



**Terminal Evaluation of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Project:
Building Armenia's National Transparency Framework
under Paris Agreement**

(UNDP PIMS+ ID: 6332; GEF ID: 10138)

Terminal Evaluation Report

Terminal Evaluation timeframe: 15 November 2023 – 15 March 2024

Date of Final Terminal Evaluation Report: 20 March 2024

Region and countries included in the project: ECIS; Republic of Armenia

GEF Focal Area/Strategic Program:

GEF-7 Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)

CCM-3-8: Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency;

CCA-2: Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation

Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity):

Ministry of Environment

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Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer

This report, prepared by independent consultants, reflects their findings and conclusions, which may not necessarily align with the views of UNDP Country Office, UNDP Senior Management, or other entities.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BUR	Biennial Update Report
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
CBIT project	Building Armenia's National Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement
CBIT-GSP	Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDR	Combined Delivery Report
CEPA	Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Armenia and the European Union
CER	Climate Environment Resilience
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gasses
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRES	Gender Responsive Effectiveness Scale
HMC SNCO	Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center
(I)NDC	(Intended) Nationally Determined Contribution
ICA	International Consultation and Analysis
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NC	National Communication
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NIM	National Implementation Modality
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PIP	Project Information Package
ProDoc	Project Document
RF	Results Framework
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SPRs	Standard Progress Reports
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TNA	Technology Needs Assessment
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNDP CO	UNDP Country Office
UNFCCC	United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar
5NC	Fifth National Communication

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. Project Information Table

Project Details		Project Milestones	
Project Title	Building Armenia's National Transparency Framework under Paris Agreement	PIF Approval Date:	18 April 2019
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #):	6332	CEO Approval date (MSP):	20 May 2020
GEF Project ID:	10138	ProDoc Signature Date:	16 December 2020
UNDP Quantum Business Unit, Award ID, Project ID:	UNDP-ARM, 00109279.1, 00109279	Date Project Manager hired:	3 May 2021
Country/Countries:	Armenia	Inception Workshop Date:	7 May 2021
Region:	Europe & Central Asia	Mid-Term Review Completion Date:	N/A
Focal Area:	GEF-7 CBIT	Terminal Evaluation Completion date:	16 March 2024
GEF Operational Programme or Strategic Priorities/Objectives:	CCM-3-8 CCA-2	Planned Operational Closure Date:	16 June 2024
Trust Fund:	GEF Trust Fund		
Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity):	Ministry of Environment		
NGOs/CBOs involvement:	N/A		
Private sector involvement:	N/A		
Geospatial coordinates of project sites:	Yerevan, Armenia		
Financial Information			
PDF/PPG	at approval (US\$M)		at PDF/PPG completion (US\$M)
GEF PDF/PPG grants for project preparation	-		-
Co-financing for project preparation	-		-
Project	at CEO Endorsement (US\$M)		at TE (US\$M)
[1] UNDP contribution:	170,000		150,000
[2] Government:	400,000		352,000
[3] Other multi-/bi-laterals:	-		9,800
[4] Private Sector:	-		-
[5] NGOs:	-		-
[6] Total co-financing [1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5]:	570,000		511,800
[7] Total GEF funding:	990,000		813,452
[8] Total Project Funding [6 + 7]	1,560,000		1,325,252

1.2. Project Description

The project is designed to offer support in building institutional and technical capacities to meet the enhanced transparency requirements outlined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Employing a capacity-strengthening approach, the project aims to transition from ad hoc reporting to a continuous process of measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV). This approach ensures the comprehensive coverage of transparency activities, enabling the country to monitor its progress against the commitments specified in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). The first project component establishes national institutional arrangements for an enhanced transparency framework, the second component introduces MRV systems to support this framework, and the third component provides essential capacity building for stakeholders. This capacity building is crucial for sustaining transparency-related activities over time.

1.3. Evaluation Ratings Table

Evaluation Ratings Table	
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	Rating
M&E design at entry	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
M&E Plan Implementation	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Overall Quality of M&E	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Implementation & Execution	Rating
Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	Satisfactory (S)
Overall quality of Implementation/Execution	Satisfactory (S)
Assessment of Outcomes	Rating
Relevance	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Effectiveness	Satisfactory (S)
Efficiency	Satisfactory (S)
Overall Project Outcome Rating	Satisfactory (S)
Sustainability	Rating
Financial resources	Likely (L)
Socio-economic	Likely (L)
Institutional framework and governance	Likely (L)
Environmental	Likely (L)
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	Likely (L)

1.4. Concise Summary of Findings, Conclusions and Lessons Learned

The CBIT project reveals a commendable undertaking regarding its design, implementation, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender equality, and overall impact.

The meticulous design aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” and United Nations Development Assistance Framework/Country Programme Document (UNDAF/CPD) Outcome 4.

During the implementation, the project integrates adaptive management and robust stakeholder engagement. It incorporates detailed monitoring and evaluation, along with strong risk management. These elements collectively contribute to a satisfactory overall execution.

In terms of relevance, the project aligns seamlessly with international commitments, playing a pivotal role in addressing climate change and enhancing institutional capacities. It significantly contributes to Armenia's

commitments under the Paris Agreement and SDG 13, addressing critical gaps in the national climate change monitoring and reporting, and supporting NDC implementation.

The project's effectiveness is demonstrated through key achievements, including the establishment of a legislative framework for formalizing the MRV mandate, legislative amendments for GHG Inventory institutionalization, a comprehensive National Inventory Report (NIR) for the period 1990-2019, and successful integration of gender aspects. However, further efforts are needed to institutionalize the remaining components of transparency framework, encompassing mitigation and adaptation policy and measures, support received and NDC tracking.

Project's efficiency has faced initial challenges, including team formation issues, COVID-19 restrictions, staff turnover, and regional conflicts causing delays. However, adaptive measures, involving a Responsible Party, external collaboration, and global support, significantly accelerate implementation. Financial delivery rate reaches 82% at Terminal Evaluation. Despite these achievements, a 6-month extension has been approved to offset initial delays. Strong governance, communication, and outreach initiatives underscore efficiency. Continued support for legislation adoption and collaboration with Climate Promise 2 for Armenia's NDC progress report is crucial for ongoing success.

The project demonstrates robust sustainability across various dimensions. Financially, it secures substantial government support, engaging diverse stakeholders and fostering potential for a second CBIT project. The use of open-source software enhances adaptability for the MRV system at minimal cost. Socio-economic sustainability is justified with the project supporting investments that address climate change impacts, create employment opportunities, and align with fundamental human rights. Institutional sustainability is ensured by leveraging existing government bodies, adhering to transparency framework mandates, and maintaining climate data collection and management through thorough documentation and succession planning. The project actively considers environmental sustainability, complying with the Armenian Environmental Impact Assessment Law. This law includes a dedicated chapter on climate change-related interventions, mandating comprehensive environmental assessments and safeguards.

In the realm of gender equality, the project actively integrates gender considerations across decision-making, capacity building, statistics, policy, and reporting. Achieving a "Gender Targeted" assessment on the Gender Responsive Effectiveness Scale (GRES) reflects the project's high-quality treatment of gender aspects. It serves as a commendable model for future gender-inclusive climate change initiatives.

The impact of the project is multifaceted, catalyzing positive change in climate change awareness, mitigation, and adaptation in Armenia. Social, technical, and analytical capacities related to climate change are significantly enhanced, with collaboration across sectors and strengthened NGO engagement. The project's collaboration with NGOs has not only strengthened capacities but also empowered female-led organizations, contributing to gender equality within the sector. Policy impacts are evident through the reinforcement of legislation and regulations, aligning with Armenia's NDC and SDG 13.

Lessons learned from the design phase emphasize the success of utilizing "NIM with UNDP support," the advantages of international reviews, and the need for meticulous attention to legislative and regulatory indicators. In parallel, lessons from the implementation phase highlight the benefits of improvement planning and underscore the advantages of mentoring approach to GHG Inventory development. These insights, along with identified needs for ongoing external financial resources, continued capacity building, strengthened coordination mechanisms, enhanced participation of non-government actors, greater inclusivity of women and vulnerable groups, and sustained public awareness efforts, provide valuable guidance for future climate change initiatives. The project not only sets a benchmark for sustainability but also contributes significantly to Armenia's proactive stance in addressing climate change on the global stage.

1.5. Recommendations Summary Table

No	Recommendation	Timeframe	Entity Responsible
1	<p>Sustain stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement, ensuring ongoing participation in decision-making and future project activities and initiatives.</p>	As applicable for future projects and initiatives	Ministry of Environment, UNDP, Stakeholders
2	<p>Seek to broaden the coverage and inclusiveness of the Working Groups by incorporating new sectors, even within the same ministry, and extending beyond governmental representation alone.</p> <p>Broaden the Working Groups (WGs) by including external stakeholders, such as NGOs, private entities, and academic institutions, to enhance collaboration, foster interdisciplinary perspectives, and ensure a more comprehensive and holistic approach to climate change-related matters in future project activities and initiatives.</p>	As applicable for future projects and initiatives	Ministry of Environment, Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change, UNDP
3	<p>Utilize the upcoming Development of the First Biennial Transparency Report and the combined Fifth National Communication and Second Biennial Transparency Report of Armenia to the UNFCCC project as a testing ground for the achievements made under the CBIT project.</p> <p>This approach ensures a comprehensive evaluation of CBIT outcomes for practical reporting, testing within the BTR and 5NC context to identify gaps, refine methodologies, and enhance overall effectiveness. The integrated testing mechanism aligns CBIT achievements with Armenia's commitment to transparent and impactful climate action.</p>	During the BTR and 5NC project	Ministry of Environment, UNDP, HMC SNCO, Experts
4	<p>Explore GEF support for follow-up CBIT (CBIT 2) project.</p> <p>CBIT 2 project should aim to revise the project achievements based on BTR and 5NC testing insights, address shortcomings, and integrate stakeholder feedback. Additionally, leverage GEF assistance to expand current achievements into a comprehensive transparency framework, institutionalizing remaining components within Armenia's governance structure. This strategic move ensures continuous improvement, aligns with international standards, and reinforces Armenia's commitment to the global climate change agenda.</p>	Until CBIT closure	Ministry of Environment, UNDP
5	<p>Strengthen the revision of NDC by incorporating actionable strategies and conducting comprehensive analyses.</p> <p>Capitalizing on the successful outcomes of the CBIT project, a proactive approach is recommended for revising NDC. This involves developing a robust strategy informed by CBIT lessons, ensuring transparent progress tracking. Additionally, analysing co-benefits and exploring the NDC-SDG nexus enhances the overall value proposition and promotes a holistic approach to sustainable development.</p>	As applicable for future projects and initiatives	UNDP, Ministry of Environment, Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change, Experts, Stakeholders

2. Introduction

2.1. Objective and Purposes of the Terminal Evaluation

The main **objective** of the Terminal Evaluation (TE) is to assess project performance against the expectations set out in the project results framework. The analysis of achievements is carried out across the five outcomes focused towards building institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. In addition, this Evaluation aims to provide forward-looking recommendations on the sustainability of the Project results and the Project's scaling up potential.

The TE serves the dual **purposes** of promoting accountability and transparency while concurrently synthesizing lessons to inform the selection, design, and implementation of future UNDP-supported initiatives. This integrated approach enhances the sustainability of benefits and aids in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. Specifically, the TE seeks to assess the project's accountability, transparency, and collaboration with key national stakeholders and UNDP staff at Regional and Country Office levels, as well as ascertains how beneficiaries have benefited from the project interventions. The TE further documents project results, showcasing their purposeful contribution to GEF strategic objectives for global environmental benefits. It also assesses project convergence with UNDP country program priorities, including climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, poverty alleviation, and cross-cutting themes such as gender equality and human rights.

2.2. Scope

According to the ToR (*Annex 1: TE ToR*), within the **scope** of the TE, the extent to which the planned Project outcomes and outputs have been achieved since the beginning of the Project and likelihood for their full achievement by the end of the Project is assessed. The Evaluation investigates the overall performance and results of the Project, capturing the changes triggered by the Project in the national transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The TE looks into the Project's processes, strategic partnerships and linkages in the specific country's context that proved critical in producing the intended outputs and the factors that facilitated and/or hindered the progress in achieving the outputs, both in terms of the external environment and risks, crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nagorno-Karabakh military conflict and regional instability, as well as internal, including weaknesses in programme design, management and implementation, human resource skills, and resources.

Specifically evaluated were:

a) Project Design/Formulation

- Results Framework
- Assumptions and Risks
- Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g., same focal area) incorporated into project design
- Planned stakeholder participation
- Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector

b) Project Implementation & Adaptive Management

- Management Arrangements
- Work Planning
- Finance and co-finance
- Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Reporting
- Communications

c) Project Results

The results were assessed according to the criteria outlined in the evaluation Guidelines, considering:

- **Relevance:** The extent to which the outcome is suited to local and national development priorities and organizational policies, including changes over time.
- **Effectiveness:** The extent to which an objective was achieved or how likely it is to be achieved.
- **Efficiency:** The extent to which results were delivered with the least costly resources possible.
- **Sustainability:** The likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended period of time after completion.

2.3. Methodology

The TE process adhered to the guidance and quality standards outlined in the document [‘Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects’](#). The TE team comprised of an International Evaluator and a National Evaluator Assistant. The International Evaluator played a pivotal role in preparing and overseeing the overall evaluation process, methodology, and all associated products. This encompassed designing the evaluation methodology and tools, ensuring the quality of processes, and overseeing timely and high-quality data collection, analysis, and reflection in the report. The National Evaluator Assistant provided essential support to the International Evaluator throughout the evaluation, contributing to the design of the methodology and tools, data collection and analysis, synthesis, triangulation, and the drafting of findings, conclusions, and lessons learned.

From the TE inception phase, the Project Team was actively consulted and involved. They shared project documents, provided prompt responses to inquiries, and collaborated in defining the evaluation methodology. The Project Team worked closely with the TE team in identifying stakeholders and organizing interviews and focus group discussions.

The TE team conducted an assessment of the project's achievements employing a participatory, results-oriented methodology that adhered to established standards. Criteria including Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, and Impact were applied to comprehensively evaluate the overall project progress and performance. The TE Inception Report featured a detailed evaluation matrix, aligning with key criteria such as Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Sustainability, as well as addressing gender equality and women's empowerment, impact, and the catalytic role of the project (*Annex 5: Evaluation Question Matrix*). This matrix delineated primary evaluation questions, data sources/methods, indicators, and the chosen methodology. It played a crucial role in guiding the examination of documentation, interviews, and focus group discussions with stakeholders, ultimately shaping the findings derived from the data analysis presented in the evaluation report.

Given the project evaluation's scope, a mixed-method approach was adopted, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods, techniques, and tools. Consequently, the evaluation methodology encompassed widely accepted tools such as document review, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Qualitative data analysis techniques, including triangulation, validations, interpretations, and abstractions, were employed, alongside quantitative data analysis focusing on progress and trends. Additionally, basic gender-responsive tools were integrated, ensuring a comprehensive and nuanced evaluation process.

2.4. Data Collection & Analysis

Document review

A desk-review of pertinent documents and secondary sources forming the project's scope of work was conducted. These materials were organized in a cloud-based electronic platform comprising 27 folders with over 60 documents (Project Information Package (PIP)), collaboratively developed with the Project Team during the Inception Phase (*Annex 4: List of documents reviewed*). The platform encompassed documents from the preparation phase, Project Document (ProDoc), project reports (including Project Implementation Reports and Annual Work Plans), project budget and revisions, GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools, national strategic and legal documents, and other materials deemed valuable for this evidence-based evaluation. Qualitative and quantitative data were extracted from these documents to assess project progress and performance based on the predefined evaluation criteria and indicators within the Project Results Framework.

Key informant interviews and focus group discussions

To accommodate the scope and timeline of the evaluation, a mixed sampling strategy, incorporating purposive and convenience sampling, was employed. A list of key informants among stakeholders was compiled with the assistance of the Project Team, taking into consideration their level of involvement in project design, implementation, and benefits received.

The TE team executed a field mission to Armenia from 22 to 26 January 2024 (*Annex 2: TE Mission itinerary*), conducting:

- In-person interviews (13),
- Online video interviews (3) and
- Focus group discussions (7) with 2-5 participants.

The distribution by stakeholders included:

- UNDP country office (2),
- CBIT Project team members (4),
- National Experts (8),
- Regional Technical Adviser (1),
- International Experts (1),
- Contractors (2),
- Ministry of Environment (3),
- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (3),
- Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center (5),
- Statistical Committee (5),
- Partnering projects representatives (1),
- NGO Representatives (2),

totaling 37 Key Informants, out of whom, 27 were women (*Annex 3: List of Persons Interviewed*).

Data analysis

The collected data underwent an extensive analysis process. This involved organizing and classifying information, tabulating and summarizing it, and comparing results with other pertinent information. Qualitative data analysis techniques such as triangulation, validations, interpretations, and abstractions were predominantly utilized. Hence, the data collected from review of documents, key informant interviews and focus group discussions is validated and triangulated through comparing data from different sources to identify similarities, contradictions and patterns and check the reliability of evidence. The Project Results Framework indicators and targets served as the primary reference during analysis to evaluate the achievability status of project outcomes and outputs. Gender-responsive tools, including the Gender Responsive Effectiveness Scale (GRES rates: Gender Negative,

Gender Blind, Gender Targeted, Gender Responsive, Gender Transformative), were applied to assess the project's level of gender responsiveness. Financial data, inclusive of project budgets, expenditures, co-financing and leveraged financing, were scrutinized. Variances between planned and actual expenditures were examined and explained. Excel was utilized to analyze financial data, produce graphs, and discern trends.

2.5. Ethics

The TE team made every effort to comply with the [United Nations Evaluation Group \(UNEG\) Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation](#), following the Do No Harm (DNH) approach that provides professional standards and ethical and moral principles. According to this document: "Evaluators shall respect the right of individuals to provide information in confidence and ensure that participants are aware of the scope and limits of confidentiality. Evaluators should ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced back to its source to protect relevant individuals from reprisals." The following procedures were considered in the development of the assessment:

- Reviewed and discussed all data collection instruments with the Country Office.
- Informed individual informants and groups about the purpose of the evaluation.
- Upheld gender and human rights principles throughout the evaluation process, including protecting confidentiality, ensuring informed consent, and using human rights and gender-sensitive language in reporting, all while safeguarding the dignity and well-being of participants.
- Confirmed that all stakeholders understand the limits of the activity and next steps by communicating findings with community members in an accessible and appropriate format.
- Disaggregated data by sex, geography, and social groups where feasible.

Regarding confidentiality, the content of interviews informing the analysis was not disclosed, and no direct references to statements were made unless permission had been granted to quote the informant. No personal information about participants was disclosed. UNDP did not participate in interviews and focus group discussions.

Both TE team members signed UNEG Code of Conduct Form (*Annex 8, 8a: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators*).

2.6. Limitations to the Evaluation

No particular limitations to the evaluation were identified. Efforts have been made to adhere to the original timeline outlined in the TE TOR. A minor deviation occurred with a one-week shift in the field mission, which was necessary due to the unavailability of the international expert to travel during the initially planned period. The majority of the field mission planning was carried out during the inception phase, a crucial step considering the Christmas and New Year holidays coinciding with the TE timeline, potentially posing challenges in scheduling interviews and meetings.

The National Evaluator Assistant provided necessary support to address language difficulties during interviews, focus group discussions, and document reviews as needed.

2.7. Structure of the Terminal Evaluation Report

The detailed findings of the evaluation are described in this TE Evaluation Report, using standard format for UNDP-GEF TE Reports, provided in the TOR. In addition to the detailed findings, the report also provides overall conclusions, lessons learnt and specific recommendations. A debriefing/presentation of preliminary findings was held in Yerevan, on 26 January 2024, to the Regional Technical Adviser, UNDP CO and Project Team on the last day of the field mission.

The TE report consists of five chapters. The Executive Summary, Introduction, and Project Description chapters are followed by a chapter on Findings, which presents the assessment of:

- The project design/formulation
- The project implementation and adaptive management

- The achievement of project results against expectations set out in the project's Results Framework, including the identification of risks to sustainability.

The last chapter of the TE report, "Main Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations & Lessons," elaborates on:

- Main findings, presented as statements of fact based on data analysis.
- Conclusions that are well-substantiated by evidence and logically connected to the TE findings. They highlight the strengths, weaknesses, and results of the project, respond to key evaluation questions, and provide insights into the identification of and/or solutions to important problems or issues pertinent to project beneficiaries, UNDP, and the GEF, including issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Recommendations and future-looking concepts that are concrete, practical, and feasible actions directed to the users of the evaluation. The recommendations are specifically supported by evidence and linked to the findings and conclusions around the key questions addressed by the evaluation.
- Lessons that can be drawn from the evaluation, including best practices in addressing issues related to relevance, performance, and success. These lessons provide knowledge gained from the particular circumstances that are applicable to other GEF and UNDP interventions, including examples of good practices in project design and implementation.

3. Project Description

3.1. Project Start and Duration, Including Milestones

The project received approval from GEF in May 2020, and the ProDoc was received by the Country Office on 09 October 2020. According to the ProDoc, the initial project duration was set for three years from September 2020 to August 2023. However, the official signing of the project document between the Ministry of Environment and UNDP took place on 16 December 2020, marking the official start date. Consequently, the project end date was 16 December 2023 based on the official start. The Inception Workshop was conducted on 7 May 2021 to introduce the project to the stakeholders and gather input on future actions.

3.2. Development Context: Environmental, Socio-economic, Institutional, and Policy Factors Relevant to the Project Objective and Scope

Armenia, a small, landlocked country nestled in the mountainous terrain of the South Caucasus region, is home to approximately 2.9 million people. With 90% of the land situated above 1,000 meters and 40% above 2,000 meters, Armenia faces challenges exacerbated by a discernible rise in temperature and a concerning trend of decreased precipitation over recent decades. These shifts jeopardize water resources and cast a looming threat on sustainable development. Agriculture, constituting one-fifth of Armenia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing 40% of the population, faces vulnerabilities. Climate-related agricultural losses, totalling USD 107 million between 2000 and 2005, underscore the economic impact. The energy sector, heavily reliant on hydropower resources, is highly susceptible to climate change.

Recognizing the urgency of climate action, Armenia ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1993 and the Paris Agreement within the UNFCCC in 2017. The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by limiting the global temperature rise to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to further limit it to 1.5°C. To achieve this, the Paris Agreement requires all Parties to submit their best efforts through nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Article 13 of the Agreement establishes an enhanced transparency framework to provide a clear understanding of climate change action, including reporting on actions taken and support received.

The transparency framework builds on and enhances the arrangements under the Convention, encompassing national communications, biennial update reports, biennial transparency reports and international consultation and analysis. Paragraphs 7 to 10 of Article 13 mandate each Party to regularly provide a national inventory report, information tracking progress in implementing and achieving its NDC, information on climate change impacts and adaptation, and details on support received. Article 13 also necessitates the establishment of institutions for ongoing monitoring.

To comply with the Paris Agreement, Armenia needed to establish a functional transparency framework and gain the capacity to conduct transparency activities on an ongoing basis. Achieving this objective would equip the country with the knowledge and capacity to take decisive steps to reduce vulnerability, pursue its ambitious strategic climate change goals, and chart a path towards sustainability.

