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Project Board Meeting Sustainable Growth and Resilience Portfolio

19 December 2017
UN Co-working Space, UN House

Participants

Erik Grigoryan	First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection, UNFCCC Focal Point, Project National Director
Dmitry Mariyasin	UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia a.i.
Arsen Aslanyan	Head of International Relations Division, Ministry of Nature Protection
Armen Martirosyan	UNDP Sustainable Growth & Resilience Portfolio Manager
Tatevik Koloyan	Environmental Programme Associate, UNDP Sustainable Growth & Resilience Portfolio
Diana Harutyunyan	UNDP Climate Change Program Coordinator
Marina Sargsyan	Senior Expert for Biennial Update Report Preparation
Marianna Arzangulyan	Expert Team Assistant, UNDP Climate Change Program (meeting secretary)

Mr. Grigoryan and Mr. Mariyasin welcomed the participants to the meeting.

Mr. Martirosyan briefly presented the situation with the two projects on agenda.

The floor was then given to Ms. Diana Harutyunyan for briefly presenting the projects' major achievements and challenges in 2017 and the work plans for 2018.

“Green Urban Lighting” project

Ms. Harutyunyan presented the project progress per its components, highlighting the project's impact on legislative and regulative improvement, on institutional capacities of the lighting sector in Armenia, and the progress in establishing and utilization of the municipal revolving funds. Project delivery rate is 94%.

Mr. Grigoryan and Mr. Mariyasin inquired on details of optoelectronic laboratory operation. Ms. Harutyunyan clarified that the laboratory was established at Yerevan Municipal Illumination CJSC and equipped by the project. Laboratory's staff had been trained respectively. She further noted that testing



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was free of charge for the duration of the project and was performed upon request by local producers and municipalities.

Mr. Grigoryan inquired about the selection criteria of partners for outdoor and indoor demo projects. Ms. Harutyunyan informed that Yerevan municipality is a core partner and an essential criterion for other municipalities is the commitment to share costs. A good example was Masis municipality that came forward with readiness to implement a demo project at their own expense; while the project provided technical support to ensure quality of procured equipment.

Mr. Mariyasin presented that the successful implementation and positive tangible impact of Lighting project were instrumental in mobilizing resources from the UNDP-Russian Trust Fund for regional project “Regulatory Framework to Promote Energy Efficiency in Countries of the Eurasian Economic Union”. The project was expected to further contribute to improvement of the regulatory framework in Armenia and enhance the quality control work of the testing laboratory. The project covered X countries; with regional component, as well as components of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, to be managed by UNDP Armenia on exceptional arrangement.

Mr. Grigoryan inquired if budgetary coding could be changed to discern the Government of Armenia from local municipalities as opposed to GOV notation used for co-funding commitments on all levels of government. In this regard, he referred to difference in both procedures and obligations/responsibilities. Mr. Mariyasin agreed that this issue must be legally covered and audit-proof, and proposed to add a comment/asterisk to municipalities’ funding lines clarifying that “funding refers to municipality only and by no means represents a commitment by the Armenian Government”.

Mr. Grigoryan requested clarification of targets, stressing especially “indirect energy savings from implementation of national lighting policy”. According to him, basis for estimations must be vague as adoption of a proposed policy is not guaranteed and predictions for its application scale may be not reliable enough. Ms. Harutyunyan clarified that because about 85% of street lighting capacity is installed in Yerevan, and the municipality must comply with the city’s Sustainable Energy Action Plan whose development and adoption the project supported in 2016 – the respective improvements in Yerevan can make sufficient impact for achieving the goals of the project. She mentioned the energy efficiency requirements specified by amendment to Renewable Energy and Energy Saving Law in May 2017, upgraded construction norm on Artificial and Natural Lighting, amendment to North-South road construction technical requirements to use LED instead of high pressure sodium lamps. All these were used for analysis to assess the indirect impact on GHG emissions, as well as for PIR reporting the project’s terminal report.

Mr. Mariyasin stressed that the respective data must be collected meticulously to support demonstration of the project’s impact and asked what new communities would be involved in 2018. Ms. Harutyunyan responded that the project’s budget did not envisage new demo projects, but technical consultations and procurement advisory support was always available for the interested municipalities.



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Mr. Mariyasin inquired on the project’s strategy on continuing cooperation with UNECE following the successful joint event in September 2017. Ms. Harutyunyan informed that Armenia was involved in the works of UNECE international expert group representing 59 countries that supported shaping legislation and regulations on energy efficiency with cooperation on urban strategies. Besides, the Project was planning to communicate its outputs to UNEP e-lighting programme. Mr. Mariyasin stressed the necessity of clear sustainability strategy for the project with key initiatives continuing after its completion. He required that development of the project’s clear exit strategy be a key element of the terminal report.

