomes and stated targets;
- Supporting the elaboration, processing and adoption of the required institutional, legal and regulatory changes to support the project objectives and overcoming of related barriers;
- Facilitating and supporting other measures to minimize the identified risks to project success, remove bottlenecks and resolve eventual conflicts;
- Approval of the annual work plans and progress reports, the first plan being prepared at the outset of project implementation;
- Approval of any amendments to be made in the project strategy that may arise due to changing circumstances, after careful analysis and discussion of the ways to solve problems.

#### **Structure and Reimbursement of Costs**

The Project Board will be chaired by the National Project Director. Beside the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection by the National Project Director, the Board is expected to include representatives from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development and UNDP. The final list of the Project Board members will be completed at the outset of project operations and presented in the Inception Report. New members into the Board or participants into the Board meetings during the project implementation can be invited at the decision of the Board, by ensuring, however, that the Board will remain sufficiently lean to facilitate its effective operation. Project manager will participate as a non-voting member in the Project Board meetings.

The costs of the Board's work shall be considered as the Government's or other project partners' voluntary in-kind contribution to the project and shall not be paid separately by the project. Members of the Board are also not eligible to receive any monetary compensation from their work as experts or advisers to the project.

#### **Meetings**

It is suggested that the Board will have regular meetings, twice a year, or more often if required. A tentative schedule of the Board meetings will be agreed as a part of the annual work plans. The project manager shall distribute all materials associated with the meeting agenda prior to the meeting.

## **National Project Director**

As a representative of the project's main Government Implementing Partner, the main duties and responsibilities of the National Project Director (NDP) include:

- Supervise and guide the project implementation directly as well as through the Project Board meetings by reviewing and commenting project progress reports and project implementation reviews (PIRs) and by meeting at regular intervals with the project manager;
- Coordinate the project activities with those of the Government and provide guidance on policy issues;
- Certifying the annual and, as applicable, quarterly work plans, financial reports and ensuring their accuracy and consistency with the project document and its agreed amendments;
- Taking the lead in developing linkages with the relevant authorities at national, provincial and governmental level and supporting the project in resolving any institutional or policy related conflicts that may emerge during its implementation.

## **Project Manager**

### **Duties and responsibilities:**

Operational project management in accordance with the Project Document and the UNDP guidelines and procedures for UNDP implementation, including:

Assume primary responsibility for daily project management - both organizational and substantive matters--ensuring that budgeting, planning and general monitoring of the project are in accordance with the Project Document and the rules and procedures established in the UNDP Programming Manual;

General coordination, management and supervision of project implementation;

Preparation of annual work plans and budgets with close monitoring of the overall project progress and conducting required adaptive management to reflect the changing circumstances and eventually emerging new opportunities;

Managing the procurement and the project budget under the supervision of UNDP to assure timely involvement of local and international experts, organisation of training and public outreach, purchase of required equipment etc. in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures;

Submission of annual Project Implementation Reviews and other required progress reports (such as QPRs) to the Project Board and the UNDP in accordance with the section "Monitoring and Evaluation" of the Project Document (with a close linkage to required adaptive management actions);

Supervising and coordinating the contracts of the experts working for the project;

As applicable, communicating with project's international partners and other donors and financing entities active in Serbia for leveraging additional financing for meeting the project objective and targets;

Actively exploring opportunities for new partnerships and opportunities for co-ordination and co-operation with other ongoing and planned activities related to the Rio Conventions and other MEAs in Serbia and abroad; and

Ensuring otherwise successful completion of the project in accordance with the stated outcomes and performance indicators summarized in the project's results framework and within the planned schedule and budget.

### **Expected Qualifications:**

The candidates applying for the position are expected to have:

- Advanced university degree and at least 10 years of professional experience in the specific areas the project is dealing with, including solid knowledge of the state-of-the-art approaches and best practices related to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);

- Experience in managing projects of similar complexity and nature, including demonstrated capacity to manage people and actively explore new, innovative implementation and financing mechanisms to achieve the project objective;
- Demonstrated experience and success in working with the Serbian public institutions and NGOs in the environment field; track record of creating partnerships and leveraging financing for activities of common interest;
- Good analytical and problem-solving skills and the related ability for adaptive management with prompt action on the conclusion and recommendations coming out from the project's regular monitoring and self-assessment activities as well as from periodic external evaluations;
- Ability and demonstrated success to work in a team, to effectively organise it, and to motivate its members and other project counterparts to effectively work towards the project's objective and expected outcomes;
- Good communication skills and competence in handling project's external relations at all levels;
- Fluent/good knowledge of Serbian and English languages; and
- Familiarity and prior experience with UNDP and GEF requirements and procedures are considered as an asset

### **Project Assistant**

#### **Duties and responsibilities:**

Supporting the project manager in the implementation of the project, including:

- Responsibility for logistics and administrative support of project implementation, including administrative management of the project budget, required procurement support, etc.
- Controlling project expenditures and maintaining up to date business and financial documentation, in accordance with UNDP and other project reporting requirements;
- Organizing meetings, business correspondence and other communications with the project partners;
- Provide logistical support to the project team and consultants working for the project in organising duty travel, meetings, workshops etc;
- Ensuring effective dissemination of, and access to, information on project activities and results and supporting the project outreach and PR activities in general, including keeping the project web-site up to date in co-operation with the project's IT expert;
- Managing the project files and supporting the project manager in preparing the required financial and other reports required for monitoring and supervision of project progress;
- Supporting the project manager in managing contracts, in organizing correspondence and in ensuring effective implementation of the project otherwise.

#### **Expected Qualifications:**

- University degree in an environment-related field or in economics, international relations, policy analysis, or management;
- Fluent/good knowledge of the Serbian and English languages;
- Demonstrated experience and success of work in a similar position;
- Good administration and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to work effectively under pressure;
- Good computer skills;

- Familiarity and prior experience with UNDP and GEF requirements and procedures are considered as an asset.

## **IC / Project Adviser (part-time)**

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

Support UNDP and the project management at the project inception phase monitoring the progress of the project and its different sub-components and, as needed, build the capacity of the local experts working for the project to successfully implement the project activities, ensuring that they comply with the agreed benchmarks and success indicators of the project as well as international best practices and lessons learnt. The expected level of involvement will be approximately 20 days (including 1 mission), with the bulk of the work occurring during the first year of implementation.

The specific responsibilities include, among others, to:

- support the local project management team in organising the implementation of the project's different sub-components at the inception phase, including support to the project manager in the preparation of the project inception report and annual work plans, and drafting and refining Terms of Reference for the other project experts and subcontractors as needed;
- support adaptive management by reviewing the progress of the project every six months for the first two years of implementation and making suggestions for eventual changes and/or complementary activities;
- provide specific recommendations for the scope and format of the MEA Annual Report that will be produced under Sub-Component 1.2;
- propose methodologies and specific software models for the EIA database in Sub-Component 2.1;
- contribute policy recommendations to the implementation of activities under all outcomes of the project; by building on international experiences and lessons learnt from capacity strengthening in MEA implementation, particularly Aarhus-related activities such as the conduct of EIAs and SEAs;
- support the project manager in supervising the work of the contracted individual experts and companies, including review of training proposals and content;
- support the project manager in arranging co-operation with the key stakeholders and, as applicable, support the identification and establishment of new national and/or international partnerships and to support the project goals and objectives; and
- support the local project team in monitoring and evaluating project *implementation* and project *results*.