3.3. Problems that the Project Sought to Address, Threats and Barriers Targeted

The identified problems addressed by the project, along with the threats and barriers targeted, posed significant challenges to Armenia's compliance with enhanced transparency requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Prior to the project's initiation, despite some progress in UNFCCC reporting commitments,

Armenia encountered difficulties related to institutional and technical capacity, MRV infrastructure, continuous monitoring and reporting processes, and constraints on providing a comprehensive overview of mitigation and adaptation activities due to limitations in data availability and quality.

The absence of a robust MRV system and continuous monitoring processes hindered Armenia's effectiveness in addressing climate change and meeting its commitments under the Paris Agreement. The specific problems targeted by the project, as identified in the context analysis, include:

- Lack of legal/regulatory arrangements for MRV
- Lack of formalized, mandatory data sharing
- Lack of trained personnel for data collection and entry
- Lack of an ongoing permanent MRV system
- Need to strengthen the quantity and quality of activity data
- Absence of a system to track Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Gender not integrated into reporting to UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement
- Lack of tools for reporting on Climate Change (CC) Adaptation and Mitigation, and support received
- Need for Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures for all sectors of the GHG inventory

These identified challenges formed the basis for developing the Theory of Change (see Section 3.7.), guiding the project's interventions and activities to address the root causes and barriers, ensuring the effective conduct of transparency activities on an ongoing basis.

3.4. Immediate and Development Objectives of the Project

The project aims to assist the country in mainstreaming and integration of climate change considerations into national and sectorial development policies by continuing the process of institutional and technical capacity strengthening initiated and sustained by the UNFCCC reporting under the expanded transparency framework. The immediate objective is to build institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements, as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The project comprises three Components:

1. Establishing national institutional arrangements for an enhanced transparency framework
2. Introducing a MRV system in support of an enhanced transparency framework
3. Providing capacity building to support transparency-related activities over time.

3.5. Expected Results

The project intended to achieve the following interlinked outcomes towards its end:

Outcome 1.1 Transparency activities in Armenia are governed by clear and formal roles and responsibilities. This component addresses institutional gaps and constraints resulting from the lack of appropriate institutional arrangements in two ways: 1) establishing an MRV network to enhance communication and engagement of key players, ensuring sustainable operation of institutional arrangements; and 2) formalizing data provision arrangements to ensure continuous reporting during and after the project.

Outcome 2.1 Armenia uses an integrated MRV system for continuous data collection and reporting under Article 13. This project component focuses on the technical aspect of the enhanced transparency framework. It aims to create a system enabling experts to collect, analyse, and report data and information under the transparency framework for action and for support. This component also supports the development of a technical means to share data and information nationally and internationally through an online portal.

Outcome 3.1 Armenia is able to manage data for effective transparency reporting on GHG sources and sinks: . These activities strengthen capacity to report under the UNFCCC (National Communications and BURs) and

follow the development of guidance regarding reporting post-2022, specifically the format of the Biennial Transparency Report.

Outcome 3.2 Armenia is able to collect and process data for the framework for transparency of action and the framework for transparency of support under Article 13. Training and capacity strengthening activities in this project part enable stakeholders to collect and analyse data related to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and support received, forming the core of the information system developed under Component 2.

Outcome 3.3 Armenia is able to track progress against its NDC and share its approaches. Associated outputs focus on knowledge capture and exchange. The NDC is the primary summary of Armenia's contribution to the Paris Agreement. A tracking tool on the online portal allows stakeholders and the public to understand progress in climate change action. Participation in global online portals and workshops brings two benefits: 1) It allows experts in Armenia to identify best practices in MRV, avoiding duplication of guidance and tools; and 2) It enables experts to share effective approaches and methodologies generated by the project with other parties to the Paris Agreement.

3.6. Main Stakeholders: Summary List

The comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan, as outlined in the ProDoc, identifies a list of primary stakeholders, including eight institutions and three stakeholder groups:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
- Scientific Research Institute of Energy
- Ministry of Economy
- Statistical Committee
- Public Services Regulatory Commission
- Committee of the Real Estate Cadaster
- Committee of Forest of the Ministry of Environment
- International organizations
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private Sector

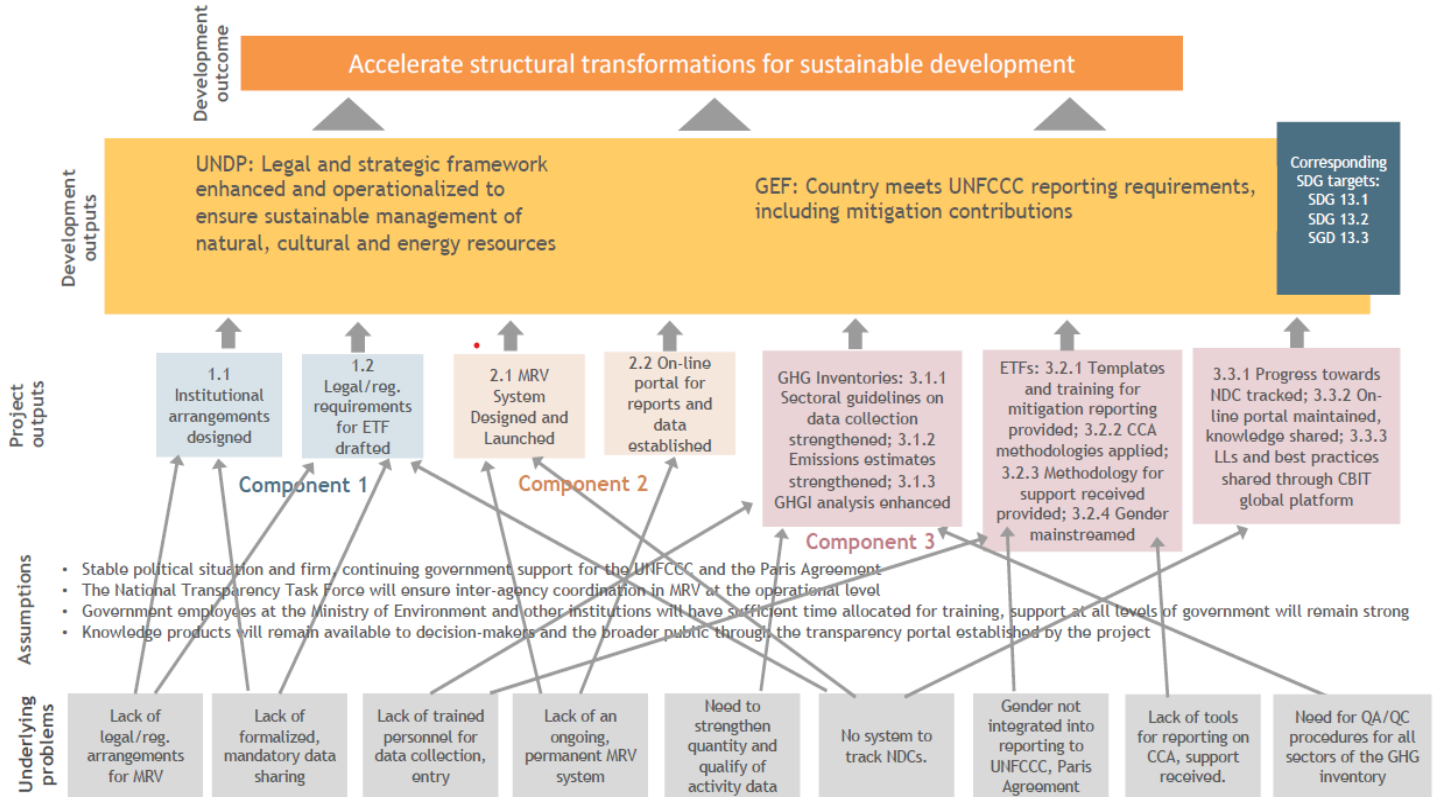
Additionally, local self-government authorities are recognized as a relevant stakeholder group during the inception phase, as documented in the Inception Workshop Report.

3.7. Theory of Change

As outlined in the ProDoc, the project's Theory of Change aimed to address specific capacity development priorities, expediting structural transformations for sustainable development in Armenia. The overarching goal was to enhance and operationalize the legal and strategic framework, ensuring the sustainable management of natural, cultural, and energy resources. Additionally, the project sought to enable the country to fulfil UNFCCC reporting requirements, including mitigation contributions.

More precisely, the project intended to bring about change by systematically targeting key barriers, resulting in incremental improvements. These short-term changes were anticipated to pave the way for long-term advancements. The project not only aimed to develop capacities but also to establish the foundations for improved systems and frameworks that could sustain the achieved outcomes. The Theory of Change (Figure 1) underscored the critical role of capacity development in enhancing development effectiveness.

The corresponding Theory of Change is visually represented through an outcome model, indicating project goals (3.4), expected results (3.5), problem and barriers (3.3) and respective interlinkages, as presented in Figure 1.



Source: ProDoc

Figure 1 Theory of Change Diagram

4. Findings

4.1. Project Design/Formulation

Analysis of Results Framework: Project Logic and Strategy, Indicators

The project's Results Framework (RF), developed during the project design phase, outlines the project's objective, outcomes, and includes specific indicators, baselines, and end-of-project targets.

At the highest level, the project aimed to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Additionally, the project sought to align with the country outcome (UNDAF/CPD): UNDAF Outcome 7; CPD/CPAP Outcome 4 which aims to introduce and apply sustainable development principles and good practices for environmental sustainability, resilience building, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and green economy. This alignment is well-established.

The immediate project objective was to "Build institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement." The project envisioned achieving this objective through five interrelated outcomes: 1) Transparency activities in Armenia are governed by clear and formal roles and responsibilities, 2) MRV systems in support of an ETF, 3) Armenia is able to manage data for effective transparency reporting on greenhouse gas (GHG) sources and sinks, 4) Armenia is able to manage data and information for the framework for transparency of action and the framework for transparency of support under Article 13 and 5) Armenia is able to track progress against its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and share its approaches. Thirteen outputs and respective activities were outlined in the ProDoc to achieve these outcomes. The RF provided a set of 13 indicators, including three to measure the project objective and the remaining ten to measure the project outcomes. Analysis and discussions with the project team revealed that the RF was well-formulated, demonstrating clear linkages among outputs, outcomes, and the objective. During the implementation, there were no changes made to the RF in terms of outcomes, indicators, and targets.

The project's Theory of Change posited that developing specific capacities would expedite structural transformations for sustainable development in Armenia. It further assumed that enhancing and operationalizing the legal and strategic framework would ensure the sustainable management of natural, cultural, and energy resources, enabling the country to fulfil UNFCCC reporting requirements, including mitigation contributions. Overall, discussions and analysis indicated that the Theory of Change was plausible and suitable.

Regarding indicators at the project objective level, there is one of GEF CBIT Core Indicators and two of UNDP CBIT Core Indicators. The ten outcome indicators are of YES/NO type. The RF also included two gender specific indicators and called for gender disaggregation of the data, which made it possible to measure the gender-related dimensions of various interventions. Overall, the outcome level indicators and targets were found suitable and SMART¹ up to a good extent. However, predominance of YES/NO indicators comes with limitations in terms of precision, sensitivity, and the ability to capture the complexity of certain results.

Assumptions and Risks

The project's Theory of Change is based on the assumptions of a stable political situation and ongoing government support for the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, ensured inter-agency coordination in MRV at the operational level, sufficient time allocated for training government employees, and the continued availability of knowledge products through the established transparency portal. Analysis and discussions with the project team and other stakeholders revealed that these assumptions reflected adequately the

¹ Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound

context at the project design phase.

The ProDoc, in its Risks Log, identified four risks and relevant mitigation measures to address these risks during the project implementation. The details of these risks and the corresponding mitigation measures are outlined in Table 1. Discussions and analysis underscored that the risks were well-defined, accompanied by robustly designed mitigation measures.

Table 1 Risks and Mitigation Measures

#	Description	Mitigation Measures / Management Response
1	Risk of insufficient government support for the establishment of the MRV framework.	The fact that the RA Government Decision states that the MRV system shall be established, and the Ministry of Environment is responsible for coordination of that process provides a strong motivation. The formal arrangements that will be developed and proposed within the project shall be validated by the highest officials. This step will allow the government to enforce arrangements regarding ministries and other data providers to produce and report the necessary data in the required time and manner.
2	Risk that critical legislation or regulatory elements supporting the MRV framework will fail to be adopted.	Component 1 of the project will focus on using the model of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which does not require legislation and has worked successfully in gathering data from different providers for the Energy Balance.
3	Risk of losing the capacity and skills acquired due to staff turnover.	Capacity strengthening activities will involve a carefully selected group of relevant experts within each ministry and agency to ensure that capacity can be retained, and succession planning will be discussed as a part of training. Guidelines and methodologies will be produced in written format, and the MRV system and operating procedures will be documented extensively, which will also contribute to retaining institutional memory.
4	Lack of proper coordination among institutions involved in the implementation of mitigation measures.	The use of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change (which must be re-organized due to changes in the structure of the Government that were made in June 2019) for coordination among government agencies and the introduction of clearly defined reporting obligations and data providers that are binding will ensure the engagement of key players and reduce the risk of overlap.

Lessons from Other Relevant Projects (e.g. Same Focal Area) Incorporated into Project Design

The CBIT project is strategically designed to integrate lessons learned from Armenia's Biennial Update Reports (BURs), the National Communications, and the BURs' International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process. By addressing gaps and providing capacity building, the project ensures alignment with Armenia's (I)NDC. Furthermore, the project aligns with the Technology Needs Assessment by supporting sustainable technologies and strengthening the Armenian Climate Technology Center and Network. Additionally, the project incorporates valuable insights from other relevant projects to enhance its alignment with national strategies, such as the National Energy Security Concept and the Scaling up Renewable Energy Program, thereby maximizing its overall effectiveness. In sum, the project design seamlessly incorporated insights gleaned from prior relevant projects and initiatives.

Planned Stakeholder Participation

In the preparation phase, a stakeholder validation workshop was held in Yerevan with the involvement of

59 participants to discuss MRV System and National Transparency Framework requirements under the Paris Agreement, as well as the key objectives of the CBIT project. The ProDoc includes a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), delineating roles in project formulation and proposed roles during implementation.

The Ministry of Environment was designated as the Implementing Partner, spearheading the coordination of transparency framework design and implementation. Other ministries and government institutions were slated for roles involving data provision, participation in trainings and capacity strengthening activities, advisory functions on data collection and monitoring procedures, as well as enhancing data quality, emission estimates, and projections.

International organizations and NGOs are anticipated to contribute to the climate change data-sharing system and MRV network. The private sector is expected to play a role in data provision and reporting on climate actions driven by private investments. The project aims to establish connections with professional associations like the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Armenia and the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen, reaching processing industries. Collaboration with the banking sector is planned to influence climate-oriented lending activities and support the measurement of impacts and finance flows towards climate-responsive investments.

Local self-government authorities are recognized as a relevant stakeholder group during the inception phase, particularly for planning and reporting on climate action at the local level.

Overall, a commitment to meaningful stakeholder participation throughout the project's lifecycle, encompassing design, implementation, and monitoring was convincingly demonstrated.

Linkages between Project and Other Interventions within the Sector

The CBIT project in Armenia is strategically positioned to leverage synergies with ongoing initiatives, ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive approach to climate action. Noteworthy projects include:

- GEF Projects:
 - "Development of Armenia's Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC and Second Biennial Update Report" (GEF ID 9474): CBIT collaborates closely, complementing activities to strengthen capacities.
 - "Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Mountain Landscapes of North-Eastern Armenia" (GEF ID 5353): Partnerships to enhance Forestry sector GHG Inventory.
 - "Sustainable Land Management for Increased Productivity in Armenia" (GEF ID 8005): Coordination on climate-resilient agricultural management under reporting on adaptation measures.
- Other Donor-Supported Projects:
 - "Scaling up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP)": Capacity-building to support renewable energy projects and formalize relationships for improved reporting.
 - Energy-efficiency lending facilities: Cooperation with GGF and Energocredit to enhance reporting on climate change mitigation.
 - Covenant of Mayors: Collaboration with Covenant of Mayors, involving 24 cities, to monitor and report emission reductions and climate resilience.
- EU-Funded and UNDP Projects:
 - "Sustainable management of pastures and forest in Armenia": Communication for assessing and reporting adaptation benefits.
 - Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P): Cooperation on assessing and reporting GHG mitigation effects of energy efficiency projects.

- EU4Climate: Complementary support for NDC development and revision, fostering ongoing communication.
- GCF-Funded Project:
 - "De-risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits" (GCF): Collaboration on MRV system for the building sector and enhancing reporting on mitigation actions.
 - "The National Adaptation Plan and Programming Project": Synergy in MRV system capacity building for effective integration of climate change adaptation.
- Government Initiatives:
 - The Energy Balance: Collaboration with the Ministry for QA/QC of data in the Energy Balance, contributing to the improvement of the Energy sector GHG Inventory.
 - The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP -- Phase II): Cooperation with the Ministry for data collection on EE measures, providing capacity-building for transparent and comparable information.

This collaborative landscape was found well-established to ensure the CBIT project aligns with and enhances various ongoing efforts in Armenia's climate action journey.

4.2. Project Implementation

Adaptive Management (Changes to the Project Design and Project Outputs during Implementation)

Discussions with UNDP and the project team indicated that no modifications have been made to the project design, results framework outcomes, outputs, indicators, and targets throughout the project implementation. Despite this, the adaptive dimension of project management has been evident in several aspects.

Firstly, recognizing capacity constraints at the Implementing Partner, a Responsible Party was engaged at the beginning of the second year of project implementation (the agreement was signed on 26 February 2022) to build capacity within a Ministry-affiliated institution. Initially, the State Agency "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" at the Ministry of Environment assumed this role, but later, due to in-house capacities and the potential for a formalized mandate for reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, this responsibility was assigned to HMC SNCO.

Secondly, although not initially planned, the project took the initiative to prepare a National Inventory Report (NIR) for the years 1990-2019. This involved a mentoring approach, with experts who had compiled previous GHG inventories mentoring HMC SNCO experts in developing the NIR. This approach contributed to capacity building, inventory improvement, and overall sustainability of results.

The COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-2021 significantly hindered in-person training, workshops, and events. Additionally, delays in the project's start, combined with staff rotations at the Implementing Partner and conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, affected standard operating procedures and government priorities. Despite these challenges, the project's adaptive management played a crucial role in completing most activities within the stipulated project timeframe (refer to the Section on Risk Management including Social and Environmental Standards).

In summary, the evaluation identified a highly effective implementation of adaptive management, showcasing a robust and responsive approach to address challenges and uncertainties throughout the project.

Actual Stakeholder Participation and Partnership Arrangements

The project has significantly surpassed its beneficiary target, with 266 individual beneficiaries from more than 40 institutions (i.e. state authorities, NGOs, academia, private sector, the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change and its Working Groups, as well as independent experts) participating in project capacity strengthening activities. Gender parity has been achieved, with almost 55% of beneficiaries being women. Additionally, 20% of individual beneficiaries have engaged in three or more project events.

While the project has largely adhered to the SEP as outlined in the ProDoc, it has expanded engagement in four key areas:

- Strengthening the partnership with the Ministry of Environment, resulting in the development of the National Inventory Report for 1990-2019.
- Direct collaboration with the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change and its Working Groups. This work was not explicitly stated in the SEP but aligned with the project's envisioned contributions.
- Close cooperation with the EU-funded EU4Climate Project to leverage synergies in support for climate change MRV, tracking of NDCs, and gender mainstreaming and with the UNDP-GCF Armenia's National Adaptation Plan project to coordinate efforts on building monitoring framework for adaptation.
- Collaboration with the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP), facilitating experience exchange on transparency and MRV with other countries in the CBIT-GSP regional network.

Notably, partnerships were established with the State Statistical Committee, supporting the creation of Air Accounts and the inclusion of climate change statistics in the publication "Women and Men." The project also cooperated with the committee on UN Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators and improvements in Energy Balance surveys.

As a result, the project is found exceeding expectations in stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements. However, limited inclusion of NGOs and the private sector in the Working Groups of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change, beyond the project's control, was noted despite their appropriate involvement in the capacity-building component.

Project Finance and Co-finance

The project has a total cost of USD 1,560,000, with funding from various sources. The breakdown includes a GEF grant of USD 990,000, in-kind co-financing of USD 400,000 from the Ministry of Environment, and parallel co-financing of USD 170,000 by UNDP. The project also secured additional funds from the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development to engage an expert supporting capacity building in GHG reporting for the Forestry and Other Land Use sub-sector (*Annex 6: Co-financing table*)

Financial details, extracted from the UNDP financial system as of January 2024, are presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**, providing a multi-year budget breakdown across the three components: (1) institutional setting, (2) MRV system and (3) capacity building, and allocations for Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management (M&E and KM), and Project Management.

Budget revisions were conducted following UNDP operational procedures, and with the involvement of the Responsible Party (HMC SNCO) in 2022, the implementation progress accelerated. The cumulative financial delivery increased from 24.79% to 65.7% documented in PIR 2023, indicating a steady progress. As of January 2024, cumulative financial delivery stands at 82%, with the likelihood of full spending by the project's end, considering the remaining activities. Actual expenditures per component align well with the total planned

project budget per component. The expenditure amounts for 2021 and 2022 align with the respective Combined Delivery Report (CDR), whereas the CDR for 2023 had not been finalized at the time of TE.

Co-financing commitments have also seen a positive progress. Utilization of the UNDP's co-financing reached 83.5%, and of the Ministry of Environment's co-financing, 83.25%, as evidenced in the PIR 2023. At the TE stage, the project was co-financed with USD 511,800 (refer to *Annex 6: Co-financing table* for the amount by sources of co-financing) constituting approximately 90% of the initially committed amount.

Overall, the project exhibited an effective management of financing and co-financing flows.

Table 2 Project Expenditures (in USD) as of January 2024

Activity	2021		2022		2023	
	Annual Budget	Expenditure	Annual Budget	Expenditure	Annual Budget	Expenditure
Component 1_UNDP	30,060	27,502	87,695	46,821	45,677	43,151
Component 1_HMC SNCO	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Component 2	24,800	23,745	99,200	80,939	86,316	65,467
Component 3_UNDP	69,820	59,235	173,208	119,505	112,604	107,998
Component 3_HMC SNCO	0	0	82,000	78,520	111,480	73,189
M&E and KM	2,990	2,890	7,300	4,164	1,016	3,400
Project Management	5,850	6,088	34,100	30,485	34,501	30,353
Total	133,520	119,460	483,503	360,434	401,593	333,559

Activity	Total		Remining Budget	Delivery ratio
	Allocation	Expenditure		
Component 1_UNDP	120,000	117,474	2,526	98%
Component 1_HMC SNCO	10,000	10,000		
Component 2	210,000	170,151	39,849	81%
Component 3_UNDP	357,000	286,738	83,553	84%
Component 3_HMC SNCO	165,000	151,709		
M&E and KM	38,000	10,454	27,546	28%
Project Management	90,000	66,926	23,074	74%
Total	990,000	813,452	176,548	82%

Monitoring and Evaluation: Design at Entry (*), Implementation (*), and Overall Assessment of M&E (*)

Design at Entry: The ProDoc features a detailed Monitoring Plan, delineating responsibilities, indicative costs, and timeframes for various M&E activities, including:

- Inception Workshop
- Monitoring of indicators in project results framework
- GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)
- Monitoring all risks (Atlas risk log)
- Monitoring of stakeholder engagement plan

- Monitoring of gender action plan
- Project Steering Committee Meetings
- Reports of Project Steering Committee Meetings
- Lessons learned and knowledge generation
- Supervision missions
- Oversight missions
- Terminal GEF Core indicators
- Independent Terminal Evaluation and management response

Project-level M&E aligns with the UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with UNDP standards in monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation. Additionally, the project adheres to mandatory GEF M&E requirements, following the GEF Monitoring Policy, GEF Evaluation Policy, and other relevant GEF policies.

