

Implementation Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved

Overall Rating:	Satisfactory
Decision:	Continue as planned: The project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. All management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
Portfolio/Project Number:	00070193
Portfolio/Project Title:	Preparation of Third National Communication (TNC)
Portfolio/Project Date:	2013-01-01 / 2022-06-30

Strategic

Quality Rating: Exemplary

1. Is the project pro-actively identifying changes to the external environment and incorporating them into the project strategy?

- 3: *The project team has identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives and the assumptions have been tested to determine if the project's strategy is still valid. There is evidence that the project board has considered the implications, and documented any changes needed to the project in response. (all must be true)*
- 2: The project team has identified relevant changes in the external environment that may present new opportunities or threats to the project's ability to achieve its objectives. There is some evidence that the project board discussed this, but relevant changes may not have been fully integrated in the project. (both must be true)
- 1: The project team may have considered relevant changes in the external environment since implementation began, but there is no evidence that the project team has considered changes to the project as a result.

Evidence:

One of the biggest changes experienced was the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of which project-related ground-level research work to generate data and information was adversely impacted. In order to overcome the impediment, new ways of implementation were adopted and institutions engaged to undertake studies under the project were able to carry out research work as was planned earlier. Moreover, a number of new studies were planned to strengthen the ongoing research that could not be awarded due to the current crisis.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

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

- 3: The project responds at least one of the [development settings](#)³ as specified in the Strategic Plan (SP) and adopts at least one [Signature Solution](#)⁴ and the project's RRF includes at all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project responds to one of the three areas of development work¹ as specified in the Strategic Plan. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)*
- 1: While the project may respond to a partner's identified need, this need falls outside the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

Evidence:

The project through activities such as developing national GHG inventories, conducting impacts and vulnerabilities assessments as well as mitigation action plans both at the state and national level have been able to directly respond to at least two development settings (b & c) and adopts at least two signature solutions (b & c). Please see the attached Project document.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	TNCPRODOC_10368_202 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/TNCPRODOC_10368_202.pdf)	neha.pai@undp.org	11/6/2021 8:08:00 AM

Relevant

Quality Rating: **Highly Satisfactory**

3. Are the project's targeted groups being systematically engaged, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, to ensure the project remains relevant for them?

- 3: Systematic and structured feedback has been collected over the past two years from a representative sample of beneficiaries, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized, as part of the project's monitoring system. Representatives from the targeted groups are active members of the project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) and there is credible evidence that their feedback informs project decision making. (all must be true)
- 2: *Targeted groups have been engaged in implementation and monitoring, with a priority focus on the discriminated and marginalized. Beneficiary feedback, which may be anecdotal, has been collected over the past year to ensure the project is addressing local priorities. This information has been used to inform project decision making. (all must be true)*
- 1: Some beneficiary feedback may have been collected over the past year, but this information has not been used to inform project decision making. This option is also selected if no beneficiary feedback has been collected.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The main aim of the project is to provide regular information and status updates on the progress made towards the implementation of UNFCCC through the NCs. The major components of the project are focused on inventories of greenhouse gas emissions and activities to reduce them and to adapt to climate change. The reports are usually linked to technology needs, capacity development and other national circumstances. However, various ongoing studies that feed into the BUR and TNC have documented case studies that describe (a) the role of gender in mitigation actions pertaining to livelihood and (b) how climate change has increased the vulnerabilities of those with livelihoods in sectors like agriculture and forestry. The attached Project Implementation Reports may be seen.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	2021-GEF-PIR-PIMS4603-GEFID46733_10368_203 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2021-GEF-PIR-PIMS4603-GEFID46733_10368_203.docx)	neha.pai@undp.org	11/6/2021 8:12:00 AM
2	2020-GEF-PIR-PIMS4603-GEFID46732_10368_203 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2020-GEF-PIR-PIMS4603-GEFID46732_10368_203.docx)	neha.pai@undp.org	11/6/2021 8:13:00 AM
3	2019-GEF-PIR-PIMS4603-GEFID4673_10368_203 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/2019-GEF-PIR-PIMS4603-GEFID4673_10368_203.docx)	neha.pai@undp.org	11/6/2021 8:14:00 AM

4. Is the project generating knowledge and lessons learned (i.e., what has worked and what has not) and has this knowledge informed management decisions to ensure the continued relevance of the project towards its stated objectives, the quality of its outputs and the management of risk?