### **Expected Qualifications:**

- a university degree in a field related to the project;
- demonstrated experience and success in supporting similar projects (or their sub-components);
- good knowledge of international experiences, state of the art approaches and best practices in the specific areas covered by the project and its sub-components;
- good analytical skills and effective communication and training skills and competence in handling external relations at all levels;
- ability to work in a team and to motivate other team members and counterparts;
- fluency in English;
- familiarity with UNDP and GEF requirements is considered as an asset.

### **IC / Post-Graduate Environmental Education and Research Expert (part-time)**

The consultant will work with the IC / Project Adviser and report to the Project Manager on the project components that require targeted expertise in post-graduate environmental education and research. The consultant will also provide analysis and written guidance as necessary to the National Implementing Partner in the areas of Calls for Research Proposals and for doctoral programs in global environmental studies.

Specific responsibilities include, among others, to:

- support the local project management team in organising the implementation of the project components that address post-graduate environmental studies;
- provide a written summary of selected EU member state policies on R&D and post-graduate education;
- provide specific recommendations to the Project Manager and the National Implementing Partner for the scope of the Call for Research Proposals related to MEAs (Sub-Component 1.1);
- build on international experiences and best practices to provide specific recommendations to the Project Manager and the National Implementing Partner on the establishment of a PhD program of study addressing global environmental issues (Sub-Component 3.3).

#### **Expected Qualifications:**

- University Masters Degree in environmental science, geography or other comparative university degree; a PhD would be preferred;
- At least 10 years of relevant environmental education experience at the post-secondary level;
- Knowledge of environmental management tools, as well as structures and policies of national and EU environmental authorities;
- Strong interpersonal and communications skills;
- Fluency in English;
- Experience with EU-funded programs such as FP7 and Horizon 2020 is considered as an asset.

### **IC/ Project Terminal Evaluation**

The evaluator will be an independent expert that is contracted to assess the extent to which the project has met project objectives as stated in the project document and produced cost-effective deliverables. The consultant will also rate capacities developed under the project using the Capacity Development Scorecard.

The Terms of Reference for the International Evaluation Consultant will follow UNDP/GEF policies and procedures, and together with the final agenda will be agreed upon by the UNDP/GEF RCU, UNDP Country Office and the Project Team. The final report will be cleared and accepted by UNDP (Country Office and Regional Coordination Unit) before being made public.

## ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW CRITERIA

### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Information</b>	
Project Title	Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
Project Number	00094606/00087663
Location (Global/Region/Country)	Republic of Serbia

### Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

#### QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

##### *Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach*

- The project development process involved the active participation of both rights-holders and duty-bearers. Analysis in the project development process explicitly focused on structural causes of the non-realization of rights; in this case, access to timely and accurate information on global environmental issues to support policy-making and compliance on the part of duty-bearers and awareness for rights-holders. Project activities and outcomes were developed to support implementation of national and international commitments in the area of environment.
- All project components include activities to build the capacities of duty-bearers to fulfill their obligations.
- Project monitoring and evaluation will examine project processes and outcomes with a view to human rights standards and principles.
- The project has been informed by the recommendations of international human rights bodies, particularly with regards to the rights of women.

##### *Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment*

- The proposed project will analyse any gender-based differences in knowledge and awareness regarding global environmental issues among key target groups (youth, students, CSOs, and Members of Parliament) in Serbia and will work to address them. The project has already consulted the UNDP Gender Focal Point in Serbia and a UN Women representative regarding the project assumptions and activities. The project will also initiate contact with the Gender Coordinator at MOAEP when that position (in pending legislation) is created and will maintain open lines of communication. Project indicators are designed to explicitly measure the representation of women in trainings and other project-related activities. Furthermore, the project will seek to include women's NGOs in CSO consultations and will conduct outreach to women Members of Parliament and women conducting research on global environmental issues.

##### *Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability*

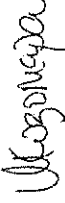
- The project mainstreams environmental sustainability into a number of key planning processes, specifically the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments, the inclusion of global environmental issues into Disaster Risk Reduction plans at the local level, and strengthening research on global environmental issues. Improved reporting and compliance with the Rio Conventions will also increase the extent to which environmental sustainability is a part of the public sector and community life more broadly in Serbia.

## Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks


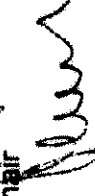
QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 -- Risk Screening Checklist (based on any "Yes" responses).</i>		QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i>		QUESTION 6: What social and environmental management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?	
Risk Description	Impact and Probability (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, High)	Comments	Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.	
Risk 1: .... N/A -- see checklist	I = P =				
Risk 2 ....	I = P =				
Risk 3: ....	I = P =				
Risk 4: ....	I = P =				
[add additional rows as needed]					
QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?					
Select one (see SESP for guidance)				Comments	

	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>X</b>	The project does not involve any investments or infrastructure-related activities – see checklist.
	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>High Risk</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?</b>			
Check all that apply			<b>Comments</b>
	<i>Principle 1: Human Rights</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<i>7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### Final Sign Off

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
QA Assessor 	30.06.2016.	UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.



QA Approver 	01.09.2016	UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair 	01.09.2016	UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

## SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

<b>Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks</b>		<b>Answer (Yes/No)</b>
<b>Principles 1: Human Rights</b>		
1.	Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? <sup>15</sup>	No
3.	Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5.	Are there measures or mechanisms in place to respond to local community grievances?	Yes*
6.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
7.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
8.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
9.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
<b>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>		
1.	Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2.	Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No N/A
3.	Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	No
<b>Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability:</b> Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
<b>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>		

<sup>15</sup> Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

\* Quality assurance procedures undertaken as part of the standard project implementation (i.e. regular UNDP monitoring, annual meetings, and independent monitoring) would provide an opportunity to address grievances.

1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No*
1.3	Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11	Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area? <i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i>	No
<b>Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</b>		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant <sup>16</sup> greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
<b>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</b>		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No

\* However, NO infrastructure or investment activities will be undertaken in these areas (or in any others) in the course of the proposed project. Activities will be limited to awareness raising, training, and outreach.

<sup>16</sup> In regards to CO<sub>2</sub>, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
<b>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage</b>		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
<b>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</b>		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? <sup>17</sup>	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
<b>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</b>		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the rights, lands and territories of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether Indigenous Peoples possess the legal titles to such areas)?	No
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.4	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.5	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No

<sup>17</sup> Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

6.6	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.7	Would the Project potentially affect the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
<b>Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i>	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

## ANNEX E: BRIEF GENDER ANALYSIS

**Project Title:** Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

**Project ID Number:** GEF Project ID: 9114 UNDP PIMS Project ID 5227

### I. Introduction

This analysis aims to provide a brief overview of the gender situation in Serbia, identify gender issues that may be relevant to the project, and to examine potential gender mainstreaming opportunities. The analysis was based on available data from studies conducted by the Government of Serbia, donor agencies, and the European Union. It also includes targeted research supported under the Project Preparation Grant.

### II. Implementation Capacity and MEAs

Global environmental threats are highly visible in Serbia. Critical environmental threats to biodiversity in Serbia as identified in official reports to the CBD include habitat loss and pollution/contamination. Climate variability and climate impacts have also influenced land degradation, while habitat loss and land degradation have reduced carbon sequestration in soils and biomass. Illegal timber harvesting and forest fires also affect multiple convention areas. The most visible cross-cutting issue at the national level is that of natural disasters. Research indicates that more than 80% of natural disasters in Serbia over the past decade have been related to climate change. In 2014, severe flooding killed 57 people in Serbia and caused an estimated EUR 1.55 billion in damages from flooding in several cities and landslides in the mountains. Disasters such as the 2014 flood and other cross-cutting threats reduce human security in the region.