Beyond these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, the project allows for additional M&E activities crucial for adaptive management and enhancing project-level adaptability.

Overall, the M&E design established a robust framework for continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management, integrating both UNDP and GEF standards to effectively assess and improve project performance.

Implementation: As the first milestone of the GEF monitoring requirements, the Inception Workshop, convened on 7 May 2021, served as the official introduction of the project to stakeholders and a platform for consulting on future actions. With objectives encompassing the presentation of the project scope, strategy and outcomes, the workshop facilitated engagement with 63 participants (56% woman), including 39 online attendees, from 17 institutions representing diverse sectors. Key features included a review of the results framework, risk reassessment, and strategy validation.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established to take corrective action as necessary to ensure the project achieves its desired results. Comprising the Project Executive (Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment), Beneficiary Representative (Head of Climate Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment), and Development Partner (Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change), the PSC oversees project progress. UNDP assumes the quality assurance role, providing support to the PSC and Project Management Unit through objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. Additionally, the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on the Implementation of Requirements and Provisions of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement serves as the Project Board (PB). The PB meetings with participation of all PSC members were held in 2022 and 2023 and minutes are available. The Project Manager, selected through a competitive procedure, holds the authority to manage the project on a day-to-day basis within the constraints outlined by the PSC.

Subsequently, the project demonstrated effective day-to-day management and continuous monitoring of project results. Risks were diligently monitored, reviewed, and updated using the ATLAS system and Quantum after ATLAS replacement. The communication channels between the Project Manager, Project Board, UNDP Country Office, and UNDP Regional Technical Advisor were well-established and maintained in a timely manner.

Regular progress reports, including nine Standard Progress Reports (SPRs) quarterly and two Annual Progress Reports annually, were developed. The project's development objective and implementation progress were closely monitored through the GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) for 2022 and 2023. The PIR 2022 received a satisfactory rating for development objective progress and a moderately satisfactory rating for

implementation progress, citing delays caused by the COVID-19 crisis and the 2020 hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. The PIR 2023 maintained a satisfactory rating for development objective progress and a moderately satisfactory rating for implementation progress, necessitating a project extension to fully achieve the end-of-project results.

Annual work plans were consistently developed to support the efficient implementation of the project. Two Project Board meetings were organized to assess project performance and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year.

Progress monitoring was further enriched with two field visits conducted in April 2023 and December 2023 by the UNDP Climate Environment Resilience (CER) Portfolio Programme Analyst. The findings from these field visits are documented in the respective SPRs, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the project's on-the-ground progress.

In summary, the M&E implementation demonstrated careful planning, efficient day-to-day management, and thorough reporting in accordance with UNDP and GEF standards.

Overall assessment: Overall, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities demonstrate commendable effectiveness, attributed to a meticulously crafted design and the diligent execution of established procedures. The comprehensive M&E framework ensures a thorough examination of project progress, substantiating the highly satisfactory evaluation of its conduct and outcomes.

Please see the following table for overall rating as per TE rating scales:

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	Remarks	Rating
M&E Design at Entry	The project's exceptional M&E design aligns with UNDP and GEF standards, ensuring a robust framework for continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management to effectively assess and improve project performance.	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
M&E Implementation	The project's M&E implementation reflects meticulous planning, effective day-to-day management, and comprehensive reporting, aligning with UNDP and GEF standards.	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Overall Quality of M&E	The well-crafted design and diligent execution of procedures ensure commendable effectiveness in M&E activities	Highly Satisfactory (HS)

UNDP Implementation/Oversight (*) and Implementing Partner Execution (*), Overall Project Implementation/Execution (*), Coordination, and Operational Issues

UNDP Implementation/Oversight: UNDP is held accountable to GEF for the seamless implementation of this project, overseeing its execution in adherence to agreed standards and provisions. The organization assumes responsibility for delivering comprehensive GEF project cycle management services, encompassing project approval, start-up, supervision, oversight, completion, and evaluation. UNDP, in its Project Assurance role within the Project Board/Steering Committee, maintains a strict firewall between project oversight costs and personnel (referred to as implementation by GEF) and project implementation costs and personnel (referred to as execution by GEF).

Furthermore, UNDP provides project cycle management services by overseeing financial expenditures, ensuring strict compliance with UNDP/GEF procedures for activities and procurement, adhering to GEF reporting requirements and procedures, fostering learning and exchange within the GEF family, and commissioning the project's final evaluation while triggering additional reviews or evaluations as necessary and in consultation with project counterparts. All Key Informants praised the UNDP team for their

commendable work planning, effective communication, coordination, responsiveness, and preparedness to adapt to changing circumstances. In particular, the Implementing Partner and the Responsible Party expressed high satisfaction of the implementation support services provided by UNDP team.

In conclusion, it is convincingly demonstrated that the effective implementation of the project and its overall success were significantly bolstered by UNDP's robust execution.

Implementing Partner Execution: The Ministry of Environment serves as the Implementing Partner for this project. Recognizing its capacity constraints and the prevailing emergency situation in Armenia, the Ministry of Environment requested UNDP country office to provide project support services and general management oversight. The Ministry's request was endorsed by the GEF Operational Focal Point for Armenia (Endorsement Letter of 25 November 2019) and Letter of Agreement between UNDP and Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia for the Provision of Support Services was signed on 22 December 2020. These support services encompass financial transactions, personnel recruitment, procurement, travel arrangements, and event organization. The UNDP country office, in delivering these services, aimed at strengthening the Ministry's capacity without seeking cost recovery.

Additionally, a Responsible Party, initially the State Agency "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" at the Ministry of Environment and later transitioned to HMC SNCO, was engaged to enhance capacity within a Ministry-affiliated institution. HMC SNCO was selected based on the successful Micro Assessment under the requirements of Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework. HMC SNCO brings expertise for monitoring in many CC-related areas, management skills, established networks, and cooperation with peer institutions from other countries. Additionally, HMC SNCO hosts several databases and fulfils reporting requirements at international and national levels (e.g., LRTAP, Basel Convention, etc.), enabling harmonized reporting at both levels. The Responsible Party, with the project's collaboration, secured a formalized mandate for GHG Inventory preparation and reporting, significantly boosting capacities in this crucial area and ensuring sustainability of the project results.

In conclusion, the Implementing Partner commendably executed the project within the limitations of its human and institutional capacities. Still, the supportive role of UNDP remains pivotal, particularly in managing, monitoring, and administering project activities.

Overall Project Implementation/Execution, Coordination, and Operational Issues: In summary, the project's implementation, coordination, and operational aspects showcase a robust partnership between UNDP and the Ministry of Environment. UNDP, as the executing entity, ensures stringent adherence to GEF standards, with commendable project cycle management services. Key Informants applaud UNDP for exemplary work planning and responsiveness. The Ministry benefits from UNDP's implementation support, and the Responsible Party, HMC SNCO, enhances monitoring capacities. This harmonized collaboration ensures successful project execution and sustainability.

Overall, the project is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Despite the good progress achieved, the initial delays could not be fully compensated, and a 6-month extension was recommended by the Project Board and approved by UNDP's Executive Coordinator and Director - Environmental Finance, Vertical Funds Programming Support, Oversight and Compliance Unit to allow the successful implementation of all project activities.

Please see the following table for overall rating as per TE rating scales:

Implementation & Execution	Remarks	Rating
Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	The UNDP robust execution ensured effective implementation and contributed significantly to the project's success.	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	The Implementing Partner, the Ministry of Environment, executed the project commendably within the constraints of its human and institutional capacities. While showcasing effectiveness, the crucial role of implementation support provided by UNDP remains essential to further augment and optimize project outcomes.	Satisfactory (S)
Overall Quality of Implementation/Execution	Despite minor deviations, the project has proceeded as planned, with a 6-month extension approved to address initial delays and achieve all project activities successfully.	Satisfactory (S)

Risk Management including Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

The risks in the ATLAS Risk Register and later, in 2023, transferred to Quantum system, and PIMS+ have been consistently monitored, reviewed, and updated, maintaining an overall low risk rating, with no triggered risks in PIMS+. A new risk, related to slow hiring processes impacting project start and implementation progress, was added to the ATLAS Risk Register on 12 January 2022. The ongoing implementation of risk management measures is under continuous monitoring.

Despite hiring the Project Manager in April 2021, the Project Assistant position remained vacant, leading to capacity gaps in the project management unit. Collaborating closely with the Human Resource Unit and senior management, the project finalized the recruitment process. Meanwhile, other project staff provided back-up support until the Project Assistant was on board (1 September 2021).

Identified risks related to insufficient government support and coordination challenges for the MRV system's operationalization have been effectively addressed through the establishment of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change. This Council, serving as the Project Board, ensures high-level political support and active involvement of line ministries in a well-coordinated manner. The project actively supports the approval of legislation formalizing roles and responsibilities, facilitating timely data production and reporting.

The Covid-19 pandemic has necessitated a shift in the approach to training and stakeholder consultations, utilizing virtual tools and hybrid events to prevent further delays. Regarding the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh, the project closely monitored the situation and maintained regular communication with government counterparts and key stakeholders to avoid negative effects on project outputs.

Adaptive management measures, including the involvement of a Responsible Party and additional capacity for the Project Management Unit, have successfully mitigated operational and organizational risks, accelerating activity completion. Despite this progress, a proposed 6-month project extension was approved on 20 July 2023 to ensure the timely completion of all remaining activities.

In summary, risk management was effective and yielded productive results. Looking ahead, risk management should focus on the timely delivery of remaining activities in line with Annual Work and Procurement Plans and ensuring continuous political support for the adoption of secondary legislation until the project's completion.

4.3. Project Results

Progress towards Objective and Expected Outcomes (*)

Table 3 below provides a summary of achievements of project objective and outcomes against specified indicators and targets as outlined in the Results Framework. The data included in the "Cumulative Progress since Project Start" column for reporting is derived from triangulating information collected through interviews and focus group discussions with data reported in PIR 2023. Detailed analysis and insights are elaborated in the subsequent narrative sections. The following colour code, qualifiers, and quantifiers will be used to assess the achievement of targets.

Overperformed (OP) 6 points	Achieved (A) 5 points	To be Achieved by EoP (A-EoP) 4 points	Partially Achieved (PA) 3 points	Limited Progress (LP) 2 points	Not Achieved (NA) 1 point
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Table 3 Results Framework: Summary of Targets and Achievements

Objective: Building institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement			
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	End of Project (EoP) Target Level	Cumulative Progress since Project Start
Mandatory Indicator 1: # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	120 (65 women)	<p>TE Level: 266 (146 women)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the project implementation, 16 trainings/workshops have been conducted. The total number of participants in all the events were 716 (437 women). However, if the repeated participants (those who joined more than one event) and UNDP experts/Project Team are excluded, the number of participants totals 266, out of which, 146 (54.9%) are female. The participants represented more than 40 institutions (i.e., state authorities, non-governmental organizations, academia, private sector, the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change and its working groups, as well as independent experts). There were 50 participants (about 20% of training participants) who took part in project events three or more times. The consolidated list of training/workshop participants is included in the PIP as evidence, along with the signed List of Participants. <p>Target Overperformed (OP)</p>

<p>CBIT Core Indicator 2: Quality of MRV Systems*</p> <p>Rubric based on CBIT tracking tool (10-point scale)</p>	5	7	<p>TE level: 7 - Measurement regarding GHG is broadly done with widely acceptable methodologies, need for more sophisticated analyses to improve policy; Reporting is periodic with improvements in transparency; verification is done through more sophisticated methods even if partially.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert support was provided to the development of draft amendments to the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection, which were adopted by the National Assembly in December 2022. The Law entrusted the Government with the functions of defining the procedure for development of GHG inventory, while the Ministry of Environment has been assigned with the function of developing the corresponding procedures (amendments included in PIP as evidence). • Following the provisions to the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection, the CBIT Project supported the development of the draft Government Decision on Establishing Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation, establishing an obligation of state institutions and legal entities to provide activity data on a regular basis as necessary for the GHG inventory (draft Government Decision in Armenian included in PIP as evidence). The draft Government Decision was circulated among state authorities and the received feedback was incorporated to the draft document. Afterwards, the decision was adopted (Government Decision N54-N on Establishing Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation, from January 11, 2024). • To support the definition of institutional roles within the Ministry of Environment, the experience and legal set-up in other counties of similar status were analyzed and shared with the Ministry of Environment (Baseline Situational Analysis developed by an international consulting company included in PIP as evidence). • Expert support was provided to the development of amendments to the Charter of the “Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center,” which is a non-commercial state organization (HMC SNCO) and CBIT Project’s Responsible Party (Charter in Armenian included in PIP as evidence). The revised charter of HMC SNCO, which has been approved by the Minister of Environment (N191, dated 2 June 2023), includes provisions on GHG inventory preparation (maintaining GHG inventory database, participation in the preparation of national reports and communications for GHG emissions’ inventory). <p>Target Achieved (A)</p>
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<p>CBIT Core Indicator 3: Institutional Capacity for Transparency-Related Activities**</p> <p>Rubric based on CBIT tracking tool (4-point scale)</p>	2	3	<p>TE level: 3 - Designated transparency institution (Ministry of Environment) has an organizational unit with standing staff with some capacity to coordinate and implement transparency activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (HMC SNCO). Institution has authority or mandate to coordinate transparency activities under Article 13. Activities are not integrated into planning or budgeting activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment, which was established in 2020, is operational with 5 professionals. According to its Charter, the Department is responsible for ensuring the coordination and implementation of policies and activities required for the implementation of the provisions and obligations defined by the UNFCCC. The project continuously collaborates with the Climate Policy Department, and the UNFCCC Focal Point (Deputy Minister of Environment) to ensure the continuous data collection for GHG inventory and planning MRV-related negotiations with development partners to avoid duplication of efforts. • The HMC SNCO has been engaged by the project as Responsible Party based on the successful Micro Assessment under the requirements of Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework. The Letter of Agreement between the HMC SNCO and UNDP was signed on February 26, 2022 (included in PIP as evidence). The objective of this partnership is to build capacity within a Ministry-affiliated institution as an organizational unit with standing staff that can be involved in the implementation of certain functions related to transparency including support in reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. • Within the Project, National GHG Inventory Report (NIR) for 1990-2019 was prepared (included in PIP as evidence), with the involvement of the staff of HMC. Major improvements were made in the course of the development of the NIR for 1990-2019, following the principles of Transparency, Accuracy, Completeness, Comparability, Consistency, and based on the National GHG Inventory Improvement Plan developed by the project, which includes the recommendations of the technical expert group conducting the technical analysis for the Third Biennial Update Report of Armenia as reflected in the Technical Summary Report, and improvements recommended as a result of the peer reviews. In the NIR, the following major improvements related to completeness (new sub-categories) were done: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy sector: (1A4ci) Stationary and (1A2g) Transport Equipment.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) sector: (2C1) Iron and Steel Production.○ Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector: (3D1) Harvested Wood Products.○ Waste sector: (4C1) Waste Incineration. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● For the preparation of NIR, sectoral experts, who were previously engaged in the development of GHG inventories, were involved by HMC SNCO as mentors, and they provided on-the-job training to HMC staff (September 2022 – February 2023), designated for the development of NIR and thus, increasing the number of professionals involved in GHG inventory preparation. While developing NIR and designing draft Government Decision on Establishing Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation, a number of consultations between HMC SNCO and the expert team previously engaged in GHG inventory preparation, took place during the whole reporting period.● A number of capacity-building activities were implemented, covering various transparency reporting topics (the news with event materials are available through the website).● The project leveraged funds from the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development for the involvement of an expert from the Institute of Global Climate and Ecology, Yu. A. Israel of the Russian Federation. The consultant has been supporting the capacity building activities for improvement of GHG reporting in the Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) sub-sector. A working visit of the expert was organized on June 19-23, 2023. The working visit was aimed at supporting the national capacity building for the development of the national GHG inventory of Armenia. As part of the visit, on June 21, round table discussions took place at the HMC SNCO, where experience of the GHG inventory in RF and possible ways to improve the accountability of the Republic of Armenia in the field of "Land use, land use change and forestry" were presented by the expert and discussed with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, HMC SNCO, Statistical Committee and UNDP. During the working visit, bilateral working meetings with the participation of the international consultant were also organized with the employees of the Forestry and Biodiversity Monitoring Service of the "Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center" SNCO and the Forestry Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following GHG Inventory capacity building events were organized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Problems of Accessibility and Quality Assurance of Statistical Data for Climate Change National Report (11 August 2022) ○ Development and Implementation of National Inventory Improvement Plan (22 December 2022) ○ Round table-discussion on the Gaps in the FOLU Sub-sector of GHG Inventory (21 June 2023) • The following Adaptation and Mitigation related events were organized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arrangements for MRV System for Mitigation Policies and Actions in Armenia (30 September 2022) ○ Training on Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation for Armenia (20 April 2023) ○ Validation Workshop for MRV System of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Policies and Measures (21 April 2023). • In addition, the project’s Responsible Party, the HMC SNCO, organized online training courses and exchange of experience on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GHG inventory practices, delivered by Russian Hydromet and Estonian Environmental Research Center for the specialists of the Ministry of Environment and HMC SNCO. ○ Project management for HMC staff, delivered by “Project Management Advisory” consulting company. • The CBIT Project Team collaborates with the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme. On 18 April 2023, an online workshop on ‘Sharing Best Practices on the Establishment of Online MRV Systems’ was organized with involvement of CBIT Armenia project (the concept note included in PIP as evidence). • The continuous capacity building and close cooperation with the management and staff of the designated institution (Ministry of Environment) will be maintained to ensure appropriate knowledge on emerging needs for transparency requirements under Article 13. <p>Target Achieved (A)</p>
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Outcome 1: Transparency activities in Armenia are governed by clear and formal roles and responsibilities

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	End of Project (EoP) Target Level	Cumulative Progress since Project Start
Indicator 4: Presence of institutional arrangements for a national transparency framework	There are currently no formal institutional arrangements for a national transparency framework.	By the end of the project, an inter-agency working group and/or other body is meeting at least twice a year to communicate on MRV issues.	<p>TE Level: The Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Implementation of Requirements and Provisions of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, as well as Working Groups adjacent to the Council were established under the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Decrees in 2021 (Reference 1, Reference 2). On 10 July 2023 the meeting of the Council took place (Minutes). The Working Groups adjacent to the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change met three times (9 September 2022; 23 December 2022; 4-6 April 2023).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Resident Representative of the UNDP in Armenia is also a member of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change. The Project supported the development of the annual work plans of the working groups, and the materials developed within the Project were presented to the working groups for discussion (methodology for continuous collection of information on support received; adaptation indicators for tracking progress with adaptation implementation and their effectiveness at two sector levels - water and agriculture). More information is available under Indicator 5. The members of the working groups participated in Project events, which are discussed under Indicator 3. All the documents related to the Council and its working groups meetings are available at the website of the Ministry of Environment (in Armenian). <p>Target Achieved (A)</p>
Indicator 5: Presence of legal and/or regulatory requirements for a national transparency framework	Data sharing for reporting on climate change among different institutions is currently done on an informal, voluntary basis.	By the end of the project, data sharing agreements in the form of MoUs or legal/regulatory mandates are in place for at least two key reporting sectors.	<p>TE Level: Legal frameworks for GHG Inventory mandate and data sharing procedures are established. For mitigation, adaptation, and received support, legal packages, data collection templates, methodologies, and procedures have been drafted, with some already submitted for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the 2021-2026 Action Plan of the RA Government, under the Ministry of Environment part, there is an objective on implementing actions for adaptability to and mitigation of the consequences of the climate change with an action “Building the National Transparency Framework of Armenia under the Framework Convention

			<p>on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement”. Under this action the following expected outcomes are presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Establishing institutional arrangements of the national transparency framework requirements (measurement, reporting and verification)○ Creating an on-line platform to ensure access to data and national reports○ Elaborating sectoral formats and guides for mitigation policies and actions, as well as the assessment and accountability of the impact thereof○ Elaborating a methodology for accountability of support received, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● GHG Inventory:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Expert support was provided to the development of draft amendments to the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection, according to which the Ministry of Environment is assigned with the functions of developing the corresponding procedures for GHG Inventory preparation (Reference).○ Following the provisions to the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection, the CBIT Project supported the development of the draft Government Decision on Establishing Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation, for defining obligation of state institutions and legal entities to provide activity data on a regular basis as necessary for the GHG inventory. The draft document was developed by HMC SNCO (draft Government Decision in Armenian included in PIP as evidence).○ The draft statistical summary report form GHG emissions (biennial) and instructions for completion were drafted and provided to the Ministry of Environment (26 December 2022). The form regulates the relations between the Ministry of Environment and the Statistical Committee in regard to provision of GHG inventory data and its publication is available on the Statistical Committee’s official webpage (uploaded in PIP as evidence, in Armenian).● Mitigation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Legal package for continuous collection of information on mitigation policies and actions was developed, validated in the stakeholders’ workshop (the workshop was held on 21 April 2023) and submitted to the Ministry of Environment (Draft Government Decision on Adopting the Order of
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			<p>Measuring, Monitoring, Estimating and Reporting on Policies and Measures of GHG Emissions Mitigation, uploaded as evidence).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sectoral template and guideline for assessing and reporting on mitigation policies and actions and their effects in waste sector was developed (included in PIP as evidence in Armenian). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In collaboration with the UNDP-GCF project “National Adaptation Plan”, the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change as well as adaptation implementation tracking indicators for the water resources and agriculture sectors were developed. The draft package is submitted to the Ministry of Environment for circulation and approval (included in PIP as evidence). ● Support Received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The draft legal package (draft Minister Order) for continuous collection of information on climate financial support received was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment. The draft legal package consists of the template, completing procedure, methodology for information collection and reporting as well as corresponding guidelines (uploaded as evidence). Once finalized, the secondary legislation developed within the CBIT project will be translated into English. <p>Target Partially Achieved (PA)</p>
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Outcome 2: MRV systems in support of an ETF

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	End of Project (EoP) Target Level	Cumulative Progress since Project Start
Indicator 6: Presence of an operational MRV system that is being used for continuous data collection and	Data are currently collected on an ad hoc, project-by-project basis	By the end of the project, an MRV system for climate data and information will be operational and used for data	TE Level: Efforts are underway to create the Software Requirements System for the MRV online platform, designed for collecting, reporting, documenting, and disseminating climate change information such as GHG inventories, mitigation policies, NDC progress, adaptation, and support received. The Software Requirement Specification is anticipated to be completed by the project's conclusion. Concurrently, work is advancing on the development

reporting to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement with gender disaggregated data where relevant.		collection, analysis, and reporting to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement with gender-disaggregated data where relevant.	<p>of the online MRV platform for GHG Inventory, with expectations for the platform to be operational by the project's conclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to develop Software Requirements System of MRV online platform, which is aimed at collection/reporting, documentation and dissemination of climate change related information (GHG inventories, climate change mitigation policies and measures, NDC progress, adaptation and support received), a specialist was hired (the contract was signed on 23 June 2023; the ToR of specialist uploaded as evidence). To fulfil requirements of the Government Decision “On Establishing the Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation” on establishment of an electronic database for GHG inventory, an IT company was hired to develop a Measurement, Reporting and Verification Platform through the tender (it is expected that the platform will be operational by the end of Project). The MRV online platform will allow online collection of the GHG data (activity data) from state authorities and legal entities, their documentation and saving supporting files in the system's archive, as well as storing developed GHG inventory in a database, enabling filtering and exporting the information. The provided activity data will be further processed by GHG sectoral experts under Quality Assurance/Quality Control procedure. <p>Target Partially Achieved (PA)</p>
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Outcome 3: Armenia is able to manage data for effective transparency reporting on greenhouse gas (GHG) sources and sinks

