

UNDP Management Response
Mid Term Review
December 2017

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Unit/Bureau: UNDP Moldova
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Overall comments:

The majority of recommendations are accepted.

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1: <i>Strengthen Logical Framework.</i> The project should revise the Logical Framework indicators and targets to strengthen their alignment with "SMART" criteria. Proposed revisions of the Logical Framework are included as an annex to this report. A final revised version of the results framework should be approved by the Board.				
Management Response: Noted. The Logical Framework will be revised according to the recommended actions.				
Key Action(s) 1.1. Proposed MTR revisions will be analyzed by the project team, UNDP CO, UNDP RTA and submitted to the Project Board for approval and subsequently PIR indicators will be modified.	Time Frame By May 2018	Responsible Unit(s) UNDP CO UNDP IRH	Status Not started	Tracking* Comments
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: <i>Measure impact at local level</i> The project should set up an Impact Monitoring Framework to track the dynamic of the restored ecosystems in the pilot plots and the trend of the pasture and forest ecosystems covered by the Pasture Management Plans (PMPs) and Forest Management Plans (FMPs).				

Management Response: Noted. The project will follow recommended actions. Some impact monitoring activities have already started.					
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking		
			Status	Comments	
2.1. The project team will work with the project partners and local authorities and will build on the monitoring activities that are taking place at the moment in order to track the dynamic of the restored ecosystems in the pilot plots.	October 2018	UNDP Project team UNDP CO	Started		
2.2 The project will monitor implementation of the Pasture Management Plans (PMPs) and Forest Management Plans (FMPs) by the local authorities.	October 2018	UNDP Project team UNDP CO	Started		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3: <i>Monitor co-financing</i> The project should consistently and systematically monitor and document all sources of co-financing from the key partners, officially validated (e.g. a confirmation letter) in as much as possible.					
Management Response: Noted. The project team will monitor co-financing in consultation with project partners.					
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking		
			Status	Comments	
3.1 Regular updates on co-financing will be discussed with project partners.	March 2019	Project team	Started		
3.2 Confirmation letters will be solicited.	March 2019	Project team	Started		
3.3 Documents will be filed based on official available information and confirmation letters.	March 2019	Project team	Started		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4: <i>Closely monitor Financial Risks and prepare mitigation plan when/if necessary</i> According to the local MTR interviews, 2018 local budgets should be more or less finalised in November 2017. The project team should keep close contact with the local authorities to ascertain					

whether there are sufficient funds for the implementation of pasture and forest management plans. This risk should be monitored closely as it has the potential of becoming critical.					
Management Response: Partially agree. By the time of MTE finalization it's already too late for introduction new expenditures in local budgets, however the project team will try to propose amendments to local budgets at 2018 mid-year corrections or 2019 year. Also, should be clear that based on austere local budgets, priorities could be given to social interventions and the project team cannot influence too much on implementation of pasture and forest management plans.					
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking		
4.1 Updates on 2018 and 2019 local budgets will be discussed with local partners (based on availability of local funds for environmental related activities).	December 2018	Project team UNDP CO	Status	Comments	
4.2. Meetings will be held locally to discuss financial allocations for the implementation of DSPs, LUPs, PMPs, FMPs and eco-businesses with LPA.	December 2018	Project team UNDP CO	Started		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 5: Adjust ATLAS and PIR Data Add 2019 Budget to the Project Multi-Annual Budget in ATLAS and revise Closing Date in the PIR. Adjust indicators in the PIR after approval.					
Management Response: Noted. The project team together with UNDP CO will decide by the PIR development if all the project activities can be implemented in 2018 or by April 2019. PIR data will be adjusted accordingly.					
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking		
5.1 The project team/ CO will decide together on the project	June 2018	Project team	Status	Comments	
			Started		

finalization date.					
5.2 The project team/ CO will estimate 2019 budget and will adjust ATLAS Multiannual budget (if needed)	June 2018	UNDP CO	Project team UNDP CO	Not started	
5.3 PIR data will be completed	June 2018	Project team UNDP IRH		Not started	
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 6: <i>Support Technical Norms of the new Urban Development Code</i> The project should engage closely with the Ministry of Economy and Constructions and seek national counterparts' agreement on project involvement and ways to support the Technical Norms of the Urban Development Code					
Management Response: Noted. The project team will follow recommended actions and will work with national counterparts to adjust the Technical Norms of the Urban Code.					
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking		
			Status	Comments	
6.1 Meetings will be organized with national counterparts	October 2018	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
6.2 Measures to mainstream biodiversity will be discussed and introduced in the Technical Norms	October 2018	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
6.3 Specific provisions for the multi-stakeholder Urban Development Committee will be agreed and formalized	October 2018	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 7: <i>Facilitate biodiversity mainstreaming into Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy</i> The project should capitalise on several national planning processes underway in Moldova, to mainstream biodiversity priorities into long term development objectives. The UNDP supported, participatory drafting of the new 2030 National Development Strategy represents a strategic entry point for the project's intervention, to include NBSAPs priorities which respond to CBD COP 13 Biodiversity Mainstreaming agenda. The updated Moldova NBSAP places special emphasis on (i) assessing and integrating					