Serbia faces a dual challenge in implementing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): it must strengthen MEAs in a way that will generate global benefits while also responding effectively to global environmental concerns that threaten its population. In addition to ratifying the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD) and the Ramsar Convention in 1992, Serbia has continued to express a commitment to MEAs by its ratification by a number of other MEAs, including the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in 2007. However, while Framework environmental policies and strategies in Serbia are present, they face barriers to implementation. For this reason, the capacity of Serbia to achieve its stated environmental objectives is limited. While individual capacity has increased in some areas since the NCSA was completed in 2008, several cross-cutting constraints identified in that report still exist. Significant capacity issues at the *institutional level* include a lack of vertical and horizontal coordination, gaps in policy/program implementation and enforcement, and a lack of continuity in investments and programs. At the *organizational level*, barriers include a lack of coordinated management in specific agencies, and a lack of institutional memory. At the *individual level*, barriers include a lack of awareness of global environmental issues among the following groups: policy-makers, legislators, local officials, university students and researchers, youth, and the general public.

### III. Gender Profile of Serbia

Women comprise 51.3% of a total population of 7,114,393 in Serbia.<sup>18</sup> Serbia's Human Development Index (HDI) as a whole is assessed as "high."<sup>19</sup> It was calculated at 0.745 in 2015, up from 0.726 in 2000, the first year for which country-level values were calculated.

Women have made steady gains in educational achievement over time. For women over the age of 25, 58.4% have some secondary education, as opposed to 73.6% of men. At the highest levels of research, there is only one member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences who is a woman. However, "Not only are more women enrolled in colleges and universities (55%), but women make up a higher percentage of graduates – 61%..In 2009, the number of women and men with doctoral degrees had evened out, and women accounted for 44% of all doctoral and master's degrees and specialists among teaching personnel at universities and colleges."<sup>20</sup>

Employment is a more mixed picture. As of 2014, women's official rate of participation in the labor force was 44.5%, as opposed to an official rate of 75.5% for men, and unemployment fell below 20%. As the 2015 EU Progress Report noted, "...both employment and activity rates have increased. Although some of the new jobs were in the public sector or in informal employment, large gains were observed in registered private employment, especially for women. Most of these jobs, however, went into less paid, low productivity sectors."<sup>21</sup> As the EU 2015 Progress Report concludes, "Women's participation in the labour market as well as the gender pay gap need to be tackled further."<sup>22</sup>

In terms of public participation, as of 2014, women held 34% of seats in Parliament, and there is a Group of Women Parliamentarians. However, as the 2015 EU Progress Report notes, "Although the number of women members of parliament increased to 34 %, women's participation in politics and in the private sector remains very low."<sup>23</sup>

Serbia is a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). As a signatory, the country files periodic reports to the Convention and most recently filed a combined second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/SRB/Q/2-3) in 2013. Under the Millennium Development Goals Initiative, Serbia monitored and reported its progress on MDG3 (Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women).

In other areas of women's lives, the EU 2015 Progress Report found that "The increasing number of women killed by their partners is of concern. Emergency protection orders are not issued promptly, the number of shelters is insufficient and there is no state-run centre for victims of sexual violence and no national women's helpline. The protection of women against all forms of violence needs to be strengthened and mechanisms for coordinating the collection and sharing

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<sup>18</sup> Source: Eurostat [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Europe\\_in\\_figures\\_-\\_Eurostat\\_yearbook](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Europe_in_figures_-_Eurostat_yearbook)

<sup>19</sup> UN 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>). Accessed April 7, 2016.

<sup>20</sup> Đoković – Papić, Dragana et. al., eds. (2011). *Women and Men in the Republic of Serbia*. Belgrade: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.:91.

<sup>21</sup> European Commission (2015). *Commission Staff Working Document: Serbia 2015 Report*. SWD (2015) 211 Final. Brussels: European Commission, 10 November 2015: 25.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.: 47.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.: 56.

of data between all relevant actors in the system enhanced.”<sup>24</sup> As the UN Development Planning Framework for 2016-2020 summarizes the situation, “Years of transition have eroded women’s rights in relation to participation, work and social protection.”<sup>25</sup>

#### *Gender Development Index (GDI)*

In 2014, UNDP introduced a new measure into its Human Development Reports, the GDI. This measure is based on the sex-disaggregated Human Development Index, which is defined as a ratio of the female to the male HDI. As such, the GDI is meant to identify gender inequalities in three basic dimensions of human development: health (measured by female and male life expectancy at birth), education (measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and mean years for adults aged 25 years and older); and command over economic resources (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). The 2014 female HDI value for Serbia was 0.757 compared to 0.784 for males, resulting in a GDI value of 0.966. This ranking places Serbia in 38<sup>th</sup> place out of 188 countries.<sup>26</sup>

*Table 1: GDI Inputs for Serbia*

Life Expectancy at Birth		Expected Years of Schooling		Mean Years of Schooling		GNI per capita		HDI values		F-M Ratio
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	GDI Value
77.7	72.1	14.9	13.9	9.8	11.2	9,697	14,799	0.757	0.784	0.966

Source: UNDP 2015.

#### *Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)*

This measure, which has been developed by the OECD, results in a score between 0 and 1, with “0” being the lowest level of discrimination, and “1” being the highest. OECD clusters 108 countries based on their scores into five levels of discrimination: very low, low, medium, high and very high. In 2014, the SIGI value for Serbia was 0.0097, which placed it in the category of “very low” levels of discrimination.<sup>27</sup>

#### *Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI)*

The Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) of the World Economic Forum examines the gap between men and women in four categories: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival; and political empowerment.<sup>28</sup> Out of 142 countries, Serbia’s rank based on GGGI in 2014 is given below:

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.: 56.

<sup>25</sup> UN DPF: 14.

<sup>26</sup> UN 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>). Accessed April 7, 2016.

<sup>27</sup> OECD 2016. <http://www.genderindex.org/ranking>. Accessed April 7, 2016.

<sup>28</sup> World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Report 2014. Country Profiles. [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR\\_CountryProfiles.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CountryProfiles.pdf).



Table 2: GGGI for Serbia

Description	Score	Rank
Economic participation and opportunity	0.6704	67
Educational attainment	0.9954	54
Health and survival	0.9730	74
Political empowerment	0.1957	51
GGGI <sup>29</sup>	0.0.7086 Inequality = 0.00 Equality = 1.00	54

### Gender Statistics

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia publishes *Women and Men in the Republic of Serbia*, which provides an overview of gender-disaggregated data.<sup>30</sup> The current national strategy on gender equality contains a specific objective on gender-sensitive statistics and records (Specific Objective 3.4).

Sex-disaggregated statistical data collected from the following institutions has been presented: the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), the Institute of Public Health of Serbia, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Employment Service, the Republic Fund for Health Insurance, the Republic Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance and the Republic Institute for Social Protection.