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	End of Project (EoP) Target Level	Cumulative Progress since Project Start
Indicator 7: Use of sectoral templates for GHG data collection in key sectors of the inventory	Different approaches are used for data collected by different entities.	By the end of the project, inventory experts in at least two key sectors are using sectoral templates for GHG	<p>TE Level: GHG inventory experts used sectoral templates in four sectors (Energy, IPPU, AFOLU, Waste) for data collection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Inventory Improvement Plan, which was developed in August 2022, was revised with support of a consultant engaged by the UNFCCC secretariat. The revised plan was provided to the Ministry of Environment (included in PIP as evidence) and certain improvements have been made in the NIR for 1990-2019 accordingly. Currently, ahead of the launch of the “Development of the First Biennial

		data collection and reporting	<p>Transparency Report and the Combined Fifth National Communication and Second Biennial Transparency Report of Armenia to the UNFCCC” the National Inventory Improvement Plan is to be updated by HMC SNCO (expected by the end of February).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised sectoral templates (Energy, IPPU, AFOLU) as well as newly elaborated sectoral template on Waste were included in the Government Decision on Establishing Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation (draft Government Decision in Armenian included in PIP as evidence). These sectoral templates consider the recent requirements for improvement in the GHG inventory and the need for additional activity data. The Government Decision will oblige the state authorities and legal entities to submit GHG-related information on a regular basis. • A detailed guideline for the uncertainty assessment for all categories in Energy sector was developed, as well as guidelines of Quality Assurance/Quality Control procedure, which consider the national institutional set-up (two documents included in PIP as evidence, in Armenian). • A guide on archiving of information used in GHG inventory was developed and provided to the HMC SNCO (included in PIP as evidence, in Armenian). The guidelines were prepared between December 2022 and April 2023. <p>Target Overperformed (OP)</p>
Indicator 8: Number of sub-sectors where emissions estimates are more robust.	Certain discrepancies in sub-sector data exist, particularly in the AFOLU sector.	By the end of the project, the national GHG inventory will have more robust estimates (i.e. moving from Tier 1 to Tier 2) in at least two sub-sectors.	<p>TE Level: Tier 2 approach was used in the assessment of the GHG emissions in four subsectors: Two new sub-categories in the Energy sector - (1A4ci) Stationary and (1A2g) Transport Equipment for N₂O (3C4) Direct Emissions and (3C5) Indirect Emissions from managed soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the NIR for 1990-2019, Tier 2 approach was used in the assessment of the GHG emissions from two new sub-categories in the Energy sector: (1A4ci) Stationary and (1A2g) Transport Equipment (NIR included in PIP as evidence). • To support moving from Tier 1 to Tier 2 for N₂O direct and indirect emissions from managed soils via developing country-specific emission factors, the farm survey for the assessment of GHG emissions from manure and land management practices in Armenia was conducted (uploaded as evidence). Based on the survey results and other existing country data, the country-specific emission factors to shift from Tier 1

			<p>to Tier 2 for N₂O (3C4) Direct Emissions and (3C5) Indirect Emissions from managed soils were developed and provided to the Ministry of Economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve data on firewood, discussions with the Statistical Committee were organized, which were dedicated to the improvement of distribution of data derived from the household surveys. Corresponding suggestions were discussed with the Statistical Committee. Changes were made in the household survey questionnaire for crosscutting information collection (volume of used firewood and amount of paid). • An International Consultant on GHG emissions of the FOLU sector was involved with leveraged funds from Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development to provide support for building national capacity for the improvement of GHG Inventory preparation with the objective to ensure enhanced completeness and accuracy, particularly for reducing gaps in FOLU sector GHG inventory, and provide recommendations. • Draft recommendations on improving collection of the activity data on F-gases were developed and shared with the Ministry of Environment (January 2024). <p>Target Overperformed (OP)</p>
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Outcome 4: Armenia is able to manage data and information for the framework for transparency of action and the framework for transparency of support under Article 13

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	End of Project (EoP) Target Level	Cumulative Progress since Project Start
Indicator 9: Use of standardized methodologies and guidelines in transparency reporting.	No common methodology is used for assessing and reporting on mitigation policies and actions, support received, and adaptation to climate change.	By the end of the project, at least one national climate change reporting document uses methodology developed by the project for reporting in three areas: 1) mitigation policies	<p>TE level: Significant endeavors were made to establish a common methodology for evaluating and reporting on climate change mitigation policies and actions, support received, and adaptation efforts. This methodology will be applied in the upcoming BTR and 5NC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Government Decision on Adopting the Order of Measuring, Monitoring, Estimating and Reporting on Policies and Measures of GHG Emissions Mitigation contains the institutional framework of mitigation-related information reporting. The draft legal act defines the system of measuring, monitoring, estimating, and reporting of policies and measures in climate change mitigation, envisages compilation template for GHG mitigation policies and measures and establishes corresponding quality assurance and quality control checklists.

		and actions; 2) support received; and 3) adaptation to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the above-mentioned document, principles for selection of key mitigation measures in Energy sector for achieving the NDC targets were developed. Besides, a common approach for assessing GHG emissions reductions from mitigation measures in the Energy sector was proposed (two documents in Armenian are included in PIP as evidence). Sectoral template and guidelines for assessing and reporting on mitigation PAMs in the waste sector were developed as defined in the Letter of Agreement with HMC SNCO (included in PIP as evidence in Armenian). A list of adaptation-related projects with available sources of adaptation-related data and information is developed (included in PIP as evidence). For the operationalization of adaptation MRV/Monitoring and Evaluation System, the draft Standard Operating Procedures were developed and presented to the national stakeholders and the Working Group on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change (on 21 April 2023). The document has been updated with feedback from the stakeholders and translated into Armenian for submission to the Ministry of Environment (the draft Standard Operating Procedures are included in PIP as evidence). <p>Target Partially Achieved (PA)</p>
Indicator 10: Coverage of gender issues in climate change reporting	Gender and climate change issues are not mentioned in national climate change documents such as the NCs and BURs	By the end of the project, an analysis of gender issues will be included in at least one national climate change report and discussed with stakeholders.	<p>TE Level: An analysis of gender issues is included in Third Biennial Update Report of Armenia (chapter “Gender Aspect of Mitigation Action in Energy Sector”). Also, gender aspect is addressed in national planning in the area of climate change adaptation and climate change adaptation in water resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Third Biennial Update Report of Armenia, which was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2021, has a sub-chapter of 3.3. “Gender Aspects of Mitigation Actions in Energy Sector” under which a gender analysis related to different behaviors of women and men in the household’s energy consumption and energy saving, as well as a comparative analysis of female-headed and male-headed households in terms of accessibility and affordability of using energy-efficient appliances and heating systems in their households are presented. The Government Decree N 749-L on “Approval of the National Action Program of Adaptation to Climate Change and the List of Measures for 2021-2025” (13 May

			<p>2021) considered the “Promotion of gender responsive approaches to adaptation” as one of the eight principles that guide the integration of climate change adaptation into all policy and programming for Armenia. According to the approved document, the mandatory implementation of the gender-responsiveness principle in sectorial and regional planning will help avoid the risk of exacerbating gender inequalities, overcome traditional gender barriers to women’s participation in decision-making, enhance opportunities and benefits for women, and reduce gender-based vulnerabilities and risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government Decree N 1692-L on “Approval of Climate Change Adaptation Plan in Water Resources Sector for 2022-2023” (4 November 2022) addresses gender-specific and women-targeted actions and monitoring indicators to ensure and assess the gender-responsiveness of climate change adaptation measures planned for the water sector. Women, single mothers, female-headed households are key targeted groups for adaptation measures in water resources sector, among which are raising awareness and building capacity of women, ensuring gender-equal participation in decision-making, supporting women in access to clean water of appropriate quality, and others. <p>Target Achieved (A).</p>
Outcome 5: Armenia is able to track progress against its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and share its approaches			
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	End of Project (EoP) Target Level	Cumulative Progress since Project Start
Indicator 11: Armenia is able to track its progress towards its NDCs	No tracking system or report exists for NDCs.	By the end of the project, Armenia will release a status report on its progress towards its NDCs.	<p>Target Level: A status report on Armenia’s progress towards its NDCs, developed in cooperation with Climate Promise 2 Project, is expected to be released by the end of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with the Climate Promise 2 Project is planned to release a status report on Armenia’s progress towards its NDCs. Discussions with the project experts, Climate Promise 2 Project and other Governmental stakeholders are ongoing to scope and outline report on progress will be informed by the results of Outcome 4. Instructions for data collection of mitigation policies and measures were developed by the international consulting company.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of adaptation projects (implemented and ongoing since 2015) was developed. In October 2022 a National Climate Forum “On the Way to COP27: Coordination Meeting of the Climate Development Partners” was organized jointly by UNDP in Armenia (CBIT Project) and the Ministry of Environment. The objective of the event was to provide attendees with updates on the national climate agenda, related ongoing processes and support frameworks, such as NDC Partnership Country Engagement and UNDP Climate Promise Initiative, and on the Government’s expectations from the upcoming COP-27. The project is on track to achieve the end-of-project target. <p>Target to be Achieved by EoP (A-EoP)</p>
Indicator 12: Accessibility of information regarding transparency initiatives and climate change reporting in Armenia.	Climate change reports from Armenia are available in different locations on the Internet. Information on transparency initiatives in Armenia is partially available in different locations.	By the end of the project, Armenia’s climate reports, NDCs, and lessons learned from this project will be available on a national climate change portal and the CBIT Global Coordination Platform or other global transparency website as appropriate.	<p>TE Level: Armenia's climate reports, NDCs, and project learnings will be shared on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform upon project completion. Additionally, the MRV online platform, set to be operational by the project's conclusion, will feature sections dedicated to various climate change-related information, including GHG inventories, climate change mitigation policies, NDC progress, and adaptation and support received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The climate change reports, including National Communications, Biennial Update Reports and National GHG Inventory Reports, have been disseminated through the Climate Change Information Center’s website. The web-site was upgraded during 2023. The formal reports under the UNFCCC are also available at the website of the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment has an active Facebook page on which climate change news are widely presented. The country status overview as well as CBIT project-related information was uploaded to the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. <p>Target to be Achieved by EoP (A-EoP)</p>
Indicator 13: Consideration of gender issues in	Gender and climate change issues are not	By the end of the project, the tracking system for the NDC will monitor gender considerations	<p>TE Level: The "Guidance on Consideration of Gender-related Requirements in Armenia's Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications under the UNFCCC," developed within the project, will be applied in the formulation of the Status Report on Armenia's Progress towards its NDCs.</p>

progress towards the NDC	mentioned in the current NDC.	related to the NDC, such as the differentiated impact of proposed measures on women and men.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Project, “Guidance on Consideration of Gender-related Requirements in the Armenia’s Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications under the UNFCCC” has been developed. The guidance aims to support the team involved in the preparation of the country’s Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications on how to recognize, consider and address gender-related issues in order to ensure gender-responsiveness of information in the aforementioned national reports. Particularly, the methods (including key indicators, their statistical sources, the relevant international guidelines and toolkits) as well as the chapters of reports where gender analysis and gender mainstreaming should be inserted are described in details to help the team of experts in: (i) conducting sex-disaggregated socio-economic data analysis; (ii) presenting gender situation in the country; (iii) identifying national specifics of climate change-related gender issues, and (iv) presenting how gender mainstreaming is ensured in the reports’ preparation process. • Consultations on identification/selection of Climate Change-related gender indicators to be included in “Women and Men in Armenia” statistical-analytical bulletin were provided to the Gender Focal Point of the Statistical Committee. Particularly, a template for collecting information on male/female decision makers of the Ministry of Environment was prepared by managerial positions responsible for development of Climate Change related policies/decisions. This information was presented in the special sub-section of Section 7 “Governance and Influence” of the aforementioned bulletin and will be devoted to the gender composition of decision makers in climate change/environment area. • The "Adaptation Indicators for MRV Platform," a product of the project, began its integration with statistical and gender expertise in September 2023. Specifically focusing on agriculture and water resources, these indicators align with the key categories outlined in the UNECE-developed Global Set of Climate Change-related Statistics, encompassing a total of 158 indicators. The ongoing collaborative effort involves the re-grouping of developed indicators based on Drivers, Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation areas. Currently, discussions are underway to determine which indicators and how they can be disaggregated by gender, engaging both environmentalists and statisticians. The project is on track to achieve the end-of-project target. <p>Target to be Achieved by EoP (A-EoP)</p>
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Relevance (*)

By fostering conditions conducive to mainstreaming mitigation concerns and enhancing institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation, the CBIT project aligns seamlessly with GEF Focal Area CCM-3-8: Promoting conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity-building initiatives for transparency. Additionally, the project directly supports CCA-2: Strengthening institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation. At its core, the project's overarching aim is to contribute significantly to Sustainable Development Goal 13: Urgently combatting climate change and its impacts. Moreover, it actively seeks alignment with the country outcome outlined in the UNDAF/CPD, specifically UNDAF Outcome 7 and CPD/CPAP Outcome 4, emphasizing the introduction and application of sustainable development principles, good practices for environmental sustainability, resilience building, climate change adaptation, mitigation, and the promotion of a green economy.

On a national scale, the CBIT project endeavours to establish formal arrangements, provide methodologies and tools to enhance the national GHG inventory, track progress in mitigation and adaptation actions, support received and NDC implementation. This strategic approach aims to elevate the quality of reporting to the UNFCCC and align with Armenia's commitments to the Paris Agreement. While Armenia has made progress in implementing its reporting commitments under the UNFCCC, including enhancements to the GHG Inventory and assessments of long-term policy effects on GHG mitigation, gaps in continuous monitoring and reporting processes have impeded progress. This limitation hampers data availability and quality, constraining efforts to improve the GHG inventory and provide a comprehensive overview of mitigation and adaptation activities. Therefore, the CBIT project is a crucial initiative for Armenia to effectively address climate change and actively participate in the Paris Agreement.

Strategically designed, the CBIT project serves as a conduit for integrating lessons learned from Armenia's Biennial Update Reports, the National Communications, and recommendations and capacity-building needs identified through the BURs' International Consultation and Analysis process. By adeptly addressing these gaps and delivering targeted capacity-building, the project ensures its alignment with Armenia's NDC. Moreover, it incorporates valuable insights from other pertinent projects to enhance its alignment with national strategies in various climate change related areas. This holistic approach maximizes the overall effectiveness of the project. Notably, a stakeholder validation workshop played a crucial role in shaping the project's design, drawing insights from diverse stakeholders, and enriching its relevance and responsiveness to their varying needs.

Fundamentally grounded in the Theory of Change, the CBIT project posits that cultivating specific capacities expedites structural transformations for sustainable development in Armenia. This strategic shift assumes that enhancing and operationalizing the legal and strategic framework will ensure the sustainable management of natural, cultural, and energy resources, empowering the country to fulfil reporting requirements under Paris Agreement.

Remarkably surpassing its beneficiary target, the project boasts the participation of 266 individuals from over 40 institutions. These include state authorities, NGOs, academia, the private sector, the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change and its Working Groups, as well as independent experts. Noteworthy is the achievement of gender parity, with almost 55% of beneficiaries being women. This accomplishment underscores the project's high level of relevance and gender responsiveness.

In summary, the CBIT project demonstrates an exceptionally high level of relevance on both international and national fronts. In line with global efforts, the project effectively addresses the urgency of climate action outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 13. On the national stage, the project strategically integrates with Armenia's commitments to the Paris Agreement, adequately addressing critical gaps in institutional and technical capacities for an enhanced transparency framework. The project's profound relevance is further

highlighted by proactive stakeholder engagement, integration of lessons from previous projects, and significant achievements in surpassing beneficiary targets.

Effectiveness (*)

The project has made significant strides towards achieving its end-of-project targets, evident in both the overall development objective and each specific outcome.

Under the **development objective**, the project has exceeded expectations by reaching 266 beneficiaries (including 146 women) through various capacity-building activities on transparency, surpassing the original target. Notably, the project has played a key role in formalizing institutional and legal arrangements for the national transparency framework including mandate to Ministry of Environment as a designated transparency institution which has an organizational unit with standing staff, HMC SNCO, with some capacity to coordinate and implement transparency activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

Outcome 1 focuses on ensuring clear and formal roles and responsibilities for transparency activities. The project successfully initiated amendments to the "Law on Atmospheric Air Protection," adopted by the National Assembly in December 2022. These amendments entrust the Ministry of Environment with defining procedures and responsibilities for the preparation of the GHG Inventory. The project also supported the development of the "Government Decision on Establishing Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation," assigning formal roles and responsibilities to state institutions and legal entities for data provision. Furthermore, the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Implementation of Requirements and Provisions of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, as well as Working Groups adjacent to the Council were established under the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Decrees in 2021.

The legislative framework for formalizing the MRV mandate and GHG Inventory institutionalization can be considered as an example of best result.

For mitigation, adaptation, and received support, legal packages, data collection templates, methodologies, and procedures have been drafted, with some already submitted for approval.

Outcome 2 aims to enhance MRV systems supporting an Enhanced Transparency Framework. The project has designed a concept for an MRV platform to facilitate the preparation of the country's GHG inventory, the monitoring and reporting on mitigation and adaptation actions, NDC progress and support needed and received and to disseminate climate data and information to the wider public. An IT Specialist has been engaged to prepare detailed software requirements for the online MRV platform, building on and integrating existing databases and those methodologies and templates for data collection and reporting that have been developed under Outcome 3 and 4.

Work is advancing on the development of the online MRV platform for GHG Inventory, with expectations for the platform to be operational by the project's conclusion.

Outcome 3 focuses on effective transparency reporting on greenhouse gas sources and sinks. Substantial progress has been made in managing and enhancing the quality of Armenia's GHG Inventory, as demonstrated in the National Inventory Report (NIR) for the period 1990-2019. GHG inventory experts used sectoral templates for data collection in four sectors and the NIR has more robust estimates in four sub-sectors. Also, the project has developed sectoral templates and guidelines for quality assurance/control, uncertainty assessment, and training for the team of experts involved in the GHG Inventory preparation.

The National Inventory Report (NIR) for the period 1990-2019 can be considered as an example of best result.

Outcome 4 emphasizes managing data and information for transparency of action and support under Article 13. The project has carried out a baseline analysis for the development of a methodology for continuous collection of information on mitigation policies and actions. Furthermore, sectoral template and guidelines for collecting information on mitigation policies and actions and their effects in the waste sector has been developed. With regards to managing data and information in relation to adaptation, a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change has been developed with indicators for tracking adaptation actions in the water resources and agriculture sectors. For the operationalization of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change, draft Standard Operating Procedures were prepared. Also, efforts were made to establish a common methodology for reporting on support received.

An analysis of gender issues is included in Third Biennial Update Report of Armenia (chapter “Gender Aspect of Mitigation Action in Energy Sector”). Also, gender aspect is addressed in national planning in the area of climate change adaptation and climate change adaptation in water resources.

The Chapter “Gender Aspect of Mitigation Action in Energy Sector” from the Third Biennial Update Report of Armenia can be considered as an example of best result.

Summing up, significant endeavours were made to establish a common methodology for evaluating and reporting on climate change mitigation policies and actions, adaptation efforts and support received. This methodology will be applied in the upcoming BTR1 and BTR2/5NC pursuing its institutionalization and official adoption.

Outcome 5 addresses tracking progress against Armenia's NDC and sharing approaches. The project is working on a status report in collaboration with the Climate Promise 2 project, building on the NIR for 1990-2019 and methodologies developed under Outcome 4. The "Guidance on Consideration of Gender-related Requirements in Armenia's Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications under the UNFCCC," developed within the project, will be applied in the formulation of the Status Report on Armenia's Progress towards its NDCs. The status report is expected to be finalized before the project concludes.

Armenia's climate reports, NDCs, and project learnings will be shared on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform upon project completion. Additionally, the MRV online platform, set to be operational by the project's conclusion, will feature sections dedicated to various climate change-related information, including GHG inventories, climate change mitigation policies, NDC progress, and adaptation and support received.

Engaging in activities spanning all outcomes, the project forged a robust partnership with the Statistical Committee, specifically focusing on the Air Accounts and integrating climate change statistics into the comprehensive publication "Women and Men." This collaboration extended to improvements in energy balances and notable contributions to the UN Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. The culmination of these efforts gained international recognition for the CBIT project's collaboration with the Statistical Committee, elevating Armenia's proactive stance in addressing climate change. Notably, this recognition materialized in the recent UN publication titled "UN Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators – Implementation guidelines", where Armenia was cited as a commendable example for the development of climate change statistics (Figure 2).

CBIT project – Statistical Committee partnership can be considered as an example of best result.

In conclusion, the CBIT project has demonstrated satisfactory effectiveness in achieving its outlined outcomes, significantly contributing to the enhancement of Armenia's national transparency framework and institutional capacities.

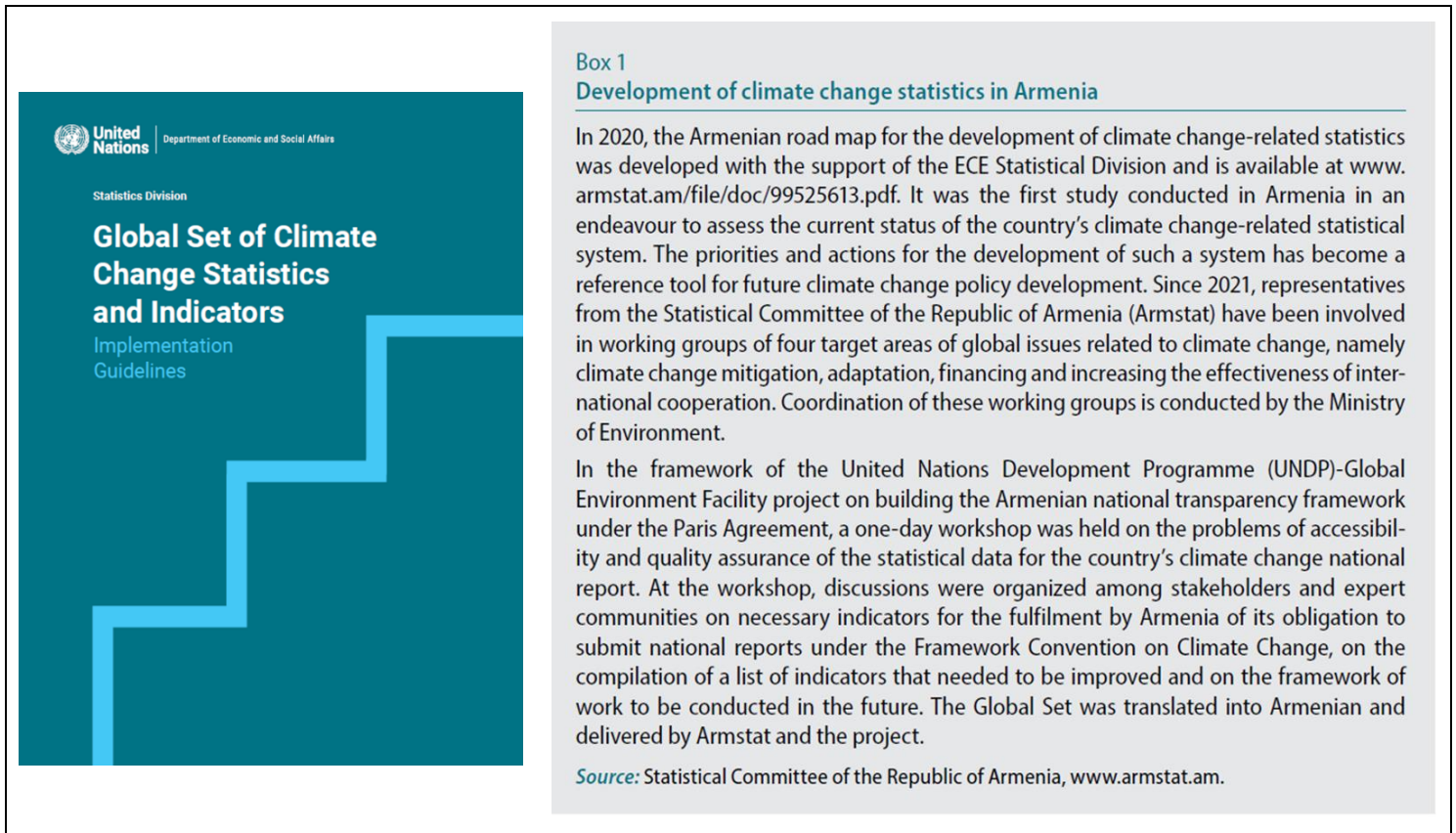


Figure 2 Best Result: International Recognition of CBIT-Statistical Committee Partnership

Efficiency (*)

The project faced initial delays due to challenges in forming the project management team, Covid-19 restrictions, staff turnover in the Implementing Partner, and conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh impacting governmental priorities. Consequently, the financial delivery in the initial reporting period reached approximately 25% by June 2022. In the subsequent reporting period, adaptive management measures, such as involving a Responsible Party, were implemented to address capacity constraints. These measures, along with intensified collaboration with external experts, other projects, and the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme, led to a notable acceleration in activity implementation. As of September 2023, the delivery rate increased to over 65%. At the time of TE, the cumulative financial delivery stands at 82%, indicating a likelihood of full spending by the project's conclusion, considering the outstanding activities. Expenditures per component align with the total planned project budget, and budget revisions followed UNDP operational procedures. Co-financing commitments from the Ministry of Environment and UNDP also progressed positively.