- 3: Knowledge and lessons learned from internal or external sources (gained, for example, from Peer Assists, After Action Reviews or Lessons Learned Workshops) backed by credible evidence from evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, analysis and monitoring have been discussed in project board meetings and reflected in the minutes. There is clear evidence that changes were made to the project to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)
- 2: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by relatively limited evidence, drawn mainly from within the project, have been considered by the project team. There is some evidence that changes were made to the project as a result to ensure its continued relevance. (both must be true)
- 1: There is limited or no evidence that knowledge and lessons learned have been collected by the project team. There is little or no evidence that this has informed project decision making.

Evidence:

The National Communication enables India to comply with the tenets of the Convention of UNFCCC to which India is a Party. The National Communications supports in making global assertion by India on its effort to combat climate change and is an internationally accepted document with scientific evidence to prove India is on track to achieve its NDC targets well before 2030 and compliant with Paris Agreement. Scientific and policy-based networks which could benefit project implementation were identified.

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5. Is the project sufficiently at scale, or is there potential to scale up in the future, to meaningfully contribute to development change?

- 3: *There is credible evidence that the project is reaching a sufficient number of beneficiaries (either directly through significant coverage of target groups, or indirectly, through policy change) to meaningfully contribute to development change.*
- 2: While the project is currently not at scale, there are explicit plans in place to scale up the project in the future (e.g. by extending its coverage or using project results to advocate for policy change).
- 1: The project is not at scale, and there are no plans currently to scale up the project in the future.

Evidence:

The National Communication is required to be submitted to UNFCCC every 5-6 years. The NC is a comprehensive document that is referred nationally and globally by multilateral/ bilateral agencies, government departments, state governments on India's mitigation and adaptation efforts. Work on finalizing a project document for developing the fourth national communication as well as the fourth biennial update report is currently underway.

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No documents available.			

Principled

Quality Rating: **Satisfactory**

6. Are the project's measures (through outputs, activities, indicators) to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant and producing the intended effect? If not, evidence-based adjustments and changes have been made.

- 3: The project team has systematically gathered data and evidence through project monitoring on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. Analysis of data and evidence were used to inform adjustments and changes, as appropriate. (both must be true)
- 2: *The project team has some data and evidence on the relevance of the measures to address gender inequalities and empower women. There is evidence that at least some adjustments were made, as appropriate. (both must be true)*
- 1: The project team has limited or no evidence on the relevance of measures to address gender inequalities and empowering women. No evidence of adjustments and/or changes made. This option should also be selected if the project has no measures to address gender inequalities and empower women relevant to the project results and activities.

Evidence:

The National Communication (TNC and BUR) being prepared under the project are developed on the basis of research that influences gender equality and women empowerment. The reports emphasize the impacts of climate change on women and facilitate the development of gender-responsive measures. The reports also have a vulnerability assessment and impacts highlighting the social and economic vulnerabilities associated with women. These provide an entry point for gender-responsive training, awareness-raising, and capacity-building efforts. The national communication also informs sector policies related to both social and natural resource issues including gender. The attached Project Document and Project Implementation Reports may be seen.

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No documents available.

7. Are social and environmental impacts and risks being successfully managed and monitored?

- 3: Social and environmental risks are tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Substantial and High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed for identified risks through consultative process and implemented, resourced, and monitored. Risks effectively managed or mitigated. If there has been a substantive change to the project or change in context that affects risk levels, the SESP is updated to reflect these changes. (all must be true)
- 2: *Social and environmental risks are tracked in the risk log. Appropriate assessments conducted where required (i.e., Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Substantial and High risk projects and some level of social and environmental assessment for Moderate risk projects as identified through SESP). Relevant management plan(s) developed, implemented and monitored for identified risks. OR project is categorized as Low risk through the SESP.*
- 1: Social and environmental risks have not been tracked in the risk log. For projects categorized as High, Substantial, and Moderate Risk there is no evidence that social and environmental assessments have been completed and/or management plans or measures development, implemented or monitored. There have been substantive changes to the project or changes in the context but SESP has not been updated. (any may be true)

Evidence:

As the project is an enabling activity, it has been exempt from the Social and Environmental Standards screening. There were no social and environmental risks identified during project implementation.