## IV. National Framework Protecting Women and Promoting Gender Equality

### Legal and Regulatory Framework

Article 15 of the 2006 Constitution of Serbia endorses the equality of women and men and the policy of equal opportunity. The Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination were adopted in 2009. However, a 2013 review by CEDAW expressed concern at “(a) The failure of the State party to implement these laws in a timely and effective manner and the lack of awareness about the provisions of such laws among its population, resulting in a low number of cases initiated; [and] (b) The absence of the concept of intersectional discrimination against women in the State party’s anti-discrimination laws....”<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> World Economic Forum (2014). *The Global Gender Gap Report 2014*. Geneva: WEF.

<sup>30</sup> Đoković – Papić (2014). *Women and Men in the Republic of Serbia 2014*. Belgrade: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

<sup>31</sup> CEDAW (2013) Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Serbia CEDAW/C/SRB/CO/2-3: 3.

### *Policy Framework*

The primary policy documents on gender equality is the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020, which includes a two-year action plan (2016-2018). The strategy includes three strategic objectives, which focus on improving the culture of gender equality; increasing equality by applying measures to promote equal opportunity; and the systematic introduction of gender into the adoption, implementation and monitoring of public policies.

These documents were approved in October 2015, and they follow on the previous National Strategy for 2009-2015 and Action Plan for 2010-2015. Two reviews of these previous documents identified certain shortcomings. First, a CEDAW Committee review expressed concern at "The lack of adequate State funding for the implementation of these and other strategies and action plans aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination against women..."<sup>32</sup> Second, a 2015 independent evaluation of the National Action Plan found that, "Based on evaluation finding, the conclusion is that the actual impact of NAP was very modest, limited to increased participation of women in legislative bodies, improved statistics, and increased awareness on certain issues such as VAW, deprived position of rural and Roma women, and similar. Legislative changes that are introduced are limited as by-laws were not adopted and implementation is not progressing."<sup>33</sup> Furthermore, difficulties with policy implementation were identified in the EU Progress Report for 2015, which stated "On equal opportunities between women and men, amendments made to the labour law in July 2014 help to empower women at work, help working mothers to reconcile family and professional life, and offer greater protection to pregnant workers. However, the legislation needs to be fully implemented, particularly regarding the dismissal of pregnant women and women on maternity leave, sexual harassment, the gender pay gap and inequality in promotion, salaries and pensions."<sup>34</sup>

### *Institutional Framework*

The primary institution addressing women's issues is the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality of the Government of Serbia ([www.gendernet.rs](http://www.gendernet.rs)), which was established in 2014. In addition to the Coordinating Body, "major partners" in the current UN Development Planning framework for gender-related activities include the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, the Ministry of Interior, the Network of Women Members of Parliament, the Provincial Secretariat for Gender Equality, local-level bodies for gender equality, and women's NGOs.

### *Development Cooperation*

As the current UNDP Country Programme Document states, "Gender equality is one of three cross-cutting issues in the NAD [national priorities for international assistance] and is addressed through different priorities." UNDAF Outcome 4 directly addresses gender: it states, "By 2020, state institutions and other relevant actors enhance gender equality and enable women and girls, especially those from vulnerable groups, to live lives free from discrimination and violence."<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid.: 5.

<sup>33</sup> Vuković, Olivera, et al. (2015) *Evaluation of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Improving the Position of Women and Promoting Gender Equality in the Republic of Serbia – Final Report*. Belgrade: 10.

<sup>34</sup> European Commission (2015): 47.

<sup>35</sup> UNDP Country Programming Document 2016-2020: 9.

Under the current UN Development Partnership Framework, (2016-2020), gender is mentioned under Outcome 4, Output 5 (The National Disaster Risk Management System is implemented at central and local levels) with an indicator "Percentage of municipalities that conduct gender-sensitive risk assessments, prepare local gender-sensitive disaster risk management plans, conduct capacity development and public awareness activities."

The UNECE 3<sup>rd</sup> Environmental Performance Review for Serbia does not address gender issues in environment.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consistently applies twin-track approach of gender mainstreaming across all 17 goals and a specific goal on Gender Equality (SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). The importance of this approach is that all actions in the other areas will reflect gender equality considerations and specific needs of women and men and will shape the international agenda in the increasingly equitable manner.<sup>36</sup>

As a member of the UN Country Team, UN Women Serbia is participating in efforts to localize these SDGs has led a consultative process that included women's CSOs to identifying national challenges and opportunities. The consultation found that localizing the implementation of the SDGs will require responsible policy-making, adequate budgeting, and good statistics for evidence-based policy-making.<sup>37</sup>

## **V. Gender in Capacity Development and Global Environmental Issues**

In its 2009 primer on capacity development, UNDP identifies gender training modules as a useful activity when there is a need to strengthen leadership capacity and manage coalitions; it also recommends gender-disaggregated project indicators.<sup>38</sup>

### *Gender and the Rio Conventions*

The three Rio Conventions used the occasion of Rio+20 to produce a common publication on gender and the conventions. They stated that "The further development and implementation of approaches to gender mainstreaming and synergistic action towards Rio+20 are envisaged to ensure that an integrated approach is taken on environmental governance, poverty reduction and sustainable development; The vision of the Rio Conventions on gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting priority and paradigm shift is to ensure that gender-related issues are taken into account in the implementation of activities that lead to the achievement of the long-term objectives of these conventions...." The statement also expresses the intent of the convention secretariats to explore "opportunities to work with governments to promote efforts at the national level in order to intensify gender-related actions that contribute to climate change solutions, the preservation of biodiversity and combating land degradation, desertification and drought."<sup>39</sup> The Rio+20

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<sup>36</sup> Correspondence with Milana Rakovic, UN Women, 11 April 2016.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Wignaraja, Kanni, ed. (2009). *Capacity Development: A UNDP Primer*. New York: UNDP: 44,49.

<sup>39</sup> UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD (2012). *The Rio Conventions: Action on Gender*. ISBN 92-9219-093-8. Randers, Denmark:

process also provided an opportunity to highlight successful convention-related projects that focused on women as change agents.<sup>40</sup> These included combined disaster risk reduction / climate change adaptation programs, such as risk and vulnerability mapping, water resource management in agriculture through women's field schools, job creation through women's recycling businesses, and women's small businesses promoting solar energy and clean cook stoves.

Specific conventions have also taken steps to acknowledge gender issues and the importance of women in global environmental stewardship. For example, the Convention on Biological Diversity as a whole has adopted a Gender Plan of Action for 2015-2020, and COP 12 Decision XII/7. (Mainstreaming Gender Considerations) "1. *Recognizes* the importance of gender considerations to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; 2. *Encourages* Parties to give gender due consideration in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to integrate gender into the development of national indicators; 3. *Recognizes* that important steps in gender monitoring, evaluation and indicators relevant to the Convention have already been taken by Parties and relevant organizations but that additional work is required, including with regard to collecting and using gender disaggregated data, and therefore, *encourages* Parties and relevant organizations to undertake further work in this respect; and 4. *Encourages* Parties to build capacity to integrate biodiversity considerations into national gender policies and action plans."