Despite the good progress achieved, the initial delays could not be fully compensated, leading to a recommended 6-month extension, approved by UNDP's Executive Coordinator and Director, Vertical Funds Programme Support, Oversight and Compliance Hub. This extension shifted the Terminal Evaluation and Operational Closure dates to 16 March 2024 and 16 June 2024, respectively. Apart from the project extension, no major or minor amendments have been initiated, and the overall project risk remains low.

The project governance is robust, with regular updates to the Project Board and strong communication with governmental stakeholders, particularly through the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change and its Working Groups. Cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the HMC SNCO has been well established.

The project also has developed PR and Communications Strategy. Throughout the project, knowledge products, news, training materials, and press releases have been actively shared on the project website, and participation in knowledge exchange activities, including online workshops, has been notable. The project's emphasis on women's inclusion in climate change decision-making processes is evident, supported by guidance developed for integrating gender perspectives in the national transparency and reporting system.

Beyond formal channels, the project has extended its impact through seminars for schoolchildren, thematic talks, and participation in UNDP-GEF projects and initiatives. The application of lessons learned from other projects and countries has enhanced the project's effectiveness and efficiency.

In conclusion, the project is well-managed and on track to achieve its targets. Accelerating the implementation of critical activities, such as adopting secondary legislation and operationalizing the MRV GHG Inventory platform, remains essential. Continued collaboration with the Climate Promise 2 project to finalize the first status report on Armenia's progress towards its NDCs is also highlighted for the remaining project duration.

Overall Outcome (*)

The qualitative and quantitative assessment of achievements, based on the Results Framework indicators and targets, is presented below:

Ind 1	Ind 2	Ind 3	Ind 4	Ind 5	Ind 6	Ind 7	Ind 8	Ind 9	Ind 10	Ind 11	Ind 12	Ind 13
OP	A	A	A	PA	PA	OP	OP	PA	A	A-EoP	A-EoP	A-EoP
6	5	5	5	3	3	6	6	3	5	4	4	4

The overall outcome score is 59. Applying the following scale:

HS	S	MS	M	MU	U
70-78	57-69	44-56	31-43	18-30	13-17

The overall outcome assessment falls within the "Satisfactory" range.

Please see the following table for overall rating as per TE rating scales:

Assessment of Outcomes	Remarks	Rating
Relevance	CBIT project demonstrates an exceptionally high level of relevance on both international and national fronts.	Highly Satisfactory (HS)
Effectiveness	Significant contributions to the enhancement of Armenia's national transparency framework and institutional capacities, particularly though the legislative framework formalizing the MRV mandate institutionalising GHG Inventory, the NIR, TBUR chapter on gender and the productive CBIT project – Statistical Committee partnership.	Satisfactory (S)
Efficiency	The project is well-managed and on track to achieve its targets.	Satisfactory (S)
Overall Project Outcome Rating	Based on qualitative and quantitative assessment of achievements, applying Results Framework indicators and targets.	Satisfactory (S)

Sustainability: Financial (*), Socio-economic (*), Institutional Framework and Governance (*), Environmental (*), and Overall Likelihood (*)

Financial Sustainability: In terms of financial sustainability, the project received substantial in-kind support from the government and engaged a diverse range of in-country stakeholders and donors. Collaboration with these groups was essential for identifying post-project financing for climate change MRV activities. Additionally, the MRV system was built on open-source software to mitigate expenses linked to proprietary software, enabling the project to enhance and adapt its MRV system at a minimal cost. There is a notable possibility for the country to apply for a second CBIT project, as expressed by the majority of stakeholders.

Socio-economic Sustainability. The investments which contribute to addressing the negative effects of climate change and building a resilient society consistently rank among the highest priorities for the country. They serve as catalysts for the creation of new employment and business opportunities, aligning with the broader human rights to work. By addressing climate change challenges, these investments emerge as multifaceted contributors to socio-economic sustainability, fostering resilience, inclusivity, and overall well-being in the community. These endeavors not only contribute to enhancing or preserving the quality and accessibility of public services but also play a pivotal role in upholding fundamental human rights to safety, healthcare, social security, and education.

Institutional Framework and Governance Sustainability. In terms of institutional sustainability, the project leveraged existing institutions and bodies, including the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change, to support the newly established MRV framework. Furthermore, the government's directives related to climate change data collection, management, and reporting are set to persist beyond the project's completion. Thirdly, thorough documentation and succession planning for data providers has been established to ensure the continuity of these activities, even in the event of staff changes within government agencies. The upcoming BTR1 and 5NC/BTR2 project will provide a testing environment for the CBIT results and products, with the aim of their revision and upgrade towards a functional and comprehensive transparency framework.

Environmental Sustainability. The project inherently reinforces climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions, which come with associated environmental risks demanding careful consideration. These risks encompass potential unintended consequences on ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources. For instance, large-scale infrastructure projects designed for climate change mitigation might disrupt local ecosystems or alter natural water flow. Similarly, adaptation measures like irrigation systems could impact local habitats. Moreover, the use of specific mitigation technologies, such as bioenergy, may have implications for land use, biodiversity, and water resources. The Armenian Environmental Impact Assessment Law includes a dedicated chapter on climate change-related interventions, requiring thorough environmental assessments and implementation of safeguards to minimize these risks and ensure that climate actions contribute positively to overall environmental sustainability.

Overall Likelihood. The project has convincingly demonstrated sustainability in its results across all four dimensions, leading to a likely overall sustainability rating.

Please see the following table for overall rating as per TE rating scales:

Sustainability	Remarks	Rating
Financial Resources	The project leverages in-kind support, engages stakeholders for post-project financing, and utilizes cost-effective open-source software. The potential for a second CBIT project enhances sustainability.	Likely (L)
Socio-economic	Investments prioritizing climate change resilience and societal well-being are key for the country, generating employment and business opportunities, supporting human rights to work, promoting community well-being, inclusivity, and safeguarding fundamental rights to safety, healthcare, social security, and education.	Likely (L)
Institutional Framework and Governance	Well-established through existing institutions, government directives, and comprehensive documentation.	Likely (L)
Environmental	Alignment with the environmental laws and assessments to ensure positive contributions to overall sustainability.	Likely (L)
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	Project demonstrates a strong likelihood of sustainability across key dimensions.	Likely (L)

Country Ownership

Implemented through a National Implementation Modality with support services from UNDP, the project has notably exceeded its beneficiary target, engaging 266 participants from over 40 institutions. These include Ministry of Environment and HMC SNCO and other state authorities represented in the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change and its Working Groups, NGOs, academia, the private sector, and independent experts. The Implementing Partner and Responsible Party demonstrated strong dedication to cooperative efforts with UNDP and other stakeholders in advancing the project.

Summing up, these achievements underscore the project's substantial level of country ownership.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The Quantum Gender Marker Rating, GEN2, signifies the project's significant commitment to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment. In the project design, the gender aspect is integrated through two indicators from the Results Framework, along with the inclusion of monitoring a gender action plan with three G indicators in the M&E plan. In the implementation phase, the project has undertaken gender-related activities in five areas.

Gender-Equal Participation in Decision-Making:

- Representation in Inter-agency Coordinating Council: The project facilitated a balanced representation of women, constituting 53% of the council, contributing to gender-equal decision-making in climate change-related matters.
- Inter-agency Working Groups: Three dedicated working groups achieved notable gender representation (85%, 77%, and 86%, respectively), ensuring women's active involvement in key areas such as national reporting commitments, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and financing issues.
- Statistical Handbook Inclusion: Through collaboration with the Statistical Committee's Gender Focal Point, a dedicated section on female participation in climate change decision-making will be featured in the "Women and Men in Armenia" Statistical Handbook.

Capacity Building and Women's Empowerment:

- **Workshops and Training:** The project organized 16 events attended by a total of 716 participants, with 61% being women. These activities enhanced the knowledge and professional capacities of female representatives from governmental sectors and NGOs in various climate-change-related aspects.
- **Support to NGOs, Universities, and Research/Consulting Companies:** Through technical support, updated data, and information, the project empowered female-led NGOs, women academicians, researchers, and experts, contributing to their active participation in knowledge-based activities.

Climate Change-Related Gender Statistics:

- **Workshop on Statistical Data Accessibility:** The project conducted a workshop addressing issues related to statistical data for climate change national reports. Discussions included gender-disaggregated indicators, emphasizing the importance of gender-responsive reporting.
- **UNECE Expert Forum:** The project's gender expert presented at a UNECE forum, focusing on climate monitoring and reporting in Armenia through a gender and social vulnerability lens.

Climate Change-Related Gender Policy Development:

- **Draft Program for Gender and Social Impacts:** The project supported the development of a draft program aimed at mitigating gender and social impacts of climate change, aligning with the National Gender Strategy for 2023-2025.
- **Mainstreaming Gender Issues:** The project actively contributed to mainstreaming climate change-related gender issues within the Gender Strategy for 2024-2026.

Guidance on Gender in Transparency Reports:

- **Development of Guidance:** The project created a comprehensive guidance document focusing on integrating gender-related requirements in Armenia's Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications under the UNFCCC. The guidance emphasizes key indicators, statistical sources, and methodologies for ensuring gender-responsiveness in reporting processes.

In summary, the project's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment is evident through its multifaceted approach, spanning decision-making, capacity building, statistical considerations, policy development, and reporting. The project's comprehensive efforts reflect a high-quality treatment of the gender aspect, ensuring a meaningful and impactful contribution to gender mainstreaming in climate change initiatives.

On the Gender Responsive Effectiveness Scale (GRES), the project is assessed to be “Gender Targeted”.

Cross-cutting Issues

In its Theory of Change, Project draws clear linkage to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including all SDG 13 targets (Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters; Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning).

Within the scope of capacity building for the climate change transparency framework, the project embraces a human-rights based approach. This approach encompasses open monitoring, information and knowledge management, broad community engagement, and participation. Additionally, it seeks to improve transparency, accountability, public participation in decision-making, and the quality and cost-efficiency of

public services. The project aims to enhance equal human rights to healthcare, education, new employment, and business opportunities.

Gender equality is a significant aspect of the project, both in design and implementation. The inclusion of gender indicators in the Results Framework and the monitoring of a gender action plan in the M&E plan underscore the project's commitment to addressing gender disparities. In implementation, the project takes a multifaceted approach to the gender aspect, covering decision-making, capacity building, statistical considerations, policy development, and reporting. Special attention is given to key targeted groups, including women, single mothers, and female-headed households, in adaptation measures for the water resources sector. Efforts are also directed towards improving climate-change related gender statistics and conducting specific studies on the effects of climate change on vulnerable groups (elderly people, people with low incomes, homeless people, etc.).

In summary, the project effectively addresses cross-cutting themes, emphasizing sustainability, inclusivity, and gender equality throughout its design and implementation phases.

GEF Additionality

[The GEF Independent Evaluation Office classifies additionality into six factors](#) including 1) Specific Environmental Additionality, 2) Legal and Regulatory Additionality, 3) Institutional and Governance Additionality, 4) Financial Additionality, 5) Socio-Economic Additionality, and 6) Innovation Additionality.

Please see the following table for summary of the GEF additionalities in the context of the CBIT project:

GEF's Additionality	Additionality Question	Remarks
<p>Specific Environmental Additionality</p> <p>The GEF provides a wide range of value-added interventions/services to achieve the Global Environmental Benefits (e.g. CO₂ reduction, Reduction/avoidance of emission of POPs).</p>	<p>Has the project generated the Global Environmental Benefits that would not happen without GEF's intervention?</p>	<p>Concentrating on improving climate change-related monitoring and reporting, the project reinforces current efforts and creates new opportunities for increased mitigation and adaptation measures. This results in additional reductions in CO₂ emissions and the mitigation of adverse effects caused by climate change.</p>
<p>Legal and Regulatory Additionality</p> <p>The GEF helps stakeholders transformational change to environment sustainable legal /regulatory forms</p>	<p>Has the project led to legal or regulatory reforms that would not have occurred in the absence of the project?</p>	<p>The project played a crucial role in supporting the preparation, consultation, and adoption of legal and regulatory frameworks, assigning mandates and prescribing procedures and methods for data collection and progress monitoring and reporting.</p>
<p>Institutional Additionality and Governance Additionality</p> <p>The GEF provides a support the existing institution to</p>	<p>Have institutions been strengthened to provide a supportive environment for achievement and</p>	<p>The project has significantly strengthened the capacities of the Implementing Partner, Responsible Party, and other</p>

transform into efficient/sustainable environment manner.	measurement of environmental impact as a result of the project?	institutions, such as the Statistical Committee, for monitoring and reporting on mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as tracking emissions reductions, impacts, and received support.
<p>Financial Additionality</p> <p>The GEF provides an incremental cost which is associated with transforming a project with national/local benefits into one with global environmental benefits</p>	Has the involvement of the GEF led to greater flows of financing than would otherwise have been the case from private or public sector sources?	Through this project, the GEF has significantly enhanced the country's absorption capacity, paving the way for increased financing that will facilitate the utilization and further advancement of project results. This includes upcoming initiatives like the BTR and the 5NC project, as well as the potential second CBIT project. Additionally, the project opens avenues for support from other donors prioritizing climate change in their agendas.
<p>Socio-Economic Additionality</p> <p>The GEF helps society improve their livelihood and social benefits thorough GEF activities.</p>	Can improvements in living standard among population groups affected by environmental conditions be attributed to the GEF contribution?	By addressing climate change-related issues, the project contributed to improving living standards, creating employment opportunities, fostering socio-economic sustainability, resilience, and overall well-being in the community.
<p>Innovation Additionality</p> <p>The GEF provides efficient/sustainable technology and knowledge to overcome the existing social norm/barrier/practice for making a bankable project.</p>	Has the GEF involvement led to a fast adoption of new technologies, or the demonstration of market readiness for technologies that had not previously demonstrated their market viability?	The project facilitated knowledge-based innovation in the applied approaches and estimates for emissions of GHG precursors in the IPPU sector. Additionally, it developed country-specific emission factors to estimate direct and indirect N ₂ O emissions from managed soils, coupled with improvements in household surveys for energy balances.

Catalytic Role / Replication Effect

At the country level, innovations in applied approaches and estimates for emissions of GHG precursors in the IPPU sector may also benefit estimates of primary pollutants. The methodologies used to estimate emission reductions from mitigation activities may be used to assess public investments in a variety of sectors and to prioritize investments for international co-financing. Furthermore, the project's efforts in monitoring and reporting climate action can inspire and support similar initiatives at regional and municipal levels. However, in view of the limited financial resources of governmental institutions, the scaling up will require continued external financial resources in times to come.

Internationally, the project's activities offer valuable insights for adaptation in other countries. The MRV framework, including the complete information system or selected components and software, stands as a model for replication in developing countries facing similar circumstances. Additionally, the guidance developed by the project, drawing from Armenia's experience in data collection, reporting on municipal sustainable energy and climate plans, and assessing mitigation measures in the energy sector, can provide relevant insights for other countries. The activities involving regional peer exchanges and capacity building under Component 4 directly contribute to scaling up the project's findings, extending their impact to other countries.

In conclusion, the project plays a strong catalytic role both at the country and international levels, fostering the replication of methodologies and approaches utilized for enhancing the transparency framework. However, the scaling-up within the country is largely dependent on external financial resources.

Progress to Impact

In terms of social impact, the project has significantly contributed to increased capacities and awareness related to CC. The participation of 266 individuals from over 40 institutions, including state authorities, NGOs, academia, the private sector and independent experts. This highlights the project's effectiveness in achieving social impact.

Moreover, by supporting the enhancement of the transparency framework, the project addressed gaps in CC related monitoring, reporting, strategies, plans, and processes in the country. This involved engagement with relevant line ministries, various institutions, and sectoral/departmental administrative units of the government, fostering linkages and supporting mechanisms to bridge sectorial silos.

The project also influenced CC technical and analytical capacities in the country, bringing together experts from different disciplines to develop methodologies for data collection, emissions estimates, and progress tracking in CC action. This interdisciplinary approach informs sectoral strategic planning, contributing to adaptation and mitigation efforts across traditional vulnerable sectors (agriculture, forestry, water resources) and others (energy, industry, infrastructure, waste). As a result, the project is expected to have a significant impact on the national research community and the country's capacity to address CC, involving future analysts, planners, project developers, experts, and researchers.

Furthermore, the project has fostered collaboration with the NGO sector, actively engaging NGOs in various stages. Their participation in workshops, consultations, and knowledge-based activities has strengthened their capacities and empowered female-led NGOs, contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment within the sector.

Finally, the project has policy impacts by reinforcing the adoption of significant legislation and regulations on transparency mandates, procedures, and methodologies. It also contributes to achieving the commitments outlined in Armenia's NDC and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 13. Additionally, the project addresses environmental aspects, including climate change, and sustainable development within the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership

Agreement (CEPA) between Armenia and the European Union (EU). Globally, with its results, the project plays a notable role in elevating Armenia's proactive stance in addressing climate change.

In conclusion, the project's comprehensive initiatives in capacity building, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration, and policy impact signify substantial progress towards achieving tangible outcomes and influencing positive change in climate change awareness, mitigation, and adaptation efforts.

5. Main Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations & Lessons

5.1. Main Findings

Project Design and Implementation

In crafting the CBIT project, a meticulous Results Framework was devised, aligning its objectives with Sustainable Development Goal 13 and UNDAF/CPD Outcome 4. The project's Theory of Change, outlining specific capacities to expedite sustainable development, was deemed plausible. While outcome indicators are generally suitable, the prevalence of YES/NO indicators presents certain limitations.

Efficient management of assumptions and risks, coupled with the integration of valuable insights from past projects, showcases a project design that is forward-thinking and adaptable. Stakeholder engagement is a standout feature, marked by meaningful participation, gender-disaggregated data, and a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The project strategically forges connections across diverse sectors, enhancing collaboration and effectiveness.

Implementation reveals an adaptive management approach, addressing capacity constraints and unforeseen challenges. Stakeholder participation surpasses set targets, achieving gender parity. Financial progress is positive, with a commendable delivery ratio of 82% by the time of TE. The project's M&E activities stand out for their meticulous design and effective implementation, earning an overall highly satisfactory rating.

UNDP's robust execution significantly contributes to the project's success, with the Ministry of Environment, as Implementing Partner, and HMC SNCO, as Responsible Party, executing commendably within their capacity constraints. UNDP's support remains pivotal to optimizing outcomes. The project's overall execution is deemed satisfactory.

Risk management emerges as a strength, maintaining an overall low risk rating. Challenges related to staff recruitment, COVID-19 pandemic and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are successfully navigated. Adaptive measures, including a project extension, ensure timely completion.

Relevance

The CBIT project, in alignment with GEF Focal Areas CCM-3-8 and CCA-2 and UNDAF/CPD Outcome 4, plays a pivotal role in mainstreaming mitigation concerns and enhancing institutional capacities for climate change adaptation. On an international level, it contributes significantly to Sustainable Development Goal 13 and aligns with Armenia's commitments to the Paris Agreement. The project strategically addresses gaps in the national GHG inventory, tracking progress and supporting NDC implementation, elevating reporting quality to the UNFCCC.

Designed to integrate lessons from national reports and consultations and international review, the CBIT project aligns with Armenia's NDC, incorporating insights from relevant projects for a holistic approach. Grounded in the Theory of Change, the project expedites structural transformations for sustainable development. Notably, it surpasses beneficiary targets, engaging diverse stakeholders and achieving gender parity, highlighting its high relevance and gender responsiveness.

Effectiveness

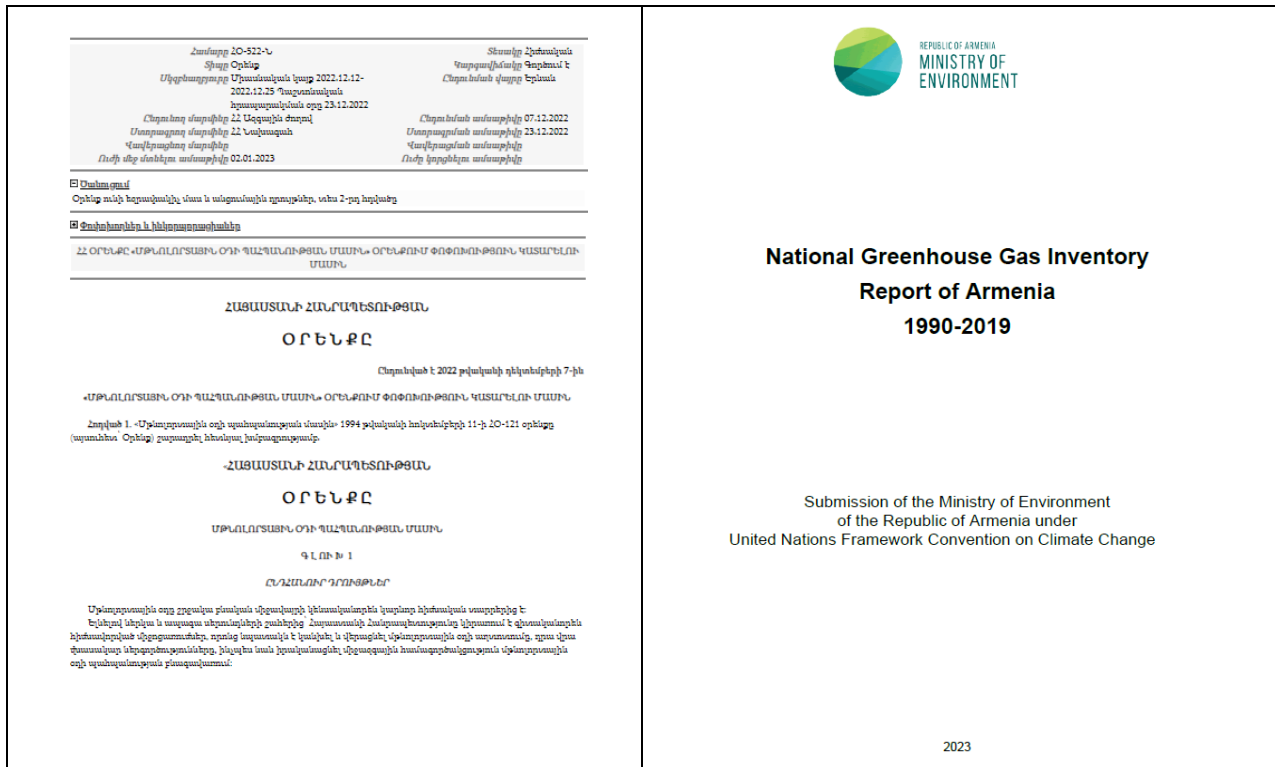
The CBIT makes substantial progress in enhancing Armenia's national transparency framework and institutional capacities.