ecosystem services through economic valuation and (ii) mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies, plans and practices and into sectoral plans and strategies					
Management Response: <i>Noted. the project team will follow recommended actions.</i>					
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking		
7.1 The project team will work with the CO and relevant experts will participate into Moldova 2030 working groups, and present/discuss recommendations for integration of relevant NBSAP provisions	March 2019	Project team UNDP CO	Status	Comments	
7.2 If necessary, advocacy and sharing of relevant information materials for a better understanding of the national counterparts of the NBSAP provisions regarding biodiversity mainstreaming will be organized, as necessary.	March 2019	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 8: <i>Integrate economic valuation of ecosystem services, into the Guidelines of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Law</i> The project should capitalise on the momentum created by the newly approved SEA Law. The Parliament has approved the Strategic Environmental Assessment Law in March 2017. Accession of Moldova to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) to the Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) was facilitated by UNECE and implemented in the framework of the EU programme 'Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood' (EaP GREEN) which will also help the Government in the preparation of SEA Guidelines by providing the recommendations on the implementation, norms and procedures ¹ .					
Management Response: <i>Noted. The project team will follow recommended actions and</i>					

¹ Mr. Martin Smutny, Project Coordinator, Espoo Secretariat at martin.smutny@unece.org or Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov, the National Coordinator of the EaP GREEN Activities in Moldova (r.iordanov@vox.md)

will work closely with the EaP GREEN representatives and the technical experts assigned with the development of the SEA Guidelines.						
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking			
			Status	Comments		
8.1 The project team will contact EaP GREEN and explore timeline of SEA Guidelines development and ways to contribute.	December 2017	Project team UNDP CO	Completed			
8.2 The project team and experts will hold regular technical meetings with the technical experts and ministry counterparts in order to include the ecosystem service valuation in the SEA Guidelines.	June 2018	Project team	Not started			
8.3 If necessary, the project team and experts will hold bilateral meetings and share information materials showcasing the project's experience in integrating economic valuation of ecosystem services into district spatial planning and land use planning.	June 2018	Project team	Not started			
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 9: <i>Develop a full-fledged economic valuation of ecosystem services and Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme</i> If sufficient resources will be available, the project should pursue the development of a full economic valuation of the ecosystem services, by expanding the assessment studies developed so far, and add a few PES schemes.						
Management Response: Not agree. Based on discussions with RTA it was agreed that a full-fledged economic valuation of ecosystem services and Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme is much beyond the project scope. Nevertheless, the relevant studies performed under BD mainstreaming project will be used as a basis in studies performed in next GEF projects.						
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking			
			Status	Comments		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 10: <i>Explore GEF 7 programming opportunities</i> With the support of UNDP IRH colleagues and RTA, programming opportunities under GEF 7 Replenishment Cycle should be capitalised on, to continue advancing the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda.						

to the development of a SIDA led comprehensive capacity building package for government institutions, and will explore ways to integrated biodiversity and ecosystem services training modules in this package.	UNDP CO			
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 12: <i>Develop Training Needs Assessments (TNAs)</i> Development and delivery of the training modules should start with the Training Needs Assessment (should resources be available for TNAs). In addition to the project document prescriptions for potential training topics, a TNA will effectively highlight the capacity gaps and support the development of tailor made training modules.				
Management Response: Noted. the project will follow the recommended actions.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
12.1 The project will assess the existing financial resources	December 2017	Project team	Status	Comments
12.2 If sufficient financial resources are available, the project will develop TNAs and will tailor training modules to existing capacity gaps.	December 2018	Project team	Not started	
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 13: <i>Reflect on the Project's Best Practices and Lessons Learned</i> The project should start dedicating time and effort to the collection of emerging results and best practices, the midterm is a good starting point, as meaningful results in the field start emerging. In addition, since the project had produced an impressive string of valuable studies and reports, it could be worthwhile to extract analytical briefs and information packages to be shared with the national counterparts				
Management Response: Noted. The project will follow the recommended actions.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
13.1 The project, supported by the technical experts, will extract	May 2018	Project team	Status	Comments

the most essential information from the studies developed so far, and will codify them in short briefing packages					
13.2 The project will use these short information materials during bilateral meetings with national counterparts or in training sessions.	May 2019	Project team UNDP CO	Started		
13.3 The project will start documenting and drafting lessons learned and best practices showcasing achievements.	May 2019	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 14: <i>Work with the Congress of Local Authorities (CALM) and with UNDP SARD Programme to ensure replication of the best practices</i> The project should work closely with CALM and UNDP SARD to support replication of demonstrated environment and socio-economic benefits in all the districts and locality of Moldova.					
Management Response: Noted, the project will follow the recommended actions					
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking Status Comments		
14.1 The project will establish contacts with CALM and will seek to participate to their meetings in order to show case results at local level	May 2019	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
14.2 The project will try to ascertain in as much as possible, CALM active involvement in replicating project's land use planning approaches.	May 2019	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
14.3 The project will present the project results and lessons learned to GAL groups under UNDP SARD programme	May 2019	Project team UNDP CO	Not started		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 15: <i>Secure stakeholder agreement on a project Exit Strategy</i> To consolidate results and strengthen sustainability, the MTR recommends that the project produce and secure stakeholder agreement on an <u>Exit Strategy</u> , which should be developed by mid-2018. The exit strategy will define and clarify national and local key partners' roles and responsibilities for project results.					
Management Response: Noted, the project will follow the recommended actions					

Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
The project will draft an Exit Strategy with main steps to ensure sustainability of results, roles and responsibilities.	May 2018	Project team	Not started	
The draft Exit Strategy will be discussed and approved by the Project Board.	June 2018	Project team UNDP CO	Not started	