In climate change, the UNFCCC published a policy guide in October 2014 on existing mandates and entry points for gender under the convention. The guide divides text in UNFCCC Decisions and Conclusions into three categories: 1) text that mandates efforts to enhance gender balance / women's participation; 2) language that recognizes women as vulnerable groups; and 3) language that mandates the integration of gender-sensitive policies and actions.<sup>41</sup>

A 2015 report commissioned by UNDP on gender and climate change in Serbia noted that women in rural areas mostly worked in agriculture, which was highly vulnerable (requires additional irrigation) to climate change. It also found that women faced higher risks during and after disasters because they had less access to information such as early warnings and because they may receive fewer resources due to inequitable distribution of aid. Finally, the report found that because women's knowledge of natural resources and their common responsibilities in households and communities could be crucial for adaptation and disaster management, it was very important to raise women's awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation options among women is the most important."<sup>42</sup> The report also provided specific recommendations for the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia on response in emergency situations and post-emergency situations, such as making gender- and age- disaggregated records for emergency situations standard practice and revising procedures related to triage and family accommodation during natural disasters so that families could remain together as much as possible (as opposed to situations where the priority evacuation of women inadvertently turns into the forced separation of families).<sup>43</sup>

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UCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD.

<sup>40</sup> Lynn, Helen (2012). Women's Rio+20: Good Practice Awards. Utrecht: WECF.

<sup>41</sup> Burns, Bridget and Joanna Patouris (2014). UNFCCC Decisions and Conclusions: Existing Mandates and Entry Points. Gender and Climate Change: Technical Guide for COP-20, Lima, Peru. New York: WEDO: 4.

<sup>42</sup> Muric, Jasmina (2015). *Gender and Climate Change in the Republic of Serbia*. Belgrade: UNDP: 12.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

### *Gender and Other Conventions*

The recognition of gender equality in other MEAs depends upon the convention or agreement. In the case of the Aarhus Convention, for example, “The right of public participation - the core of the Aarhus Convention (articles 6, 7 and 8) – has been enshrined explicitly for women and girls in older international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979 (articles 7, 8 and 14 for rural women) and the Beijing Declaration (paras. 13, 16, 19, 20, 34 and 36) and Platform for Action, 1995. The Aarhus Convention does not explicitly recognise the right of public participation for women and girls, however, the definition of natural persons includes both sexes.”<sup>44</sup>

In disaster risk reduction (DRR), however, gender issues are acknowledged at both the international and the country level. The official outcome of the 2015 European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction included language to “Acknowledge women as a force in resilience building. The way forward to women leadership integration requires a shift in approach capturing the mutually reinforcing relationship between disaster and climate risk, choice of development pathways and gender equality towards transformation in policy and practice.”<sup>45</sup>

In Serbia, this approach was embodied in activities carried out under a UNDP project supported by the Government of Japan entitled “Increased Resilience to Respond to Emergency Situations,” which concluded in February 2016. The project provided grants to women’s organizations to address DRR issues, and a total of eleven grants ranging from USD 10,111 to USD 18,000 were provided to women’s CSOs in regions across the country for six-month projects. Project activities covered all phases: from prevention (awareness raising to reduce risk), to response (establishing an amateur radio station for emergency communications, empowering women to participate in local-level emergency decision-making) and recovery (providing post-disaster trauma counselling and support for women who were victims, creating a women’s network to participate in reconstruction). The broad variety of women’s organizations allowed the grants activities to reach vulnerable women (rural women and Roma women).

## **VI. Project Conformity with UNDP and GEF Gender Indicators**

### *GEF Gender Indicators*

This annex represents a **gender analysis**. Specific research conducted during the project preparation period has identified areas where appropriate awareness-raising strategies can take into account the differentiated roles of men and women in certain activities related to MEAs, such as climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. All components of the project will be sensitive to different community networks, both formal and informal, that are used by men and women (and boys and girls for youth-related activities) for disseminating information and raising awareness. The **project framework** includes gender-specific activities, such as support for women researchers. It also includes targets for women’s participation, and the project monitoring and evaluation budget supports the collection of gender-disaggregated data. In addition, the project will monitor the **share of women and men who are direct project beneficiaries**, and it

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<sup>44</sup> Women in Europe for a Common Future (2014). The Gender Division Within the Aarhus Convention [position paper]. Utrecht: WECF: 1.

<sup>45</sup> Outcome of the European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction. Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. July 8, 2014, Milan, Italy: 5.

will also monitor the nature of these benefits. Finally, project targets and activities will be monitored in **project reporting**, both in annual reports and in the mid-term evaluation and the terminal evaluation.

#### *UNDP Gender Indicators*

The project concept and proposed activities have been discussed with the UNDP gender focal point and with a UN Women Portfolio Officer in Serbia. The Atlas gender marker for this project is 1.

### **VIII. Conclusions**

For a capacity development initiative on global environmental issues to be successful in Serbia, it must take three steps related to gender:

Recognize the importance of women in the management of global environmental issues and therefore in the implementation of MEAs in Serbia;

Give due consideration to gender issues in project activities, including women's roles and participation at the local level in rural areas,<sup>46</sup> in tertiary education,<sup>47</sup> and in the legislative branch of government; and including the need to integrate gender issues into environmental legislation; and

Encourage gender balance and women's participation in all project activities and global environmental management more broadly, particularly when there are entry points such as local government training, youth grants (for girls), research support (for women scientists), and parliament (for women parliamentarians).

In cross-cutting project areas, awareness-raising strategies can take into account the differentiated roles of men and women in certain activities related to MEAs, such as climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. All components of the project should be sensitive to different community networks, both formal and informal, that are used by men and women (and boys and girls for youth-related activities) for disseminating information and raising awareness. Finally, in the areas of project management and monitoring and evaluation, the project should not only collect gender-disaggregated data, but it should provide this data to other organizations and promote its use in reporting to relevant UN conventions. Specific action items are included in the proposed Action Plan on the following page.

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<sup>46</sup> The UNDP CPD (2016-2020) notes that "Women and girls in rural areas...are particularly vulnerable." (p. 3).

<sup>47</sup> Đoković – Papić, Dragana et. al., eds. (2011) notes that "Among graduates, men account for more than half in the fields of natural sciences, mathematics, computer science (61%) and technical science, manufacturing and construction (56%), while women constitute the majority of all graduates in the fields of education (as much as 91%), health and social care (77%), arts and humanities (65%), and social sciences, business and law (62%). A more or less equal number of male and female students graduate in the fields of services, agriculture and veterinary medicine." (p. 91).

## Proposed Action Plan

Objective	Action	Indicator	Responsible Institution
Component 1 : Utilizing Research and Information to Strengthen Policy-Making			
Ensure gender-balanced participation in project activities related to the call for research proposals and CSO consultations	Develop outreach strategy  Monitor levels of participation and adjust outreach strategy as needed.	By the mid-term, participation in these project activities is at least consistent with the gender profile of the participating organizations.  By the end of the project, women's participation exceeds their representation in the participating organizations or is at least 50%.	PIU, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology Development
Provide junior and/or mid-career women researchers with opportunities to advance within the Serbia research community	Support women's participation in professional conferences on global environmental issues	By the end of the project, at least two women researchers have attended professional conferences on global environmental topics that enhance their experience	
Component 2 Strengthening mechanisms for integrating MEAs into other sectors			
Support active women's participation in SEA / EIA trainings	Develop a strategy for women's involvement in the training sessions and target for women's participation.	Women's participation meets or exceeds the target established by the PIU for both objectives.	PIU
Support active women's participation in the preparation of DRR plans	Monitor women's participation and collect gender-disaggregated		