Under the overarching development objective, the project surpassed expectations by reaching 266 beneficiaries, including 146 women, through capacity-building activities on transparency. Notably, it played a

pivotal role in formalizing institutional and legal arrangements for the national transparency framework, designating the Ministry of Environment as the responsible institution.

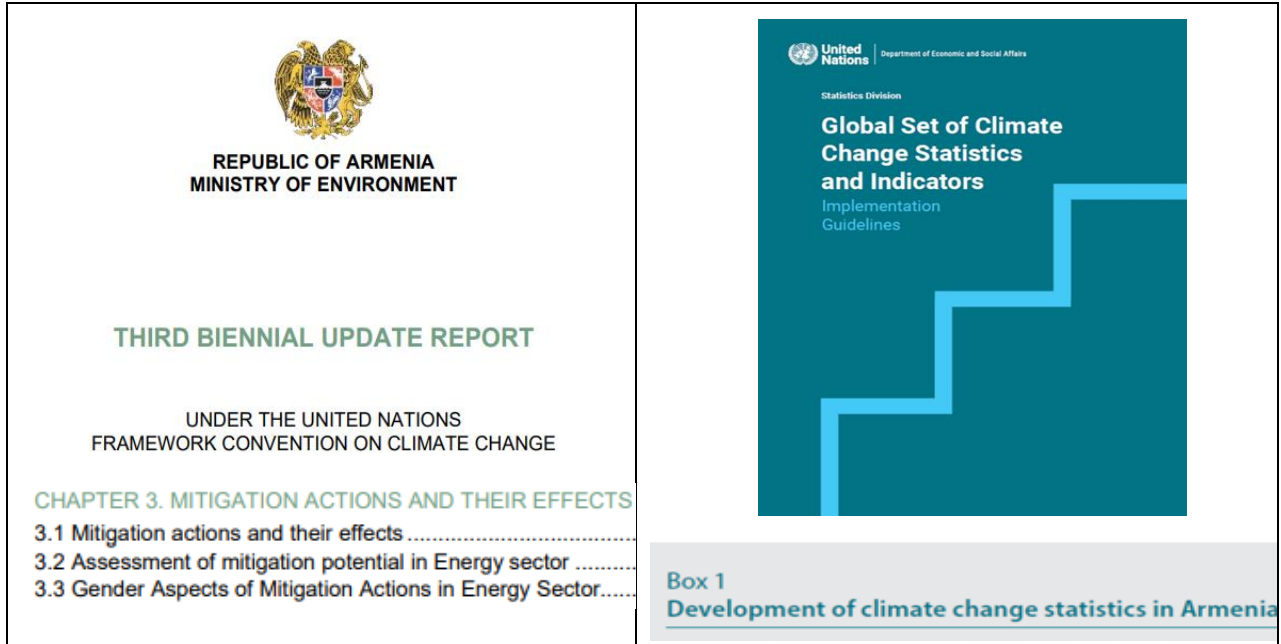
Outcome 1 successfully initiated legal amendments, entrusting the Ministry of Environment with defining procedures for the GHG Inventory. Legislative frameworks for mitigation, adaptation, and support have been drafted, showcasing best practices. Outcome 2 focuses on an MRV platform, the GHG Inventory part set to be operational by project conclusion, facilitating GHG inventory preparation and dissemination of climate data. Outcome 3 enhances transparency reporting, exemplified by the robust National Inventory Report for 1990-2019. Outcome 4 manages data for transparency, including a methodology for continuous information collection on mitigation and adaptation policies and measures. Gender aspects are well-integrated, evident from the gender-related chapter in the Third Biennial Update Report. Outcome 5 ensures progress tracking against NDCs, with a collaborative status report underway. Project information will be shared globally through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. The project's effectiveness is underscored by a strong partnership with the Statistical Committee, gaining international recognition in the UN's Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.

Figure 3 depicts the project's best results.



Legislative framework for formalizing the MRV mandate and GHG Inventory institutionalization (example: Amendments to the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection)

The National Inventory Report (NIR) for the period 1990-2019



Chapter “Gender Aspect of Mitigation Action in Energy Sector” from the Third Biennial Update Report of Armenia

CBIT project – Statistical Committee partnership: Armenia mentioned as a good example in UN publication

Figure 3 CBIT Project Best Results

Efficiency

The project encountered initial delays attributed to team formation challenges, COVID-19 restrictions, staff turnover, and regional conflicts affecting governmental priorities. By June 2022, financial delivery was at 25%. Adaptive management measures, including involving a Responsible Party and collaborating with external experts, projects, and the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme, significantly accelerated activity implementation, reaching a delivery rate of over 65% by September 2023 and 82% at the time of Terminal Evaluation. Despite these efforts, a 6-month extension was recommended and approved to fully compensate for the initial delays, shifting evaluation and closure dates. Project governance is robust, with regular updates to the Project Board and strong communication with governmental stakeholders. Knowledge sharing, gender inclusion, and impactful outreach initiatives, such as seminars and participation in UNDP-GEF projects, underscore the project's effectiveness and efficiency. As the project progresses, continued support towards adoption of relevant legislation and regulation and collaboration with Climate Promise 2 for Armenia's NDC progress report is crucial.

Sustainability

The project showcases robust sustainability across multiple dimensions. Financially, it received substantial government support and engaged diverse stakeholders, fostering the potential for a second CBIT project. The use of open-source software enhances the MRV system's adaptability at a minimal cost. Socio-economic sustainability is evident through investments addressing climate change impacts, creating employment opportunities, and aligning with fundamental human rights. Institutional sustainability is ensured by leveraging existing government bodies and institutions, government directives, and thorough documentation for continuity. The project actively considers environmental sustainability, addressing associated risks and adhering to environmental impact assessments, ensuring climate actions contribute positively. The collective strength across these dimensions positions the project for a likely overall sustainability rating.

Gender Equality

The project, rated at GEN2 on the Quantum Gender Marker, demonstrates a significant commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. Throughout its implementation, the project integrates gender considerations across various facets. Notably, it achieves gender-equal participation in decision-making through balanced representation in key bodies and fosters capacity building and empowerment, reflected in workshops and support to female-led organizations. The project contributes to gender-responsive reporting and policy development, emphasizing the importance of gender considerations in climate change-related matters. The overall efforts position the project at the "Gender Targeted" level on the Gender Responsive Effectiveness Scale (GRES), affirming its comprehensive and impactful contribution to gender mainstreaming in climate change initiatives.

Impact

The project has made significant strides in social impact, notably enhancing capacities and awareness related to climate change. With the active participation of 266 individuals from diverse institutions, the project effectively fosters collaboration across sectors, addressing gaps in monitoring, reporting, and strategic planning. By influencing CC technical and analytical capacities, the project facilitates interdisciplinary approaches that contribute to adaptation and mitigation efforts in various sectors, thereby impacting the national research community and the country's overall CC resilience. Additionally, the project's collaboration with NGOs has strengthened capacities and empowered female-led organizations, promoting gender equality within the sector. Policy impacts are evident through the reinforcement of legislation and regulations, aligning with Armenia's NDC and SDG 13, while also contributing to environmental aspects within the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the European Union.

5.2. Conclusions

The CBIT project demonstrates a **robust design, effective implementation**, and commendable stakeholder engagement. Strong risk management and adaptive measures contribute to overcoming challenges. Achievements in stakeholder participation, financial progress, and alignment with national strategies underscore the project's positive impact. As the project advances, sustained vigilance in risk management and continued collaboration with stakeholders will be crucial for realizing its objectives.

The CBIT project stands out for its exceptional alignment with international commitments and national strategies. Bridging critical gaps, it contributes significantly to global climate goals, reinforcing Armenia's commitment to the Paris Agreement. The project's proactive approach, integration of lessons learned, and remarkable achievements underscore its **profound relevance** in addressing climate change challenges.

The CBIT project has demonstrated **satisfactory effectiveness**, creating a solid foundation for enhancing Armenia's climate transparency, fostering institutional development, and contributing positively to global climate change efforts. While the GHG Inventory component stands out, the groundwork laid for the remaining three components (policies and measures, support received, and NDC tracking) necessitates the pursuit of legislation and regulations for their institutionalization within Armenia's governance structure. This strategic approach ensures enduring impact beyond the project's conclusion.

The CBIT project has demonstrated **satisfactory efficiency** and effectiveness in management and significant progress. The proactive measures undertaken to overcome initial challenges have positioned the project in a trajectory to meet its targets. Ongoing efforts to expedite critical activities and collaborate with Climate Promise 2 for the NDC progress report reflect a commitment to efficiency and impactful outcomes. The extension granted acknowledges the complexity of the project's context, ensuring that the momentum achieved is sustained for a successful and comprehensive conclusion.

The project's **comprehensive approach to sustainability**, spanning financial, socio-economic, institutional, and environmental dimensions, underscores its commitment to lasting impact. The demonstrated results and proactive measures taken ensure the continuation of climate change MRV activities, contributing not only to national resilience but also aligning with global climate goals. As the project serves as a model for sustainability, its outcomes lay a robust foundation for future initiatives, reinforcing the country's commitment to climate action beyond the project's completion.

The project's commitment to gender equality goes beyond symbolic efforts, manifesting in tangible outcomes across decision-making, capacity building, statistics, policy, and reporting. The achievement of a "Gender Targeted" assessment on the GRES scale reflects the project's **high-quality treatment of gender aspects**. As a catalyst in integrating gender considerations into climate change initiatives, the project sets a commendable standard for future endeavors, ensuring that women's voices are not only heard but actively shape the trajectory of climate action.

The project's **multifaceted impacts** underscore its vital role in catalyzing positive change in climate change awareness, mitigation, and adaptation in Armenia. As the project establishes enduring effects on capabilities, partnerships, and policies, its impact is positioned to echo both nationally and globally. While the accomplishments are commendable, ongoing commitment and sustained efforts will be crucial to ensuring the continued trajectory of positive impact in addressing climate change challenges and fostering sustainable development.

5.3. Recommendations

Following a thorough analysis and conclusions drawn from the evaluation exercise, the key recommendations are as follows:

Sustain stakeholder engagement

The evaluation highlights the positive impact of stakeholder engagement. It is recommended to sustain and further strengthen collaboration with stakeholders, ensuring their continued involvement in decision-making processes and future projects and initiatives .

Timeframe: As applicable for future projects and initiatives

Entity Responsible: Ministry of Environment, UNDP, Stakeholders

Seek to broaden the coverage and inclusiveness of the Working Groups by incorporating new sectors, even within the same ministry, and extending beyond governmental representation alone.

This recommendation stems from the valuable insights and feedback gathered from various stakeholders during interviews. Diversifying the composition of the WGs to include not only additional governmental sectors but also external stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, private entities, and academic institutions is seen as a strategic move for future projects and initiatives. This expansion is believed to enrich the collaborative environment, foster interdisciplinary perspectives, and ensure a more comprehensive and holistic approach to climate change-related matters. The involvement of diverse sectors beyond the government is seen as essential for tapping into a broader range of expertise, experiences, and resources, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of the Working Groups in addressing climate challenges.

Timeframe: As applicable for future projects and initiatives

Entity Responsible: Ministry of Environment, Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change, UNDP

Utilize the upcoming Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1 and BTR2) and the Fifth National Communication (5NC) project as a testing ground for the achievements made under the CBIT project.

This strategic approach allows for a thorough examination of the CBIT outcomes, ensuring their functionality and relevance in practical reporting scenarios. Testing within the context of the BTR and 5NC provides an opportunity to identify any potential gaps, refine methodologies, and enhance the overall effectiveness of the CBIT results. Moreover, this integrated testing mechanism ensures that the achievements of the CBIT project align seamlessly with Armenia's ongoing commitment to transparent and impactful climate action.

Timeframe: During the BTR1 and BTR2/5NC project

Entity Responsible: Ministry of Environment, UNDP, HMC SNCO, Experts

Explore GEF support for follow-up CBIT (CBIT 2) project.

It is recommended to seek support from the GEF for the development and implementation of a CBIT 2 project. This proposed project would have two primary objectives:

- Revision of CBIT Achievements: Incorporate insights gained from the 1BTR and 2BTR/5NC project testing addressing any identified shortcomings or areas for improvement. Integrate feedback from end-users and stakeholders also. This revision process ensures that the CBIT outcomes align seamlessly with evolving climate change reporting requirements and global best practices.
- Expansion toward a comprehensive transparency framework: Leverage GEF support to extend the current CBIT achievements, transforming them into a fully functional and comprehensive transparency framework. This expansion involves addressing the remaining components (policies and measures, support received, and NDC tracking) and institutionalizing them within Armenia's governance structure. The aim is to create a robust, long-term mechanism for monitoring, reporting, and verifying climate-related activities in alignment with international standards and the country's commitments.

By seeking GEF support for a CBIT 2 project, Armenia can capitalize on the foundation laid by the initial CBIT project, ensuring continuous improvement, relevance, and effectiveness in addressing climate change challenges. This strategic move aligns with the country's commitment to sustainable development and reinforces its proactive role in the global climate change agenda.

Timeframe: Until CBIT closure

Entity Responsible: Ministry of Environment, UNDP

Strengthen the revision of NDC by incorporating actionable strategies and conducting comprehensive analyses.

Given the successful outcomes of the CBIT project, it is recommended to capitalize on these results and take a proactive approach in revising the NDCs. This involves the following actions:

- Actionable NDC strategy: Develop an actionable and well-defined NDC strategy that goes beyond stated goals and includes clear, measurable targets. This strategy should be informed by the lessons learned and achievements of the CBIT project, ensuring a robust framework for the effective implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. Incorporate mechanisms for transparent progress tracking and reporting.
- Co-benefits analysis: Conduct a thorough analysis of the co-benefits associated with the proposed NDC actions. This involves identifying and quantifying the additional positive impacts beyond climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as economic, social, and environmental co-benefits.

Understanding these co-benefits enhances the overall value proposition of the NDC, garnering support from various stakeholders.

- Exploration of NDC-SDG nexus: Undertake additional analyses to explore the nexus between the NDC and the SDGs. Aligning the NDC with broader development objectives ensures a synergistic and integrated approach to sustainable development. Identify areas where climate action contributes positively to achieving multiple SDGs, fostering a holistic and interconnected approach.

By adopting these recommendations, Armenia can elevate the quality and impact of its NDC, aligning it with the latest international standards and leveraging the momentum generated by the CBIT project. This strategic revision process ensures that the NDC becomes a dynamic and actionable instrument, contributing meaningfully to both climate change goals and broader sustainable development objectives.

Timeframe: As applicable for future projects and initiatives

Entity Responsible: UNDP, Ministry of Environment, Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Climate Change, Experts, Stakeholders

5.4. Lessons

This section highlights several lessons learned from the project design and implementation phases, along with other identified needs during the evaluation exercise. These insights can be valuable not only for guiding future projects and initiatives in the same area, but also for sharing best practices and experiences with other countries.

Lessons learned from the design phase:

- The utilization of "NIM with UNDP support" has demonstrated success as an implementation modality. The approach of utilizing "NIM with UNDP support" has proven to be effective not only in achieving project milestones but also as a contribution towards the government's capacity building for NIM. This has broader implications for future projects as it contributes to the institutional strengthening of the government. The success and lessons learned from this approach provide a valuable foundation for the forthcoming BTR1 and BTR2/5NC project, ensuring a continued success.
- International review brings significant advantages to the project design and scoping. Informing the project's design by results and capacity building needs identified through international review of the previous project (BUR3) has proven to be advantageous. It brings already specified country needs, diverse perspectives, expertise, and global best practices into the project design, enriching the overall approach. International reviews contribute to the robustness of the project's conceptualization, helping identify potential challenges and offering insights that may not be apparent at a national level. This inclusive approach ensures that the project is aligned with international standards, enhancing its effectiveness and credibility.
- Additional attention is needed for setting the targets and indicators for the outputs focusing on legislative and regulative pieces. The official adoption of legislative and regulatory frameworks is often subject to uncertainties beyond the project's control, leading to challenges in achieving predetermined targets. To address this, creative solutions for setting indicators and targets are essential to introduce flexibility into the project framework, accommodating changes in the political and legislative landscape and ensuring successful outcomes.

Lessons learned from the implementation phase:

- Development of the National Inventory Improvement Plan (NIIP) proved very useful to ensure constant work and inform the scoping of future projects. The NIIP has proven its utility by providing

a structured approach to ensure continuous progress and inform the scoping of future projects. By systematically addressing improvements in the national inventory, the NIIP not only enhances the current project's effectiveness but also lays the groundwork for subsequent initiatives. This lesson underscores the importance of implementing similar planning mechanisms in future projects to maintain momentum and facilitate seamless transitions.

- Application of mentoring approach to GHG Inventory development by engaging a tandem of experienced and less experienced experts proved highly beneficial for the product itself but also for capacity building (teaching/learning by doing). The mentoring approach employed in the development of the GHG Inventory, involving a tandem of experienced and less experienced experts, has demonstrated significant benefits. Beyond ensuring the quality of the product, this approach contributes to capacity building through a practical, hands-on learning experience. The mentorship model fosters knowledge transfer, skill development, and a collaborative working environment. This lesson advocates for the continuation of such mentoring practices in future projects to simultaneously achieve project goals and enhance the capabilities of project participants.

General needs identified during the evaluation:

- Continued need for external financial resources. The evaluation highlights the persistent need for external financial resources to address challenges, especially considering the limited financial capacity of governmental institutions. Recognizing that many issues extend beyond the country's resources, securing external funding remains crucial for the sustained success of projects in the long run. This underscores the importance of actively seeking and securing financial support from international partners and donors to address ongoing and future challenges effectively.
- Continued need for capacity building. The need for ongoing capacity building is a consistent finding, emphasizing the importance of continually enhancing the skills and knowledge of project participants. The dynamic nature of climate change initiatives requires adaptability and updated expertise. Therefore, sustained efforts in capacity building ensure that stakeholders remain well-equipped to address evolving challenges and contribute meaningfully to project objectives.
- Continued need for strengthening coordination mechanisms. The evaluation underscores the importance of strengthening coordination mechanisms to address the complex and interconnected nature of climate change initiatives. Effective coordination among various stakeholders, government bodies, and institutions is essential for ensuring a cohesive and well-integrated approach. The ongoing need for improving coordination mechanisms highlights the importance of fostering strong partnerships and communication channels among different entities involved in climate change projects.
- Continued need for enhancing participation of non-government actors and greater participation of women and vulnerable groups. Acknowledging the value of non-government actors in climate change initiatives, the evaluation highlights the continued need for enhancing their participation. NGOs, private sector entities, and civil society organizations play a crucial role in contributing diverse perspectives, expertise, and resources. Strengthening collaboration with these non-government actors ensures a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing climate change challenges. Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, the evaluation emphasizes the need for greater participation of women and vulnerable groups in climate change initiatives, while duly acknowledging the project's notable achievements in this regard. Ensuring diverse representation not only aligns with principles of equity but also enriches the decision-making process by

incorporating a range of perspectives. Ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity and diversity contribute to more holistic and effective climate change interventions.

- Continued need for awareness among the general public. The evaluation recognizes the ongoing necessity for raising awareness among the general public. Climate change initiatives often require public support and understanding. Thus, sustained efforts in awareness campaigns, education, and outreach activities are essential to engage the public and foster a broader understanding of climate change issues. This ensures that climate actions are not only technically effective but also enjoy public support.

6. Annexes

- A1: TE TOR (excluding TOR annexes)**
- A2: TE Mission itinerary**
- A3: List of persons interviewed**
- A4: List of documents reviewed**
- A5: Evaluation Question Matrix**
- A6: Co-financing tables**
- A7: TE Rating scales**
- A8: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators**
- A9: Evaluation Consultant Agreement form**
- A10: Signed TE Report Clearance form**

Annexed in a separate file: TE Audit Trail

Annexed in a separate file: relevant terminal GCF/LDCF/SCCF Core Indicators or Tracking Tools, as applicable.