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No documents available.			

8. Are grievance mechanisms available to project-affected people and are grievances (if any) addressed to ensure any perceived harm is effectively mitigated?

- 3: Project-affected people have been actively informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism (SRM/SECU) and how to access it. If the project is categorized as High, Substantial, or Moderate Risk through the SESP, a project-level grievance mechanism is in place and project affected people informed. If grievances have been received, they are effectively addressed in accordance with SRM Guidance. (all must be true)
- 2: *Project-affected people have been informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism and how to access it. If the project is categorized as Substantial or High Risk through the SESP, a project-level grievance mechanism is in place and project affected people informed. If grievances have been received they are responded to but face challenges in arriving at a resolution.*
- 1: Project-affected people not informed of UNDP's Corporate Accountability Mechanism. If grievances have been received they are not responded to. (any may be true)

Evidence:

The objective of the project is the development of India's Third National Communication. As it is an enabling activity, it has been exempt from the Social and Environmental Standards screening. There were no social and environmental risks identified during project implementation.

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No documents available.			

Management & Monitoring

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

9. Is the project's M&E Plan sufficient and adequately implemented?

- 3: The project has a comprehensive and costed M&E plan. Baselines, targets and milestones are fully populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF is being reported regularly using credible data sources and collected according to the frequency stated in the Plan, including sex disaggregated data as relevant. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, fully meet decentralized evaluation standards, including gender UNEG standards. Lessons learned, including during evaluations and/or After Action Reviews, are used to take corrective actions when necessary. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project has a costed M&E Plan, and most baselines and targets are populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's RRF is collected on a regular basis, although there may be some slippage in following the frequency stated in the Plan and data sources are not always reliable. Any evaluations conducted, if relevant, meet most decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned have been captured but may not have been used to take corrective actions yet. (all must be true)*
- 1: The project has an M&E Plan, but costs are not clearly planned and budgeted for, or are unrealistic. Progress data is not being regularly collected against the indicators in the project's RRF. Evaluations may not meet decentralized evaluation standards. Lessons learned are rarely captured and used. Select this option also if the project does not have an M&E plan.

Evidence:

Periodic Project Progress Reports have been prepared and annual project implementation reviews have been undertaken annually. The attached project document and project implementation reports may be seen.

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No documents available.			

10. Is project's governance mechanism (i.e., the project board or equivalent) functioning as intended?

- 3: The project's governance mechanism is operating well, and is a model for other projects. It has met in the agreed frequency stated in the project document and the minutes of the meetings are on file. There is regular (at least annual) progress reporting to the project board or equivalent on results, risks and opportunities. It is clear that the project board explicitly reviews and uses evidence, including progress data, knowledge, lessons and evaluations, as the basis for informing management decisions (e.g., change in strategy, approach, work plan.) (all must be true to select this option)
- 2: *The project's governance mechanism has met in the agreed frequency and the minutes of the meeting are on file. A project progress report has been submitted to the project board or equivalent at least once in the past year, covering results, risks and opportunities. (both must be true to select this option)*
- 1: The project's governance mechanism has not met in the frequency stated in the project document over the past year and/or the project board or equivalent is not functioning as a decision-making body for the project as intended.

Evidence:

The project's National Steering Committee under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has overseen the preparation and implementation of the project. In addition, there are two executive committees with members from government, academia and civil society that have been regularly consulted. The attached Project Implementation Reviews may be seen.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	MinutesofTACHeldon12thMay2021_10368_210 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/MinutesofTACHeldon12thMay2021_10368_210.docx)	saba.kalam@undp.org	11/8/2021 6:32:00 AM

11. Are risks to the project adequately monitored and managed?

- 3: The project has actively monitored risks every quarter including consulting with key stakeholders, including security advisors, to identify continuing and emerging risks and to assess if the main assumptions remain valid. There is clear evidence that relevant management plans and mitigating measures are being fully implemented to address each key project risk, and have been updated to reflect the latest risk assessment. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project has monitored risks every year, as evidenced by an updated risk log. Some updates have been made to management plans and mitigation measures.*
- 1: The risk log has not been updated as required. There may be some evidence that the project has monitored risks (including security risks or incidents) that may affect the project's achievement of results, but there is no explicit evidence that management actions have been taken to mitigate risks. In the case of a deteriorating security environment, no consultation has occurred with the UNDP Security Office on appropriate measures.