Objective	Action	Indicator	Responsible Institution
	statistics on training attendance and gender balance at the NIP.		
<b>Component 3 Targeted Education and Training to Support MEA Implementation</b>			
Ensure the participation of girls and women in outreach and education activities under Output 3	<p>Develop a strategy for women's involvement in parliamentary training sessions and a target for women's participation.</p> <p>Develop a strategy for outreach to girls under the environmental youth grants activities and a target for girls' participation.</p> <p>Monitor the participation of girls and women in all activities under Component 3.</p>	Girls' and Women's participation meets or exceeds the target established by the PIU for both objectives.	PIU
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation / Project Management</b>			
Increase understanding of how project benefits may vary by gender	<p>Include gender issues in the scope of work for the Terminal Evaluation of the project.</p> <p>Consult both men and women in the development of promotional materials</p>	Gender-disaggregated findings are available for the project approach and activities.	PIU
Raise awareness regarding		Increase in awareness levels regarding global environmental issues among both men and women	PIU



Objective	Action	Indicator	Responsible Institution
	Assess the most appropriate communication channels for dissemination about project activities, keeping in mind that they may be different for girls and women as opposed to boys and men.	The project communication strategy reflects men's and women's communication channels	

## ANNEX F: STANDARD LETTER OF AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Dear *[name of government official]*,

1. Reference is made to consultations between officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects. UNDP and the Ministry hereby agree that the UNDP country office may provide such support services at the request of the Ministry through its institution designated in the relevant programme support document or project document, as described below.
2. The UNDP country office may provide support services for assistance with reporting requirements and direct payment. In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the Government-designated institution (the Ministry) is strengthened to enable it to carry out such activities directly. The costs incurred by the UNDP country office in providing such support services shall be recovered from the project and in line with GEF Guidelines.
3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the designated institution, the following support services for the activities of the programme/project:
  - (a) Identification and/or recruitment of project and programme personnel;
  - (b) Identification and facilitation of training activities;
  - (c) Procurement of goods and services;
4. The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project and programme personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be detailed in an annex to the programme support document or project document, in the form provided in the Attachment hereto. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of a programme or project, the annex to the programme support document or project document is revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP resident representative and the designated institution.
5. The relevant provisions of the UNDP standard basic assistance agreement signed on 24 March 1988 (Official Gazette of SFRJ 11/1988) with the Government of the Republic of Serbia (the "SBAA"), including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. The Government shall retain overall responsibility for the nationally managed programme or project through its designated institution. The responsibility of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the programme support document or project document.
6. Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the SBAA.
7. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be specified in the annex to the programme support document or project document.
8. The UNDP country office shall submit progress reports on the support services provided and shall report on the costs reimbursed in providing such services, as may be required.
9. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.
10. If you are in agreement with the provisions set forth above, please sign and return to this office two signed copies of this letter. Upon your signature, this letter shall constitute an agreement between the Ministry and UNDP on the terms and conditions for the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for nationally managed programmes and projects.

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Signed on behalf of UNDP  
*Irena Vojáčková Sollorano*  
*Resident Representative*

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Signed on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection

*Minister*

## Attachment

### DESCRIPTION OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Reference is made to consultations between Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP), the institution designated by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the nationally managed programme or project "Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)", project number 00094606/00087663 "the Project".

2. In accordance with the provisions of the letter of agreement and the project document, the UNDP country office shall provide support services for the Project as described below.

3. Support services to be provided:

Support services (insert description)	Schedule for the provision of the support services	Cost to UNDP of providing such support services (where appropriate)	Amount and method of reimbursement of UNDP (where appropriate)
1. Identification and/or recruitment of project personnel * Project Manager * Project Assistant	Ongoing throughout implementation when applicable	As per the UPL or according to actual cost	UNDP will directly charge the project upon receipt of request of services from the Implementing Partner
2. Procurement of goods: * Data show * PCs * Printers	Ongoing throughout implementation when applicable	As per the UPL or according to actual cost	As above
3. Procurement of Services Contractual services for companies	Ongoing throughout implementation when applicable	As per the UPL or according to actual cost	As above
4. Payment Process	Ongoing throughout implementation when applicable	As per the UPL or according to actual cost	As above
5. Ticket request (booking, purchase)	Ongoing throughout implementation when applicable	As per the UPL or according to actual cost	As above
6. F10 settlement	Ongoing throughout implementation when applicable	As per the UPL or according to actual cost	As above
	<b>Total:</b>	Up to USD 19,000 from GEF grant	

Support services provision by UNDP may be a subject to revision requested as per formal Letter to be submitted by the MAEP to UNDP.

5. Description of functions and responsibilities of the parties involved:

UNDP shall conduct the full process while the role of the Implementing Partner (IP) will be as follows:

- The Implementing Partner will send a timetable for services requested annually;
- The Implementing Partner will send the request to UNDP for the services enclosing the specifications or Terms of Reference required;
- For the hiring staff process: the IP representatives will be on the interview panel as *ex officio* members, i.e. as observers, if requested.

Implementing Partner – Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia (MAEP):

The MAEP is designated as the Implementing Partner based on a consultative process led by the UNDP Country Office with the Ministry. The Implementing Partner assumes overall responsibility for the management of the programme or project, which has two dimensions:

- responsibility for achievement of outcome, through output(s) and key activities; and
- accountability to UNDP for use of programme or project resources (refer to Box 1).

**Box 1 – Responsibilities of the MAEP**

- Assume primary responsibility to the Government of the Republic of Serbia and to UNDP for the overall performance of the project and for the use of resources.
- Effectively manage the project on the basis of clear annual work plans that are approved jointly by the project management, the MAEP and UNDP.
- Ensure that key activities are undertaken, and output is produced, in accordance with the document and work-plans.
- Designate or appoint, in cooperation with UNDP, the management of the project from the MAEP side (National Project Director).
- Ensure that due operational procedures for Projects are applied. Assume technical, financial and administrative accountability of the project.
- Provide the necessary personnel, physical facilities (office space, equipment, etc.) and other resources that are part of the Ministry counterpart's contribution, as specified in the project document.
- Participate in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the substantive and financial performance and impact of the project to the Ministry and UNDP.

**Project Management:**

The ultimate responsibility on behalf of the MAEP for managing the programme or project is placed on a senior Ministry official who shall be designated as the National Project Director (NPD).

The NPD is the party representing the MAEP ownership and authority over the programme/project, responsibility for achieving the objectives and accountability to the MAEP and UNDP for the use of resources.

Commensurate with these responsibilities, the NPD holds the ultimate authority to expend funds from the project budget. No project funds can be drawn and spent without his/her signed approval, or approval by UNDP responsible managers if a due arrangement via work planning has been made for delegation of approval authority from the NPD. (See Box 2 for details on the duties and responsibilities of the NPD).

**Box 2 – Duties and Responsibilities of the National Project Director**

In consultation with UNDP, the MAEP designates the National Project Director among officials from the MAEP at a level that provides enough authority and insight to represent the counterpart's *ownership* and *authority* over the project, to assume *responsibility* for achieving project objectives and ensure

accountability to the head of the Implementing Partner and UNDP for the use of project resources and achieving outputs.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- a) Assume overall responsibility for the successful execution and implementation of the project, accountability to the counterpart and UNDP for the proper and effective use of attached resources;
- b) Ensure consistency of the project with partner's reform strategy and relevant Ministry policies and legal procedures;
- c) Serve as a focal point for the coordination of projects with other development partners, Ministry and other stakeholders;
- d) Ensure that all counterpart's inputs committed to the project are made available and used according to the work plan;
- e) Supervise the preparation of project work plans (annual and quarterly), updating, clearance and approval, in consultation with UNDP and other stakeholders and ensure the timely request of inputs according to the project work plans;
- f) Support, in cooperation with UNDP, the recruitment of the project professional and support staff as per the agreed recruitment system outlined in National Implementation by the Government of UNDP Supported Projects: Guidelines and Procedures;
- g) Support the effective implementation of the project and delivery of the expected results, objectives and impact;
- h) Ensures appropriate supervision over the management of the project, including financial management;
- i) Ensures participation of Ministry officials in the implementation of the project;
- j) Supports adequate monitoring and impact assessment of the project;
- k) Enhances adequate documentation of the project experience and its dissemination.