A1: TE ToR (excluding ToR annexes)**Terminal Evaluation Terms of Reference (ToR)
for UNDP-supported GEF-financed project**

Job title:	International Consultant/<u>Evaluator</u> for Project Terminal Evaluation
Project title:	Building Armenia’s National Transparency Framework under Paris Agreement (PIMS ID: 6332)
Project:	Quantum Award ID: 00109279.1 / Quantum Project ID: 00109279
Contract modality:	Individual Contract (IC)
Duration:	15 November 2023 – 01 March 2024 (25 working days)
Duty station:	Home-based and one week field mission to Armenia (15-19 January 2024)

1. INTRODUCTION

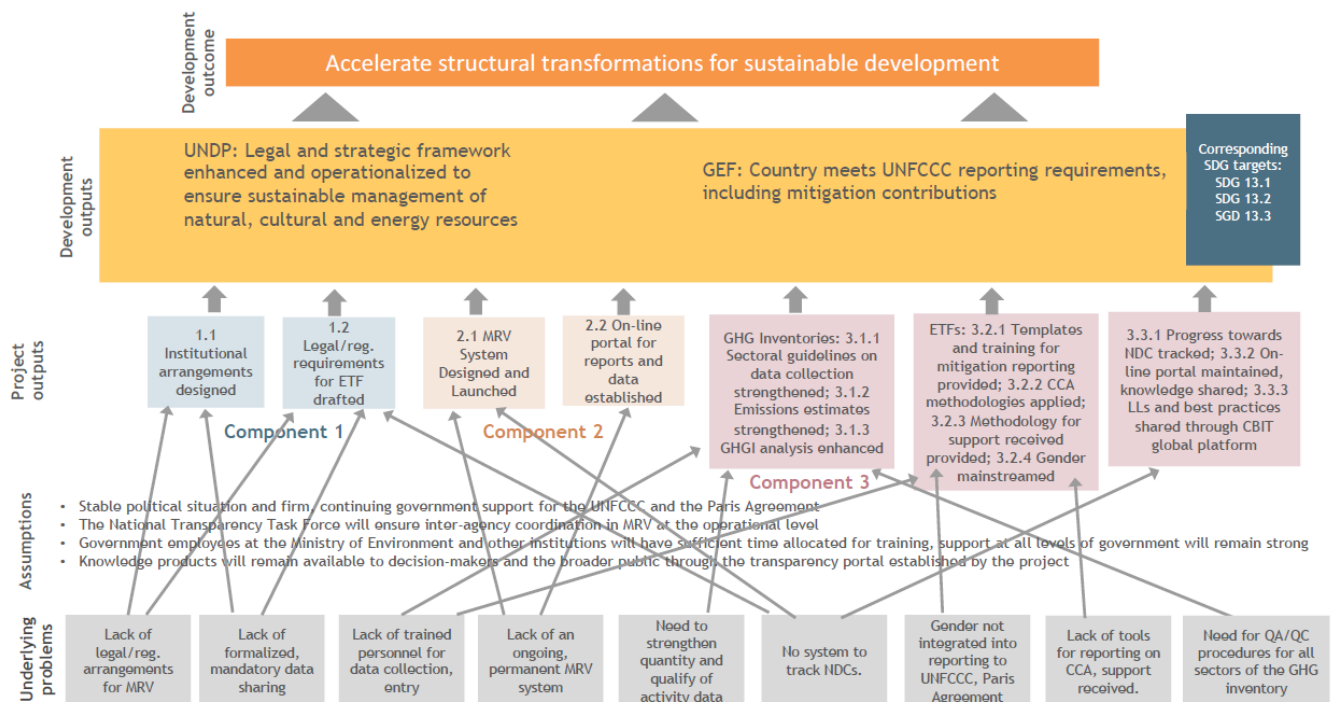
In accordance with UNDP and GEF monitoring and evaluations policies and procedures, all full- and medium-sized UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects are required to undergo a Terminal Evaluation (TE) at the end of the project. This Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out the expectations for the TE of the medium-sized project titled “[Building Armenia’s National Transparency Framework under Paris Agreement](#)” (PIMS ID: 6332) implemented through the Implementing Partner the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia. The project started on the [Project Document](#) signature day, on December 16, 2020 and is in its third year of implementation. The project is implemented following the national implementation modality, according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed between UNDP and the Government of Armenia in 1995 and the respective UN cooperation framework and Country Programme Document. The Implementing Partner assumes full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of project resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in the project document. UNDP is accountable to GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is also responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services, comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight and project completion and evaluation. The TE process must follow the guidance and quality standards outlined in the document [‘Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects’](#).

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The **Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)** project comes to help Armenia meet enhanced transparency requirements and enhance ability to implement the Paris Agreement. By establishing this framework for transparency of action, the country will be able to measure climate change mitigation more precisely, which ensures that its ambitious commitments to the Paris Agreement will be substantive and meaningful. Next, by establishing an effective framework for transparency of support, the country will be able to identify successful mitigation and adaptation investments and to link support to national policy priorities in climate change more effectively. Both frameworks will also reduce overlap and duplication in climate change action, freeing resource for additional measures. Finally, support for gender mainstreaming and gender-disaggregated data in the project will provide decision-makers with a clearer picture of the differing impacts of climate change on women and men, ensuring that adaptation actions leverage this knowledge to provide optimal benefits.

This project is in line with **GEF-7 Program Objective CCM-3-8**, “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency.” It follows from the commitments of the Government of Armenia under Paragraphs 7 to 10 of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which required each Party to regularly provide a national inventory report, information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution (NDC), information related to climate change impacts and adaptation, and information on support received. The project aims to provide support for building institutional and technical capacities to meet these enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of Paris Agreement. It will use a capacity strengthening approach to shift from *ad hoc* reporting to a continuous process of monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) that will capture transparency activities and allow the country to track its progress against its commitments under its NTC. The first project component aims to establish national institutional arrangements for an enhanced transparency framework, the second project component will introduce MRV system that will support the enhanced transparency framework, and the third project component will provide capacity building for stakeholders that will be necessary to support transparency-related activities over time. The Project Document defines the project **goal** as to assist the country in mainstreaming and integration of climate change considerations into national and sectorial development policies by giving continuity to the institutional and technical capacity strengthening process, initiated and sustained by the UNFCCC reporting under the expanded transparency framework. The immediate objective of the project is to build institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The **theory of change** of this project is based on the approach that supports transition to a permanent institutional framework for MRV and transparency has been selected as the most appropriate pathway to set and meet robust commitments to address climate change. The components of the project provide the necessary elements of this framework.

The Project Theory of Change:



The Project Document Results Framework targets at the following five **outcomes**:

1. Transparency activities in Armenia are governed by clear and formal roles and responsibilities;
2. Armenia uses an integrated MRV system for continuous data collection and reporting under Article 13;
3. Armenia is able to manage data for effective transparency reporting on GHG sources and sinks;
4. Armenia is able to manage data for the framework for transparency of action and the framework for transparency of support under Article 13; and
5. Armenia is able to track progress against its NDC and share its approaches and results at the international level.

The Project's **objective** is - Building institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The project objective is planned to be achieved through the four main components:

Component 1: National institutional arrangements for an enhanced transparency framework;

Component 2: MRV systems in support of an Enhanced Transparency Framework;

Component 3: Capacity building to support transparency-related activities over time;

Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management.

The project contributed to the 2015-2020 Armenia - UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcome 7 and its relevant UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) and Action Plan (CPAP) Outcome 4: "By 2020, Sustainable development principles and good practices for environmental sustainability resilience building, climate change, adaptation and mitigation, and green economy are introduced and applied".

Since 2021, the project contributes to the 2021-2025 Armenia - UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Outcome 5 and its relevant UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) Outcome 2: "Ecosystems are managed sustainably and people benefit from participatory and resilient development and climate-smart solutions".

The project contributes to the following **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:

SDG Goal 5: Gender Equality

SDG Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG Goal 17: Partnerships for implementation of the SDGs

The project runs on allocations of 990,000 USD from the GEF and additional input of 170,000 USD from UNDP and committed 400,000 USD as in-kind co-financing of contributions from the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia.

The Project Board/Steering Committee (PSC) plays a central role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The Project Board/Steering Committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, PSC decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, etc. The Project Board consists of the Ministry of Environment with the roles of Project Executive and Beneficiary and UNDP as the Development Partner, also with the role of Project Assurance.

The Project stakeholders, target groups, beneficiaries - the primary project stakeholders are government agencies that collect, process, and report on climate change data and analysis. The Project Document defines that, as relevant, the key government agencies will be represented on the project steering committee, and will

be involved in project governance through the National Transparency Task Force, as they have valuable knowledge and experience related to the data collection process and procedures in Armenia, thus increasing effective and efficient implementation of planned project activities. The project will monitor the share of women and men who are direct project beneficiaries, and it will also monitor the nature of the benefits.

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: The project’s entry point for gender equality and women’s empowerment will be via a focus on capacitating the stakeholders and beneficiaries through training, awareness-raising and other efforts that come to ensure women’s equal engagement in and benefit from climate change actions. The project’s efforts will help to understand how both men and women are involved in managing their environments, and it will clarify the overall picture of the effects of climate change on different groups of citizens, increasing transparency. Gender equality lens are seen as the project’s overall holistic approach for results-based management. More specifically, the project’s gender lens will focus on the following:

- Monitor the share of women and men who are direct project beneficiaries, also monitor the nature of the benefits.
- Four of the project’s outcome indicators measure gender considerations directly.
- Gender-sensitive targets and activities are monitored in the project reporting and shall be monitored in terminal evaluation.
- A national gender consultant provides the support to gender-related activities, monitoring and evaluation.
- The project takes into account the Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit developed by the Global Support Programme through UNDP in collaboration with UNEP and GEF.

The end date of the project according to the Project Document was 16 December 2023, and after the approved project extension - June 16, 2024.

3. TERMINAL EVALUATION PURPOSE

The TE report will assess the achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved and draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The TE report will promote accountability and transparency and will assess the extent of project accomplishments.

More specifically, the TE of the project will be performed in the final year of the project implementation, with the purpose to assess what was achieved, or if the expected outcome was not achieved during the base and extended years, and will determine the reasons for any failure. The TE will consolidate opinions/interpretations of all parties who were involved in the project implementation. This will help build a general picture on direct and circumstantial factors affecting the course of the project, considering that over the past three years at least two critical situations: (i) the COVID-19 pandemic; (ii) the Nagorno-Karabakh military conflict and regional instability have enormously affected the project implementation processes.

Following the information collection, the analysis will definitely be an important part of the TE to show lessons and what can be learned for similar future projects, initiatives and situations. It will be important to also attract former officials as many as possible – who worked closely with the project, including in the capacity of Project Board members, to enable a comprehensive opinion collection. The findings of the TE will be shared with stakeholders and will also serve as a useful source of reference for professional networks, the staff of similar projects in other countries, and other practitioners in the area.

The timing of the TE is defined according to the project's revised end date – June 16, 2024. The TE will be conducted during November 2023 – March 2024. In such evaluations, the face-to-face meeting for conducting in-depth interviews is very important to assure open communication, transparency and completeness of information. The evaluation field mission is planned to be held in January 2024. Besides the fact-finding mission and drafting the report by the TE expert (Evaluator), this TOR also considers the time necessary for the review and feedback to the draft report by the stakeholders.

4. TERMINAL EVALUATION APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The TE report must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The TE team, which will be comprised from the International Evaluator and National Evaluator Assistant, will review and triangulate the information coming from different sources, including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP), the Project Document, project reports including the annual PIRs, project budget revisions, lesson learned reports, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the Evaluator will consider useful for this evidence-based evaluation. The TE Evaluator will review the baseline and midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at the CEO endorsement and midterm stages and the terminal Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the TE field mission begins.

The TE Evaluator is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), Implementing Partners, the UNDP Country Office, the Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

Ideally, the Evaluator is expected to conduct the evaluation field mission to Armenia and held interviews live. Alternatively, due to limitations or other circumstances and factors (e.g., informants may be out of country, competing local priorities) on-line video-interviews with project stakeholders, experts, and beneficiaries could be organized as agreed with the commissioning unit and approved as part of the Inception report.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful TE. Stakeholder involvement should consist of interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, members of the Project Steering Committee/Project Board, project beneficiaries, academia, local government and CSOs, etc.).

As a minimum, the Evaluator (Evaluation team) shall meet with:

- Ministry of Environment
- UNDP Country Office in Armenia
- Project Board members
- Climate Change Council
- Contractors, consultants and partners of the Project.

The specific design and methodology for the TE should emerge from consultations between the TE Evaluator and the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the TE purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The TE Evaluator must use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and the SDGs are incorporated into the TE report.

The Evaluator is requested to present the best methods and tools for collecting and analysing data, suggesting as the best fit the evaluation questionnaires, field visits, interviews, focus group discussions, other methods, which shall be consulted and agreed with the commissioning unit e.g., evaluation manager, project team; also key stakeholders. These changes in approach should be agreed and reflected clearly in the TE Inception Report. In other words, the final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the evaluation must be clearly outlined in the TE Inception Report and be discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders and the TE Evaluator.

The evaluation final report must describe the full TE approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the evaluation.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE TERMINAL EVALUATION

The TE will assess project performance against expectations set out in the project's Logical Framework/Results Framework (see ToR Annex A). The TE will assess results according to the criteria outlined in [the Guidance for TEs of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Projects](#).

The Findings section of the TE report will cover the topics listed below. A full outline of the TE report's content is provided in ToR Annex C.

The asterisk “(*)” indicates criteria for which a rating is required.

Findings

- i. Project Design/Formulation
 - National priorities and country drivenness
 - Theory of Change
 - Gender equality and women's empowerment
 - Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)
 - Analysis of Results Framework: project logic and strategy, indicators
 - Assumptions and Risks
 - Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g. same focal area) incorporated into project design
 - Planned stakeholder participation
 - Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector
 - Management arrangements
- ii. Project Implementation
 - Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)
 - Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements
 - Project Finance and Co-finance
 - Monitoring & Evaluation: design at entry (*), implementation (*), and overall assessment of M&E (*)

- Implementing Agency (UNDP) (*) and Executing Agency (*), overall project oversight/implementation and execution (*)
- Risk Management, including Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

iii. Project Results

- Assess the achievement of outcomes against indicators by reporting on the level of progress for each objective and outcome indicator at the time of the TE and noting final achievements
- Relevance (*), Effectiveness (*), Efficiency (*) and overall project outcome (*)
- Sustainability: financial (*), socio-political (*), institutional framework and governance (*), environmental (*), overall likelihood of sustainability (*)
- Country ownership
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Cross-cutting issues (poverty alleviation, improved governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster prevention and recovery, human rights, capacity development, South-South cooperation, knowledge management, volunteerism, etc., as relevant)
- GEF Additionality
- Catalytic Role / Replication Effect
- Progress to impact

Main Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

- The TE Evaluator will include a summary of the main findings of the TE report. Findings should be presented as statements of fact that are based on analysis of the data.
- The section on conclusions will be written in light of the findings. Conclusions should be comprehensive and balanced statements that are well substantiated by evidence and logically connected to the TE findings. They should highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project, respond to key evaluation questions and provide insights into the identification of and/or solutions to important problems or issues pertinent to project beneficiaries, UNDP and the GEF, including issues in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Recommendations should provide concrete, practical, feasible and targeted recommendations directed to the intended users of the evaluation about what actions to take and decisions to make. The recommendations should be specifically supported by the evidence and linked to the findings and conclusions around the key questions addressed by the evaluation.
- The TE report should also include lessons that can be taken from the evaluation, including best practices in addressing issues relating to relevance, performance and success that can provide knowledge gained from the particular circumstance (programmatic and evaluation methods used, partnerships, financial leveraging, etc.) that are applicable to other GEF and UNDP interventions. When possible, the TE Evaluator should include examples of good practices in project design and implementation.
- It is important for the conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned of the TE report to incorporate gender equality and empowerment of women.

The TE report will include an Evaluation Ratings Table, as shown below:

**Table 2: Evaluation Ratings for “Building Armenia’s National Transparency Framework under Paris Agreement”
Medium-sized project (PIMS ID: 6332)**

1. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	Rating*
M&E design at entry	
M&E Plan Implementation	
Overall Quality of M&E	
2. Implementation & Execution	Rating
Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	
Overall quality of Implementation/Execution	
3. Assessment of Outcomes	Rating
Relevance	
Effectiveness	
Efficiency	
Overall Project Outcome Rating	
4. Sustainability	Rating
Financial resources	
Socio-political/economic	
Institutional framework and governance	
Environmental	
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	

*Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight & Execution, Relevance are rated on a 6-point scale: 6=Highly Satisfactory (HS), 5=Satisfactory (S), 4=Moderately Satisfactory (MS), 3=Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), 2=Unsatisfactory (U), 1=Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability is rated on a 4-point scale: 4=Likely (L), 3=Moderately Likely (ML), 2=Moderately Unlikely (MU), 1=Unlikely (U)

6. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the TE will be **25 working days** over a time period of 15 weeks starting from 15 November 2023. The tentative TE timeframe is as follows:

Timeframe in 2023-2024	Activity
-	Selection of TE International Evaluator from UNDP Global Roster. Contracting. Selection and contracting of National Evaluator Assistant
15 November 2023	Introductory briefing. Preparation period for TE Evaluator. Handover of documentation
01 December 2023	Document review and preparation of TE Inception Report (indicative - 3 working days)
20 December 2023	Finalization and Validation of TE Inception Report; preparation for TE mission
15 – 19 January 2024	TE mission (<u>dates may be adjusted</u>): stakeholder meetings, interviews, field visits, etc. (one week, 5 working days mission)
19 January 2024	Mission wrap-up meeting & presentation of initial findings; earliest end of TE mission
01 February 2024	Preparation and submission TE report (indicative - 7 working days)
15 February 2024	Circulation of draft TE report for comments. Presentation. Incorporation of comments (5 working days)
22 February 2024	Sharing final TE report with Audit Trail responses (5 working days)
01 March 2024	Finalization of any last comments, reconciliation and signing-off by the Commissioning Unit. Preparation and Issuance of the Management Response
15 March 2024	Expected date of full TE completion and documents upload in the respective systems.

Options for site visits should be provided in the TE Inception Report.

7. TERMINAL EVALUATION DELIVERABLES AND THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing, Payment, Percentage of Total	Responsibilities
1	Deliverable 1	Inception report submitted, discussed, and approved by the Commissioning Unit. TE Evaluator clarifies objectives, methodology and timing of the TE.	No later than 2 weeks before the TE mission satisfactory delivery of the final TE Inception Report and approval by the Commissioning Unit: By 20 December 2023 (20%) Payment - 20%	TE Evaluator submits Inception Report to Commissioning Unit

			Payment – 80 %	
	Total		100%	

*All final TE reports will be quality assessed by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). Details of the IEO's quality assessment of decentralized evaluations can be found in Section 6 of the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines - <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/section-6.shtml>

The method of payment is output-based lump-sum scheme. The total amount quoted shall be all-inclusive lump sum and include all costs components required to perform the deliverables identified in the TOR for professional fee, travel costs, insurance, living allowance as applies, and any other applicable cost to be incurred by the service provider in completing the assignment. The contract price will be fixed output-based price regardless of extension of the herein specified duration.

Payments and deliverables:

The payment to the International Evaluator will be processed in two (2) installments:

- Payment 1 – Deliverable 1 – 20%
- Payment 2 – Deliverables 2, 3, 4 – 80%

The payments will be made upon satisfactory delivery and acceptance of all the deliverables by the Commissioning Unit/Evaluations Manager, and operationally by the Project Manager/Coordinator.

8. TERMINAL EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing the TE resides with the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's TE is the UNDP Armenia Office.

The Commissioning Unit will contract the TE Evaluation team and ensure the timely provision of payments in line with the contract/TOR deliverables. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the TE evaluation team led by the International Evaluator, and providing all relevant documents and support, if required, for setting up stakeholder interviews, arranging field visits, etc.

9. TE TEAM COMPOSITION

A team of an Independent Evaluator and National Evaluator Assistant will conduct the TE.

The International Evaluator will prepare and be responsible for the overall evaluation process, methodology and all its products. In particular, the International Evaluator will be responsible for design of this evaluation methodology and tools, overseeing the quality of evaluation processes, its successful execution, including timely and quality data collection, analysis, reflection in the report. The International Evaluator will be managing the evaluation team, ensuring effective and smooth teamwork and submission of the evaluation final products in line with the evaluation guidelines and quality

standards provided. The International Evaluator responds to Audit Trail showing how comments were addressed.

The National Evaluator Assistant will provide all necessary support to the International Evaluator to conduct the evaluation processes and produce the final products, including in relation to design of evaluation methodology and tools, data collection and analysis, synthesis, triangulation, drafting findings, conclusions, lessons learned, etc. The National Evaluator Assistant will support the International Evaluator in quality assurance of evaluation products vis-à-vis the earlier mentioned 'Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects' and UNDP quality standards to evaluation reports.

The Evaluators cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation and/or implementation (including the writing of the project document), must not have conducted this project's Mid-Term Review (if applicable), and should not have conflict of interest with the project's related activities.

Lead Evaluator Required qualification**	Rating points	Weight , %
<u>Education</u>		20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree in natural, chemical, social sciences, engineering, economics, or other closely related field. Advanced education is an asset 	10	
<u>Experience</u>		60%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 7 years of experience in evaluating development projects with results-based management evaluation methodologies in climate change and relevant fields internationally 	30	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competence in adaptive management, as applied to Climate Change focal area 	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience working in CIS countries and in the Caucasus countries. Experience of working in Armenia is an asset 	10	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and the Climate Change Focal Area; experience in gender responsive evaluation and analysis 	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent communication skills 	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrable analytical skills 	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project evaluation/review experience within UN system and GEF financed projects will be considered an asset 	10	
<u>Language</u>	10	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluency in written and spoken English. Native English language editorial and proofreading skills is an asset. 		

** The weight and rating scale will be adjusted to UNDP Global Roster (GPN) from where the selection of TE International Evaluator will be selected.

10. EVALUATOR ETHICS

The TE evaluation team, led by the International Evaluator, will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct upon acceptance of the assignment. This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the [UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations'](#). The evaluator must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The evaluator must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

11. APPLICATION PROCESS

TE International Evaluator will be selected from UNDP Global Roster

12. TOR ANNEXES

- ToR Annex A: Project Logical/Results Framework
- ToR Annex B: Project Information Package to be reviewed by TE Evaluator
- ToR Annex C: Content of the TE report
- ToR Annex D: Evaluation Criteria Matrix template
- ToR Annex E: UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators
- ToR Annex F: TE Rating Scales
- ToR Annex G: TE Report Clearance Form
- ToR Annex H: TE Audit Trail

A2: TE Mission itinerary

#	Data Collection Method	Participants	Date and Time	Location
1	On-line video interview	Susan Legro International Consultant on Capacity Building for Transparency Framework under Paris Agreement	18 January 2024 13:00-14:00	Google Meet
2	In-person interview	Diana Harutyunyan, Climate Change Programme Coordinator, UNDP, CBIT Project	22 January 2024 13:00-14:00	Government House 3, Room 533
3	In-person interview	Davit Shindyan, Team Leader, UNDP, CBIT Project	22 January 2024 13:00-14:00	Government House 3, Room 533
4	In-person interview	Gayane Igityan, Expert on Public Outreach and Communication, UNDP CBIT Project	22 January 2024 13:00-14:00	Government House 3, Room 533
5	In-person interview	Rubina Stepanyan, Climate Change Programme Associate, UNDP CBIT Project	22 January 2024 13:00-14:00	Government House 3, Room 533
6	Focus Group Discussion 1	Marina Sargsyan, National Lead Expert on GHG Emissions Inventory and Mitigation	22 January 2024 14:00-15:00	Government House 3, Room 533
7	Focus Group Discussion 1	Tigran Sekoyan, National Consultant on Energy Sector Mitigation	22 January 2024 14:00-15:00	Government House 3, Room 533
8	In-person interview	Konstantin Sokulskiy, Deputy Resident Representative	22 January 2024 15:30-16:30	14 Petros Adamyan St.
9	In-person interview	Hovhannes Ghazaryan, Programme Analyst CER Portfolio	22 January 2024 15:30-16:30	14 Petros Adamyan St.
10	Focus Group Discussion 2	Diana Gurzadyan, IT Specialist for Development of Software Requirements System	23 January 2024 10:00-11:00	Government House 3, Room 533

11	Focus Group Discussion 2	Eduard Martirosyan, Expert on GHG Inventories' Data Management	23 January 2024 10:00-11:00	Government House 3, Room 533
12	Focus Group Discussion 3	Heghine Grigoryan, National Consultant on Climate Change Legal Matters	23 January 2024 11:00-12:00	Government House 3, Room 533
13	Focus Group Discussion 3	Elena Khachvankyan, National Consultant on Climate Change Related Financial Support	23 January 2024 11:00-12:00	Government House 3, Room 533
14	Focus Group Discussion 3	Artak Baghdasaryan, Task Leader, EU4Climate Project	23 January 2024 11:00-12:00	Government House 3, Room 533
15	In-person interview	Naira Aslanyan, National Expert on Adaptation	23 January 2024 12:00-13:00	Government House 3, Room 533
16	In-person interview	Astghik Mirzakhanyan, Specialist on Social Vulnerability and Gender	23 January 2024 12:00-13:00	Government House 3, Room 533
17	In-person interview	Nona Budoyan, Head of Climate Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment; Chairwoman of Climate Change working group, Ministry of Environment	23 January 2024 14:00-15:30	Government House 3, Room 552
18	In-person interview	Ruzanna Grigoryan, Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environment	23 January 2024 15:30-16:00	Government House 3, Room 513
19	In-person interview	Lara Sargsyan, Chief Specialist at Atmospheric Policy Department, Ministry of Environment	23 January 2024 16:00-17:00	Government House 3, Room 535
20	Focus Group Discussion 4	Nelli Baghdasaryan, Council Member of Statistical Committee; Member of Climate Change Council, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	24 January 2024 12:00-13:15	Government House 3, Room 620
21	Focus Group Discussion 4	Anna Hakobyan, Head of the Social Sphere and Nature Protection Statistics Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	24 January 2024 12:00-13:15	Government House 3, Room 620