Evidence:

The main risk in the project is that it will not be possible to realize full delivery at the time of operational closure of the project (December 2021). A clear work plan for the remainder of the project and follow-up discussions with the Implementing Partner and other Responsible Parties is being done to realize maximum possible delivery before the end of 2021.

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No documents available.			

Efficient

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

12. Adequate resources have been mobilized to achieve intended results. If not, management decisions were taken to adjust expected results in the project's results framework.

- Yes
- No

Evidence:

Adequate resources were mobilized during the project implementation to achieve the outcomes. This was captured in the Project MTR

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	FinalMTRReport_TNC_10368_212 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/FinalMTRReport_TNC_10368_212.pdf)	saba.kalam@undp.org	11/8/2021 6:36:00 AM

13. Are project inputs procured and delivered on time to efficiently contribute to results?

- 3: The project has an updated procurement plan. Implementation of the plan is on or ahead of schedule. The project quarterly reviews operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addresses them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project has an updated procurement plan. The project annually reviews operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addresses them through appropriate management actions. (all must be true)*
- 1: The project does not have an updated procurement plan. The project may or may not have reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner, however management actions have not been taken to address them.

Evidence:

The ultimate output of the project is the development of India's Third National Communication which will be finalized and submitted by the end of 2021, the project completion date. All outcomes are reported to be on track. The attached Project Implementation Reviews may be seen.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

14. Is there regular monitoring and recording of cost efficiencies taking into account the expected quality of results?

- 3: There is evidence that the project regularly reviews costs against relevant comparators (e.g., other projects or country offices) or industry benchmarks to ensure the project maximizes results that can be delivered with given resources. The project actively coordinates with other relevant ongoing projects and initiatives (UNDP or other) to ensure complementarity and seek efficiencies wherever possible (e.g. joint activities.) (both must be true)
- 2: *The project monitors its own costs and gives anecdotal examples of cost efficiencies (e.g., spending less to get the same result,) but there is no systematic analysis of costs and no link to the expected quality of results delivered. The project coordinates activities with other projects to achieve cost efficiency gains.*
- 1: There is little or no evidence that the project monitors its own costs and is considering ways to save money beyond following standard procurement rules.

Evidence:

The project draws on experiences and results of the previous NC projects. The project capitalizes on institutional networks, working relations and databases built during the last two NC projects. The attached project document and PIRs may be seen.

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No documents available.

Effective

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

15. Is the project is on track to deliver its expected outputs?

- Yes
- No

Evidence:

The ultimate output of the project is the development of India's Third National Communication which will be finalized and submitted by the end of 2021, the project completion date. All outcomes are reported to be on track.

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No documents available.

16. Have there been regular reviews of the work plan to ensure that the project is on track to achieve the desired results, and to inform course corrections if needed?

- 3: Quarterly progress data has informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented are most likely to achieve the desired results. There is evidence that data and lessons learned (including from evaluations and/or After Action Reviews) have been used to inform course corrections, as needed. Any necessary budget revisions have been made. (both must be true)
- 2: *There has been at least one review of the work plan per year to assess if project activities are on track to achieving the desired development results (i.e., outputs.) There may or may not be evidence that data or lessons learned has been used to inform the review(s). Any necessary budget revisions have been made.*
- 1: While the project team may have reviewed the work plan at least once over the past year to ensure outputs are delivered on time, no link has been made to the delivery of desired development results. Select this option also if no review of the work plan by management has taken place over the past year.

Evidence:

Annual Work Plans were developed with the Ministry. Project Implementation Reviews have been done periodically. The attached PIRs may be seen.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	TNC_AWP_10_03_10368_216 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/TNC_AWP_10_03_10368_216.pdf)	saba.kalam@undp.org	11/8/2021 6:38:00 AM

17. Are targeted groups being systematically identified and engaged, prioritizing the marginalized and excluded, to ensure results are achieved as expected?