**Selection criteria:**

The National Project Director is appointed/nominated by the MAEP and should be senior management official.

**Remuneration and entitlements:**

National Project Director must not receive monetary compensation from project funds for the discharge of his/her functions.

## ANNEX G: OFFLINE RISK LOG

**Risk Analysis:** An assessment of risks that may affect the project should be conducted during the formulation. Please refer to the section "[Defining a Project](#)".

Use the standard [Risk Log template](#)

Please refer to the [Deliverable Description of the Risk Log](#) for instructions

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Probability & Impact	Countermeasures/Mgt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1.	The mechanisms created by the project would not be sustainable beyond the end of the project implementation period.		Design/ Implementation	P <sup>48</sup> = 2 I <sup>49</sup> = 3	The project design will enable existing organizations with a proven track record of operations to design and provide training and awareness raising activities. Specific activities in Component 2 will address post-project resource mobilization..	Project Board + Project Manager			
2.	MEAs would not be considered sufficiently important by the government to ensure adequate participation in and support for project activities; resources and attention would be diverted to other issues.		Political	P = 2 I = 3	The project is explicitly designed to link MEAs to high-priority issues in Serbia such as EU accession and disaster risk reduction. This linkage will ensure that the project maintains high-level support.	Project Board			
3.	The lack of horizontal coordination across ministries and agencies could hinder a coordinated approach to managing MEAs.		Political	P = 2 I = 2-3	The MEA Working Group and MEA Annual Report under Component 1 will build horizontal communication into the project and foster information sharing and coordination.	Project Board			
4.	Re-organization of government ministries and		Political	P = 3 I = 3	While it is not possible to control changes in governmental	Project Board + Project			

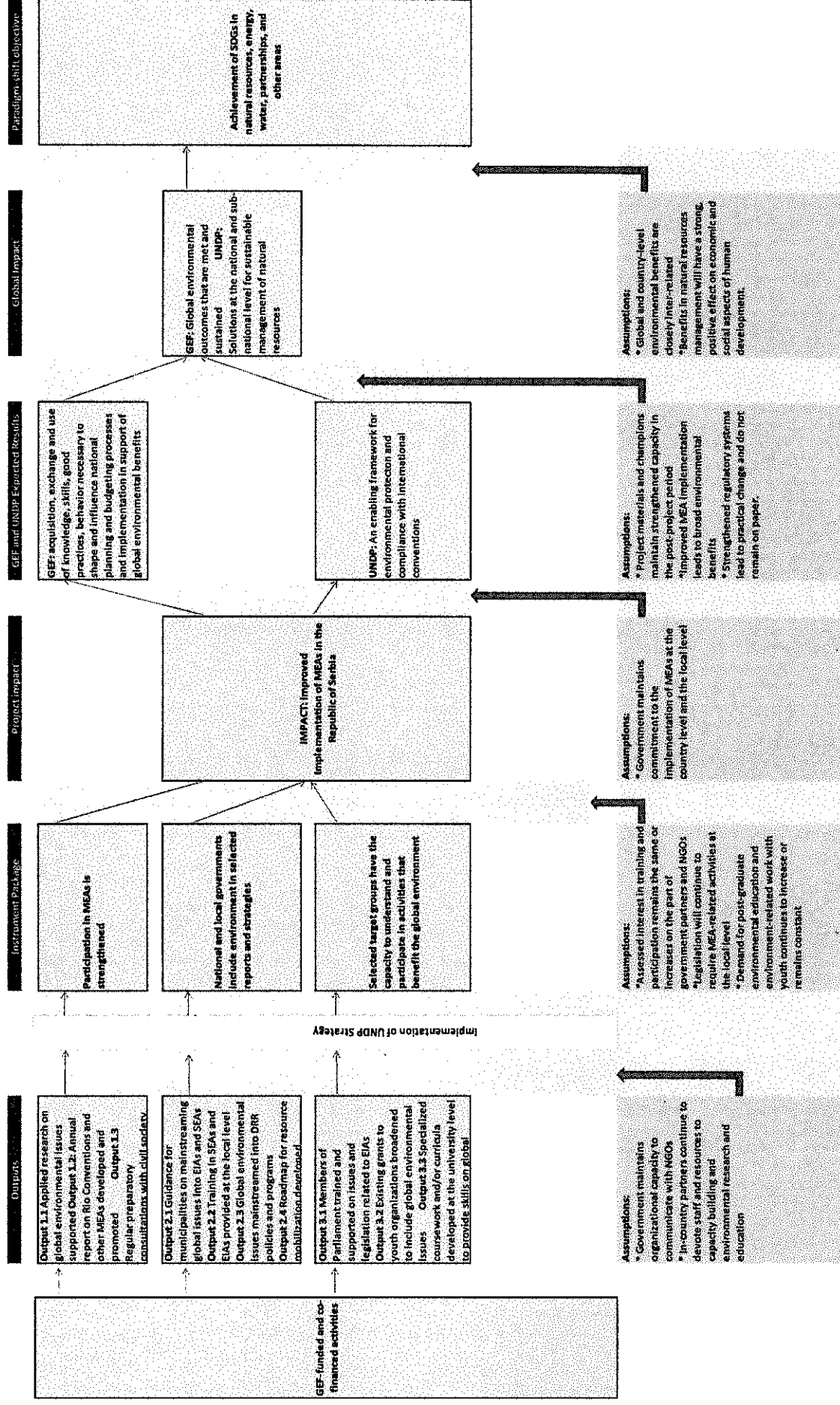
<sup>48</sup> Probability from 1 (low) to 5 (high)

<sup>49</sup> Impact from 1 (low) to 5 (high)

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Probability & Impact	Countermeasures/Mgt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
	departments and turnover in the executive and legislative branches could cause delays and institutional disruption affecting progress towards project outcomes.				organizations or turnover, the duration of the project (60 months) is designed to safeguard against any delays in implementation caused by re-organizations and the subsequent need to await appointments and educate new counterparts. Furthermore, trainings have been scheduled in such a way as to cover a new cohort of participants if necessary.	Manager			



## ANNEX H: THEORY OF CHANGE



## **ANNEX I: WORKS CONSULTED**

### ***Project documents of on-going UNDP-GEF projects:***

Project Document for "National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan"

Project Document for "Serbia's First Biennial Update Report"

Project Document for "Second National Communication to the UNFCCC for Serbia"

Project Document for "Ensuring financial sustainability of the protected area system of Serbia"

Project Document for "Removing Barriers to Support and Promote Energy Management Systems in Municipalities throughout Serbia"

### ***Other UNDP and GEF Documents***

Leaflet "Immediate Response to Serbian Floods." [no date provided]

Government of the Republic of Serbia and United Nations Country Team in Serbia. *Development Partnership Framework 2016-2020*. Belgrade: 2015.