Mr. Grigoryan inquired on completion plans of indoor demo project in the building of Ministry of Nature Protection and outdoor demo project in Sevan town for peninsula area. Ms. Harutyunyan clarified that although positive response and approval were in place, the upgrade of internal lighting system of the Ministry were suspended due to relocation plans and uncertainty with lamp installation issues to be performed by the agency responsible for the building. As for Sevan town request, the project performed measurements and estimations and shared the outcomes with Ministry for further clarification on cost sharing with marz or city authorities. Mr. Mariyasin ensured that as soon as the pending issues were clarified, the project would ensure follow-up in due course.

Subject discussed	Follow up actions	Deadline	Responsible
To differentiate the budgetary code for national and local government	Add a comment to municipalities’ funding clarifying that “funding refers to municipality only and by no means represents a commitment by the Armenian Government” and recirculate the working plan.	asap	UNDP admin team
Compliance with the target “indirect energy savings from implementation of national lighting policy”	Collect respective data and submit revised estimations	for GEF terminal reporting	Project expert team
Exit strategy for sustainability of results and transferability of processes	Include development of the project’s clear exit strategy as a key element of the terminal report	early 2018	Project management
Pending indoor demo project in the Ministry’s building	Clarify the co-financing willingness and opportunities	upon receiving pending response from the Ministry	Project management
Pending outdoor demo project in Sevan town	Clarify the co-financing willingness and opportunities	upon receiving pending responses from the Ministry and the municipality	Project management



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“Development of Armenia’s Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC and Second Biennial Update Report” project

Mrs. Harutyunyan briefly presented project progress per activities, highlighting importance of ownership of government and cooperation with specialized institutions and academia in thematic areas. Project delivery rate is 93%.

Mr. Grigoryan noted that the target dates for 2BUR submission in working plan were incorrect. Ms. Harutyunyan clarified that due to late approval of the project funding and actual start of activities, the report submission date should had been updated. Mr. Mariyasin noted that the Project Board can also amend the targets and requested to have the submission date corrected asap, including all the interlinked indicators and sub-indicators.

Mr. Grigoryan inquired if the project considered the reliability of used data. Ms. Harutyunyan reminded that the requests for data were made based on preliminary research and formally via the Ministry of Nature Protection as an official inquiry to the institutions responsible for the data. Ms. Sargsyan mentioned that data analysis and quality control were applied to ensure compatibility of the data, e.g. EU-funded Covenant of Mayors apply different emission factor making straightforward data combination impossible even using modern software such as LEAP.

Mr. Grigoryan stressed the importance of continuous and close co-operation to ensure transferable estimations and results, and their vast circulation among all government bodies. Mr. Mariyasin agreed that national ownership is essential. Ms. Harutyunyan added that the project cooperates with the Institute of Energy for assessment of mitigation measures impact, with Hydromet for adaptation and vulnerability issues, with Ministry of Emergency Situations for risk assessment, also with Institutes of Botany and Zoology in their thematic areas.

Mr. Grigoryan then touched upon certain estimation issues, such as use of outdated models by Hydromet and misconceptions in water flow records. Ms. Harutyunyan noted that water basin management plans now included climate change component and informed that the project’s working plan included involvement of an international consultant to improve the applied vulnerability assessment methodologies. She also mentioned that the project could not cover all the gaps as its core objective was reporting on progress in CC mitigation and adaptation, as well as identification of needs and capacity gaps. She noted there was a need to discuss in more details project’s involvement in the NAP and NDC preparation support to the government.

Mr. Mariyasin summarized, noting that: 1) actual achievement of results depended on availability of 3 million of GCF funding for NAP readiness proposal, and there was a potential risk for project results’ attainment if those funds were not released; 2) there was a need to develop clear mechanism to ensure that every support project provides for national reporting was translated into an institutional mechanism



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that would work sustainably; and 3) the work-plan needed to be formally amended to include the updated deadlines.

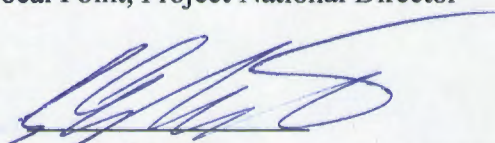
Mr. Mariyasin expressed his confidence in effective cooperation between UNDP and MNP to develop future funding proposals for GCF and Adaptation fund. Mr. Grigoryan mentioned in response that according to his latest communication with the GCF's officials, there might be a window for each country to apply for capacity building for up to 1 million USD. Mr. Mariyasin reiterated UNDP's readiness to support the Ministry with development of new proposals.

Subject discussed	Follow up actions	Deadline	Responsible
Project target deadlines in the working plan	Correct the dates in accordance with the shifted schedule and recirculate the working plan	asap	Project management
Sustainability and transferability of the project's activities and achievement	Develop clear mechanism how the project support in developing the national reports is translated into a sustainable institutional mechanism	continuous	admin team and expert team

Mr. Grigoryan thanked UNDP and SGR portfolio colleagues for productive cooperation and hard work in 2017.


Mr. Mariyasin closed the meeting by thanking partners and colleagues for cooperation.

Mr. Erik Grigoryan
First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection,
UNFCCC Focal Point, Project National Director



signature

Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin
UNDP Resident Representative in Armenia a.i.



signature

28.12.17