- 3: The project is targeting specific groups and/or geographic areas, identified by using credible data sources on their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. There is clear evidence that the targeted groups are being reached as intended. The project has engaged regularly with targeted groups over the past year to assess whether they are benefiting as expected and adjustments were made if necessary to refine targeting. (all must be true)
- 2: *The project is targeting specific groups and/or geographic areas, based on some evidence of their capacity needs, deprivation and/or exclusion from development opportunities relevant to the project's area of work. Some evidence is provided to confirm that project beneficiaries are members of the targeted groups. There has been some engagement with beneficiaries in the past year to assess whether they are benefiting as expected. (all must be true)*
- 1: The project does not report on specific targeted groups. There is no evidence to confirm that project beneficiaries are deprived and/or excluded from development opportunities relevant to the project area of work. There may have been some engagement with beneficiaries to assess whether they are benefiting as expected, but it has been limited or has not occurred in the past year.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The project mainly involves developing a report for the submission of UNFCCC and therefore, it covers pan India. The project has undertaken studies on vulnerability assessments and most of the project interventions are linked to research work that influences gender equality and women's empowerment. The attached project document and PIRs may be seen.

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No documents available.			

Sustainability & National Ownership

Quality Rating: Satisfactory

18. Are stakeholders and national partners fully engaged in the decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the project?

- 3: Only national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) are used to fully implement and monitor the project. All relevant stakeholders and partners are fully and actively engaged in the process, playing a lead role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)
- 2: *National systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) are used to implement and monitor the project, but other support (such as country office support or project systems) may also be used if necessary. All relevant stakeholders and partners are fully and actively engaged in the process, playing an active role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring. (both must be true)*
- 1: There is relatively limited or no engagement with national stakeholders and partners in the decision-making, implementation and/or monitoring of the project.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

The stakeholder engagement for the project has been done at three levels. 1) All Ministries and Government departments at the national and state level 2) With all institutions directly or indirectly contributing to the project and 3) UNFCCC International Consultative Analysis (ICA) and Facilitative Sharing of Views (FSV) process. During the reporting period, the stakeholder consultation happened at all three levels for the preparation and finalization of the Third BUR and Third NATCOM report. Due to the COVID pandemic, wider consultation became a challenge and outreach required more efforts but it was undertaken online and has significantly contributed to the finalization of the BUR and the preparation of the FNC.

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19. There is regular monitoring of changes in capacities and performance of institutions and systems relevant to the project, as needed. The [implementation arrangements](#)⁵ have been adjusted according to changes in partner capacities.

- 3: In the past two years, changes in capacities and performance of institutions and systems have been comprehensively assessed/monitored using clear indicators, rigorous methods of data collection and credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Implementation arrangements have been formally reviewed and adjusted, if needed, in agreement with partners according to changes in partner capacities. (both must be true)
- 2: *In the past two years, aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems have been monitored by the project using indicators and reasonably credible data sources including relevant HACT assurance activities. Some adjustment has been made to implementation arrangements if needed to reflect changes in partner capacities. (both must be true)*
- 1: Some aspects of changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems may have been monitored by the project, however changes to implementation arrangements have not been considered. Also select this option if changes in capacities and performance of relevant national institutions and systems have not been monitored by the project.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

Any changes made in project activities have been done in consultation with the Implementing Partner.

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No documents available.			

20. The transition and phase-out arrangements are reviewed regularly and adjusted according to progress (including financial commitments and capacity).

- 3: The project's governance mechanism has reviewed the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project is on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan. The plan has been adjusted according to progress as needed. (both must be true)
- 2: *There has been a review of the project's sustainability plan, including arrangements for transition and phase-out, to ensure the project is on track in meeting the requirements set out by the plan.*
- 1: The project may have a sustainability plan, but there has not been a review of this strategy since it was developed. Also select this option if the project does not have a sustainability strategy.

Evidence:

The project makes use of the resource base and established networks during SNC which have been utilized, enhanced and strengthened during the fill scale TNC project implementation. The involvement of various stakeholders in the different project components and activities has created awareness and built capacities and understanding on various aspects of climate change and related issues and enable the continuation of the NCs preparation process. Work has already begun on developing a project for the preparation of the fourth NC and fourth BUR.

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No documents available.			

QA Summary/Project Board Comments

Satisfactory