UNDP. *United Nations Country Partnership Strategy: Republic of Serbia 2011-2015* [for PIF].

UNDP. *Country Programme Document for Serbia (2016-2020)*. DP/DCP/SRB/2. New York: UNDP, 27 June 2015.

GEF. *GEF-6 Programming Document*, pp. 197-200.

### ***Country Background Information***

Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNDP. "NCSA Cross-Cutting Analysis Report for Republic of Serbia." December 2007.

National Sustainable Development Strategy [2<sup>nd</sup> draft]. Belgrade: 2007.

"Study on Achievements and Perspectives towards a Green Economy and Sustainable Growth in Serbia: National Report for the World Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, 20-22 June 2012." Belgrade: UNDP/UNEP, 2012.

Andelkovic, Branka, ed. *Cooperation of State Administration and Civil Society Organizations: Baseline Study for the Development of the first National Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in the Republic of Serbia 2015-2019*. Belgrade: Government of the Republic of Serbia, Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, 2015.

Biodiversity Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period 2011-2018.

European Commission. "The current situation of gender equality in Serbia in 2012 – Country Profile." Brussels: EC (D-G Justice, Unit D-2), 2012.

European Commission. "Serbia Progress Report 2014." Brussels: EC (D-G Enlargement), October 2014.

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Regionalni centar za zivotnu sredinu. *Register of Serbian CSOs in the field Environmental Protection*. Belgrade: REC, 2015

Republic of Serbia. *The Law on Youth of the Republic of Serbia*. Belgrade: Republic of Serbia Ministry of Youth and Sport, 2012.

Serbian National Disaster Risk Management Program 2015. Concept Note.

UNECE. *Serbia: Environmental Performance Reviews: Third Review*. New York and Geneva: UNECE: 2015.

- Vasovic, Aleksandar and Stephen Eisenhammer. "Serbia May Be on Cusp of Mining Revival after Years of Decline." Reuters, 13 June 2013.
- Vukovic, Ana, et. al. "Latest research related to climate change analysis with applications in impact studies over the territory of Serbia" In EGU 2015 *Geophysical Research Abstracts*, Vol. 17. 2015.
- ZSI – Centre for Social Innovation. Republic of Serbia: Progress Report on Recent Developments Regarding S&T Cooperation with the Western Balkan Countries. Budapest: Danube-inco.net, 2015.

**Other**

- European Commission. "EC Funding Summary 2014-2020."
- European Commission. "Horizon 2020 Work Programme: 2014-2015." Section 16. "Science with and for Society."
- Skrylnikov, Dmytro. "Independent Evaluation of the Aarhus Centres and Public Environmental Information Centres Report." OSCE: September 2008.

## ANNEX J: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR RIO CONVENTIONS IN SERBIA

The **Initial National Communication under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, containing data projections and identifies measures and proposed projects, is adopted on 11 November 2010, and submitted it to the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on 25 November 2010. The **Second National Communication under the UNFCCC** is underway, to include projections and a mitigation action plan until 2030 and long-term framework mitigation strategy following the EU Roadmap 2050 as a guideline for development.

The **National Strategy for the inclusion of Serbia in the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol** was adopted by the Government in February 2010 for the agriculture, forestry and waste management sectors, and identifies how to use opportunities offered by the Kyoto CDM.

The **National Sustainable Development Strategy** for the period 2009-2017 (NSDS) was adopted in May 2008 (Official Gazette of RS No. 57/08).

The **Action Plan** for implementation of NSDS for the period 2009-2017 adopted in 2009 (Official Gazette of RS No. 22/09).

According to the LEP, planning and management of environment protection is secured and provided by implementation of the **National Environment Protection Programme** (Official Gazette of RS No. 12/10) adopted by the Government (for the period of ten years).

For the purposes of efficient implementation of the National Environment Protection Programme, the **Action Plan** was prepared in 2014 for a 5-year period.

**Biodiversity Strategy of the Republic of Serbia** for the period 2011-2018 (Official Gazette of RS No. 13/11) is the main national strategic framework for biodiversity management and protection.

The **Energy Sector Development Strategy of RS** by 2015 includes, as one of the programme priorities an Environmental Protection Programme.

Development of the **National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)** till 2020 for the energy efficiency sub-sector is in the initial phase of implementation.

The **Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development** for the period 2014-2024 (Official Gazette of RS No. 85/14) has, as one of its objectives "sustainable management of resources and environmental protection."

The **Strategy of Clean Technologies** has been adopted in 2009 (Official Gazette of RS, No. 17/2009).

The **Development Strategy for Rail, Road, Water, Air and Intermodal Transport** of the Republic of Serbia from 2008 to 2015 (Official Gazette of RS No. 04/08), as one of its general objectives sets out - Reduction of negative environmental impact of transport, in the line with the principles of sustainable development.

The **Strategy of Tourism Development** in the Republic of Serbia (Official Gazette of RS No. 91/06) emphasizes the concept of sustainable development, where natural resources hold possibilities for reaching commercial and other objectives in tourism.

According to the goals defined in the **Forestry Development Strategy** for the Republic of Serbia (Official Gazette of RS, No. 59/06), the Programme for the Development of Forestry in Serbia 2011-2020.

The **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods** (Official Gazette of RS No. 33/12) with overarching objective of the protection and management of biodiversity in the Republic of Serbia has been defined as the conservation, improvement of the status and sustainable use of autochthonous species and communities on a level that will safeguard their long-term viability.

The **National Environmental Approximation Strategy** (Official Gazette of RS No. 80/11) noted that the **economic challenge** of environmental approximation is enormous and the **institutional challenge** is also significant.

The **National Youth Strategy** (Official Gazette of RS No. 22/15) includes a specific goal related to the environment: Goal 4: Increased participation of young people in environmental protection and sustainable development.

The **National Action Plan** for the implementation of the **National Programme for the Risk Management of Natural Disasters and other Hazards 2016-2020** is currently in draft format and is soliciting feedback.

The **National Disaster Risk Management Programme 2016-2019** was adopted by the government in December 2014 but never published in the official legal gazette.

The **National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations** (2011) is consistent with the Hyogo Framework and includes a strategic area (Strategic Area 3) that emphasizes resilience.

A sectoral **National Recovery Plan** for the water management sector is also important in that it addresses environmental impacts of a transboundary nature, as is the **Law on Water** (Official Gazette of RS No. 30/10).

## ANNEX K: CO-FINANCING LETTERS

The following co-financing letters are included as separate attachments:

<u>5227 CCCD Serbia Co-financing MAEP (USD 180,000 in-kind).pdf</u>	Co-financing MAEP (USD 180,000 in-kind) (eh)
<u>5227 CCCD Serbia Co-financing UNDP (USD 50,000 cash USD 220,000 in-kind).pdf</u>	Co-financing UNDP (USD 50,000 cash + USD 220,000 in-kind) (eh)
<u>5227 CCCD Serbia Co-financing BFPE (USD 50,000 in-kind).pdf</u>	Co-financing BFPE (USD 50,000 in-kind) (eh)
<u>5227 CCCD Serbia Co-financing SCTM (EUR 250,000 in-kind).pdf</u>	Co-financing letter SCTM (EUR 250,000/USD 280,000 in-kind) (eh)
<u>5227 CCCD Serbia Co-financing MoY (USD 200,000 in-kind).pdf</u>	Co-financing letter MoY (USD 200,000 in-kind) (eh)