22	Focus Group Discussion 4	Naira Mandalyan, Chief Specialist at Social Sphere and Nature Protection Statistics Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	24 January 2024 12:00-13:15	Government House 3, Room 620
23	Focus Group Discussion 4	Anahit Avetisyan, Head of the Industry and Energy Statistics Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	24 January 2024 12:00-13:15	Government House 3, Room 620
24	Focus Group Discussion 4	Laura Azoyan, Specialist at the International Cooperation Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	24 January 2024 12:00-13:15	Government House 3, Room 620
25	Online video interview	Snezana Dragojevic, Global Portfolio Oversight Specialist of the GEF-funded Climate Enabling Activities	24 January 2024 15:00-16:00	Zoom Call
26	Online video interview	Nune Sakanyan, President, Co-Founder of "Women in Climate and Energy - WiCE" NGO	24 January 2024 16:00-17:00	Zoom Call
27	Focus Group Discussion 5	Tigran Melkonyan, Head of the Energy Department, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	25 January 2024 10:30-12:00	Government House 3, Room 720
28	Focus Group Discussion 5	Nazik Margaryan, Chief Specialist at Renewable Energy Division, of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	25 January 2024 10:30-12:00	Government House 3, Room 720
29	Focus Group Discussion 5	Viktoria Keshishyan, Head of the Division Energy and Natural Resources of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	25 January 2024 10:30-12:00	Government House 3, Room 720
30	Focus Group Discussion 6	Hovhannes Atabekyan, Associate Partner, CIVITTA AM CJSC team involved in Farm survey for assessment of GHG emissions from manure and land management practices in Armenia	25 January 2024 14:15-15:00	1 Melik Adamyan St.
31	Focus Group Discussion 6	Gor Ghazaryan, Project Manager, CIVITTA AM CJSC team involved in Farm survey for assessment of GHG emissions from manure and land management practices in Armenia	25 January 2024 14:15-15:00	1 Melik Adamyan St.
32	Focus Group Discussion 7	Anush Loqyan, Head of the Project Development and Coordination Division, "HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND MONITORING CENTER" SNCO	25 January 2024, 15:30-17:00	Charents St. 46

33	Focus Group Discussion 7	Nunufar Stepanyan, Head of the Scientific and Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building Cooperation Division, "HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND MONITORING CENTER" SNCO	25 January 2024, 15:30-17:00	Charents St. 46
34	Focus Group Discussion 7	Gayane Shahnazaryan, Deputy Director, "HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND MONITORING CENTER" SNCO	25 January 2024, 15:30-17:00	Charents St. 46
35	Focus Group Discussion 7	Narine Grigoryan, Leagal Advisor, "HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND MONITORING CENTER" SNCO	25 January 2024, 15:30-17:00	Charents St. 46
36	Focus Group Discussion 7	Arpine Sukiasyan, Interpreter, "HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND MONITORING CENTER" SNCO	25 January 2024, 15:30-17:00	Charents St. 46
37	In-persin interview	Aram Gabrielyan, Founder of "Khazer" NGO	26 January 2024, 10:00-11:00	Government House 3, Room 533
	Debriefing with key staff UNDP, CBIT	Hovhannes Ghazaryan, Programme Analyst CER Portfolio Diana Harutyunyan, Climate Change Programme Coordinator Davit Shindyan, Team Leader, CBIT Project Gayane Igityan, Expert on Public Outreach and Communication Armine Hovhannisyan, Results-Based Management Programme Analyst Snezana Dragojevic, Global Portfolio Oversight Specialist of the GEF-funded Climate Enabling Activities Gulsah Dark Kahyaoglu, Regional Programme Associate	26 January 2024, 14:00-15:00	14 Petros Adamyan St.

- In-person interviews (13),
- Online video interviews (3) and
- Focus group discussions (7) with 2-5 participants.

A3: List of persons interviewed

#	Name	Position/Organization	Stakeholder
1	Susan Legro	International Consultant on Capacity Building for Transparency Framework under Paris Agreement	International Consultant
2	Diana Harutyunyan	Climate Change Programme Coordinator, UNDP, CBIT Project	UNDP, CBIT Project
3	Davit Shindyan	Team Leader, UNDP, CBIT Project	UNDP, CBIT Project
4	Gayane Igityan,	Expert on Public Outreach and Communication, UNDP CBIT Project	UNDP, CBIT Project
5	Rubina Stepanyan	Climate Change Programme Associate, UNDP CBIT Project	UNDP, CBIT Project
6	Marina Sargsyan	National Lead Expert on GHG Emissions Inventory and Mitigation	National Expert
7	Tigran Sekoyan	National Consultant on Energy Sector Mitigation	National Expert
8	Konstantin Sokulskiy	Deputy Resident Representative	UNDP country office
9	Hovhannes Ghazaryan	Programme Analyst CER Portfolio	UNDP country office
10	Diana Gurzadyan	IT Specialist for Development of Software Requirements System	National Expert
11	Eduard Martirosyan	Expert on GHG Inventories' Data Management	National Expert
12	Heghine Grigoryan	National Consultant on Climate Change Legal Matters	National Expert
13	Elena Khachvankyan	National Consultant on Climate Change Related Financial Support	National Expert

14	Artak Baghdasaryan	Task Leader, EU4Climate Project	EU4Climate Project, UNDP
15	Naira Aslanyan	National Expert on Adaptation	National Expert
16	Astghik Mirzakhanyan	Specialist on Social Vulnerability and Gender	National Expert
17	Nona Budoyan	Head of Climate Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment; Chairwoman of Climate Change working group	RA Ministry of Environment
18	Ruzanna Grigoryan	Head of International Cooperation Department	RA Ministry of Environment
19	Lara Sargsyan	Chief Specialist at Atmospheric Policy Department	RA Ministry of Environment
20	Nelli Baghdasaryan	Council Member of Statistical Committee; Member of Climate Change Council	Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia
21	Anna Hakobyan	Head of the Social Sphere and Nature Protection Statistics Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia
22	Naira Mandalyan	Chief Specialist at Social Sphere and Nature Protection Statistics Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia
23	Anahit Avetisyan	Head of the Industry and Energy Statistics Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia
24	Laura Azoyan	Specialist at the International Cooperation Division, Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia	Statistical Committee Republic of Armenia
25	Snezana Dragojevic	Global Portfolio Oversight Specialist of the GEF-funded Climate Enabling Activities	UNDP RTA
26	Nune Sakanyan	President, Co-Founder of "Women in Climate and Energy - WiCE" NGO	NGO
27	Tigran Melkonyan	Head of the Energy Department	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure

28	Nazik Margaryan	Chief Specialist at Renewable Energy Division	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
29	Viktoria Keshishyan	Head of the Division Energy and Natural Resources	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure
30	Hovhannes Atabekyan	Associate Partner, CIVITTA AM CJSC team involved in Farm survey for assessment of GHG emissions from manure and land management practices in Armenia	Contractor
31	Gor Ghazaryan	Project Manager, CIVITTA AM CJSC team involved in Farm survey for assessment of GHG emissions from manure and land management practices in Armenia	Contractor
32	Anush Loqyan	Head of the Project Development and Coordination Division,	“Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center” SNCO
33	Nunufar Stepanyan	Head of the Scientific and Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building Cooperation Division	“HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND MONITORING CENTER” SNCO
34	Gayane Shahnazaryan	Deputy Director	“Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center” SNCO
35	Narine Grigoryan	Leagal Advisor	“Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center” SNCO
36	Arpine Sukiasyan,	Interpreter	“Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center” SNCO
37	Aram Gabrielyan,	Founder of “Khazer” NGO	NGO

Total: 37 Key Informants, 27 women.

Stakeholders:

- UNDP country office (2),
- CBIT Project Team members (4),
- National Experts (8),
- Regional Technical Adviser (1),
- International Experts (1),
- Contractors (2),
- Ministry of Environment (3),
- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (3),
- Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center (5),
- Statistical Committee (5),
- Partnering projects representatives (1),
- NGO Representatives (2)

A4: List of documents reviewed

#	Item (electronic versions preferred if available)	CBIT Armenia relevant folders/documents
1	Project Identification Form (PIF)	Project Identification Form (PIF)
2	UNDP Initiation Plan	Not applicable
3	Final UNDP-GEF Project Document with all annexes	UNDP-GEF Project Document
4	CEO Endorsement Request	GEF Focal Point Endorsement Letter
5	UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and associated management plans (if any)	Justification for the SESP exemption
6	Inception Workshop Report	Project Inception Workshop Report
7	All Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)	2023 Project Implementation Report 2022 Project Implementation Report
8	Progress reports (quarterly, semi-annual or annual, with associated workplans and financial reports)	SPRs 2023 SPRs 2022 SPRs 2021 2023 Annual Work Plan 2022 Annual Work Plan 2021 Annual Progress Report 2022 Annual Progress Report
9	Oversight mission reports	No oversight mission implemented
10	Minutes of Project Board Meetings and of other meetings (i.e. Project Appraisal Committee meetings)	2023 Board Minutes

		2022 Board Minutes
11	GEF Tracking Tools (from CEO Endorsement, midterm and terminal stages)	Tracking Tool for GEF 6 Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Projects (at terminal evaluation)
12	GEF/LDCF/SCCF Core Indicators (from PIF, CEO Endorsement, midterm and terminal stages); for GEF-6 and GEF-7 projects only	GEF 7 Core Indicators
13	Financial data, including actual expenditures by project outcome, including management costs, and including documentation of any significant budget revisions	Project expenditure per components Budget revisions (Kindly note that the final revision is not signed - pending final approval from GEF/PIMS+)
14	Co-financing data with expected and actual contributions broken down by type of co-financing, source, and whether the contribution is considered as investment mobilized or recurring expenditures	Co-Financing Letter from UNDP Co-Financing from the Ministry of Environment 2023 Letter for Co-Financing from UNDP for CBIT Project 2023 UNDP Co-Financing from the Ministry of Environment for CBIT Project
15	Audit reports	The project hasn't undergone an audit
16	Electronic copies of project outputs (booklets, manuals, technical reports, articles, etc.)	https://nature-ic.am/en/publications/Publications/1039/1 (Armenian: https://nature-ic.am/hy/publications/Publications/1039/1)
17	Sample of project communications materials	Project banner Project factsheet Project webpage Climate Change Armenia Facebook page Relevant Images
18	Summary list of formal meetings, workshops, etc. held, with date, location, topic, and number of participants	List of events and participants

19	Any relevant socio-economic monitoring data, such as average incomes / employment levels of stakeholders in the target area, change in revenue related to project activities	Not applicable
20	List of contracts and procurement items over ~US\$5,000 (i.e. organizations or companies contracted for project outputs, etc., except in cases of confidential information)	List of contracts and procurement items over ~US\$5,000
21	List of related projects/initiatives contributing to project objectives approved/started after GEF project approval (i.e. any leveraged or “catalytic” results)	“Development of the First Biennial Transparency Report and the Combined Fifth National Communication and Second Biennial Transparency Report of Armenia to the UNFCCC” UNDP-GEF Project
22	Data on relevant project website activity – e.g. number of unique visitors per month, number of page views, etc. over relevant time period, if available	The project doesn’t have a separate website or social media channels, all the information on events and activities as well as products developed in the frame of the Project are published in the common website of UNDP Climate Change Programme (http://nature-ic.am/) as well as FB channel (https://www.facebook.com/climatechange.armenia), information is also disseminated through UNDP in Armenia FB channel (https://www.facebook.com/UNDPArmenia) and partnering channels when applicable).
23	UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD)	UNDP Country Programme Document for Armenia (2021–2025)
24	List/map of project sites, highlighting suggested visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Environment (legal documents) - HMC SNCO (capacity building) - Statistical Committee (expert support)
25	List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, including Project Board members, RTA, Project Team members, and other partners to be consulted	List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, including Project Board members, RTA, Project Team members, and other partners to be consulted

26	Project deliverables that provide documentary evidence of achievement towards project outcomes	<p><u>Outcome 1.1. Transparency activities in Armenia are governed by clear and formal roles and responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Administrative Register on GHG Emissions (in Armenian)</u> - <u>Amendments to the Air Law</u> - <u>Deputy Prime Minister Decree (in Armenian)</u> - <u>Draft Government Decision on Establishing Procedure for GHG Inventory Preparation (in Armenian)</u> - <u>Micro Assessment (HACT) of HMC SNCO</u> - <u>Letter of Agreement between UNDP and HMC SNCO</u> <p><u>Outcome 2.1. Armenia uses an integrated MRV system for continuous data collection and reporting under Article 13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Report on MRV framework of Armenia</u> - <u>ToR for Development of MRV Platform</u> <p><u>Outcome 3.1. Armenia is able to manage data for effective transparency reporting on greenhouse gas (GHG) sources and sinks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Air Emissions Accounts for Armenia: Data evaluation and road map for implementation</u> - <u>Assessment of Administrative Data Gaps and Needs in the “Agriculture and Other Land Use” Subsectors</u> - <u>Archiving Guide (in Armenian)</u>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Farm Survey for the Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Manure and Land Management Practices in Armenia- National Inventory Improvement Plan- National GHG Inventory Report 1990-2019- QA/QC Procedure in Energy Sector (in Armenian)- Assessed Shortcomings/Gaps of the Compliance of Existing System of F-Gases Emissions Inventory in Armenia with IPCC 2006 Guidelines- Survey Data Analytical Report (3A1,3A2 and 3C) (in Armenian)- Technical analysis of the third biennial update report of Armenia submitted on 17 May 2021- Uncertainty Assessment (in Armenian) <p>Outcome 3.2. Armenia is able to manage data and information for the framework for transparency of action and the framework for transparency of support under Article 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adaptation Indicators for Agriculture and Water Resources- Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation Framework- Common Approach for Assessing GHG Emissions Reductions from Mitigation Measures in Energy Sector (in Armenian)- Draft Government Decision on Adopting the Order of Measuring, Monitoring, Estimating and Reporting on Policies and Measures of GHG Emissions Mitigation- Draft Minister Order on Climate Finance Reporting (in Armenian)
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of Adaptation Projects by Sectors - Mitigation Baseline Situational Analysis - Principles for Selection of Key Mitigation PAMs in Energy Sector (in Armenian) - Sectoral Template and Guideline for Mitigation PAMs in Waste (in Armenian) - Standard Operating Procedures for Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation system <p>Outcome 3.3. Armenia is able to track progress against its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and share its approaches and results at the international level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance on Consideration of Gender-related Requirements in the Armenia's UNFCCC Reporting
	<i>Additional documents, as required</i>	Letter of Agreement between the UNDP and the Ministry of Environment for the Provision of Support Services

A5: Evaluation Question Matrix

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of the GEF Focal area, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?			
Were the Project objectives relevant to the needs and priorities of the country, having in mind political, social, legal and institutional context of the country?	Alignment with national policies and local development plans	ProDoc, National strategies and policies, regional development plans, National Agenda 2030	Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
To what extent has CBIT selected method of delivery been appropriate to the development context?	Evidence of appropriateness of delivery method	ProDoc, Project staff, Stakeholders	Document review Interviews with project staff Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Extent of country's ownership of the project	Evidence that the stakeholders take ownership over the Project achievements	Stakeholders	Interviews with stakeholders
To what extent was the theory of change presented in the outcome model a relevant and appropriate vision on which to base the initiatives?	Evidence of appropriateness of the Project vision	ProDoc, Stakeholders	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Were the Project's objectives and implementation strategies consistent with global, regional and country's environmental policies and strategies, considering UN/UNDP Strategic Frameworks and Agenda 2030?	Alignment with global, regional and country's environmental policies and strategies	GEF policies and UN/UNDP Strategic Frameworks, Agenda 2030	Document review Triangulation, Validations
Based on an analysis of Project stakeholders, is the Project intervention relevant to the key stakeholder groups.	Evidence that the project design was informed by the perspectives of stakeholders	Project staff, Stakeholders, ProDoc,	Interviews with project staff Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Project Design			
Have synergies with other projects and initiatives been incorporated in the design?	Evidence of stakeholder mapping in the ProDoc and examples of synergistic activities planned	ProDoc, Stakeholders	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?	Evidence of lessons from other projects listed and considered in the design stage	ProDoc, Stakeholders	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations

Were perspectives of those affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, considered during project design processes?	Evidence that the project design was informed by the perspectives of local stakeholders	ProDoc, Stakeholders	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Have issues materialized due to incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the ProDoc?	Evidence of comprehensive risk analysis and mitigation measures in the ProDoc and AWP	PIRs, AWP and ProDoc	Document review Triangulation, Validations
Results Framework			
Are the project objective and outcomes clear, practicable, and feasible within its time frame?	Level of coherence between project objectives and outcomes, and resources	ProDoc, PIRs, Stakeholders	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Are the project's logframe indicators and targets appropriate?	Evidence of the project logframe capturing key results at output and outcome level	ProDoc, AWP, Stakeholders	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
How "SMART" are the project targets (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound)? If applicable, what specific amendments or revisions to the targets and indicators are recommended?	Evidence of the project targets being SMART	ProDoc, AWP	Document review Triangulation, Validations
Mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment			
To what extent were broader development and gender aspects factored into project design? Has there been progress so far that has led to or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e., income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance etc...)?	Evidence of alignment with broader development agenda, including gender roles	ProDoc and AWP, UNDP CPD, and UNDAF, PIRs and GEF Core Indicator tracking tools	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Other cross cutting issues			
To what extent were other cross cutting issues (i.e., due diligence process with companies which received funding, human rights or labour standards assessments etc...) factored into project design and implementation?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, SESP reports, Due Diligence reports, Spot Check reports, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?			
What evidence is there that the Project has contributed towards an improvement in national government capacity, including institutional strengthening?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables, Reports from CBIT Trainings	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
To what extent have the intended results been achieved? What are the main Project accomplishments?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
What are the unexpected results, both positive and negative?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
What are the reasons behind the success (or failure) of the Project in producing its different outputs and meeting the expected quality standards? Were key stakeholders appropriately involved in producing the programmed outputs?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Has the CBIT project been effective in helping establishment of a national transparency framework under Paris Agreement?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Progress towards Outcomes Analysis			
Are the logframe indicators met? If not then why? Are the targets from the GEF Tracking Tool met? If not, why?	Evidence of meeting the midterm targets, evidence of concurrence of interviewee feedback on the factors	Project staff, Stakeholders, PIRs, tracking tool	Document review Interviews with project staff Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions Progress and trend analysis of project planned and achieved targets

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently, in line with international and national norms and standards?			
Were the Project activities implemented as scheduled and with the planned financial resources?	Evidence from document review and project staff feedback	AWPs, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes from the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Budget expenditure reports, Project staff	Document review Interviews with project staff Triangulation, Validations
To what extent have the target groups and other stakeholders taken an active role in implementing the Project? What modes of participation have taken place? How efficient have partner institutions been in supporting the Project's implementation?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes from the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Has the communication and outreach of the Project been satisfactory?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes from the Board meetings, Minutes from the Working group meetings, Communication strategy and materials, Website statistics, Media outlet reports	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Interviews with project staff Triangulation, Validations
Did the Project have a sound M&E plan to monitor results and track progress towards achieving Project objectives?	Evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, Minutes from the Board meetings, Minutes from the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports	Document review Interviews with project staff Triangulation, Validations
Management Arrangements, GEF Partner Agency			
Has there been an appropriate focus on results?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Has the UNDP support to the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and Project Team been adequate?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Has the quality and timeliness of technical support to the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and Project Team been adequate?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
How has the responsiveness of the managing parties to significant implementation problems (if any) been?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents (Board meetings minutes)	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Are there salient issues (e.g., project duration and scope) that have affected project outcomes and sustainability?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Management Arrangements, Executing Agency/Implementing Partner			
Were the capacities of the executing institution(s) and its counterparts properly considered when the Project was designed?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations

Were partnership arrangements properly identified and roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to Project approval?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents (e.g., ProDoc)	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Were counterpart resources, enabling legislation, and adequate project management arrangements in place at Project entry?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Has there been an appropriate focus on timeliness?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review; evidence of using appropriate management tools	Stakeholders, documents (esp., AWP)	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Have management inputs and processes, including budgeting and procurement been adequate?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents (esp., AWP and Board meeting minutes)	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Has overall risk management been proactive, participatory, and effective?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholder, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Has there been sufficient candour and realism in annual reporting?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholder, documents	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Has there been adequate mitigation and management of environmental and social risks as identified through the UNDP Environmental and Social screening procedure?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholder, documents (e.g., UNDP Environmental and Social screening document)	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations
Work Planning			
Has the project experienced delays in start-up and/or implementation? What were the causes of the delays? And, have the issues been resolved?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, documents (AWPs and PIRs; Board Meetings minutes))	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
Were the work-planning processes results-based? Has the Project Team used the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review; as well as evidence of using appropriate management tools	Project staff, documents (esp., Annual Work Plans and PIRs)	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
Have there been any changes to the logframe since project start, and have these changes been documented and approved by the project board?	Evidence from document review;	Project staff, ProDoc, AWP and PIRs	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
Finance and Co-finance			
Have strong financial controls been established to allow the project management to make informed decisions regarding the budget at any time, and to allow for the timely flow of funds and the payment of satisfactory project deliverables?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
Are there variances between planned and actual expenditures? If yes, what are the reasons behind these variances?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP,	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations

			Progress and trend analysis of project allocations and expenditures
Has the project demonstrated due diligence in the management of funds, including annual audits and spot checks?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes, Spot Check reports	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
Have there been any changes made to the fund allocations as a result of budget revisions? Assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations Progress and trend analysis of project allocations and expenditures
Has pledged co-financing materialized? If not, what are the reasons behind the co-financing not materializing or falling short of targets?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations Progress and trend analysis of project allocations and expenditures
Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems			
Was the M&E plan sufficiently budgeted and funded during project preparation and implementation thus far? Are sufficient resources being allocated to M&E? Are these resources being allocated effectively?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP,	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
Are the M&E systems appropriate to the project's specific context? Do the monitoring tools provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners, stakeholders including groups (e.g., women indigenous peoples, children, elderly, disabled, and poor)? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How well are the development objectives built into monitoring systems: How are perspectives of women and men involved and affected by the project monitored and assessed?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP, KIIs	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
To what extent have follow-up actions, and/or adaptive management measures, been taken in response to the PIRs?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Project staff, PIRs, AWP, KIIs	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations
Risk Management			
Were the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module the most important? Are the risk ratings applied appropriate and up to date? If not, explain why.	Evidence of adequate risk identification	ProDoc, PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module	Document review Triangulation, Validations
Stakeholder Engagement			
Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, AWP, KIIs	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations

Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations
How has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives? Are there any limitations to stakeholder awareness of project outcomes or to stakeholder participation in project activities? Is there invested interest of stakeholders in the project's long-term success and sustainability?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations
Reporting			
How have adaptive management changes been reported by the Project Team and shared with the Project Board?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations
How well have the Project Team and partners undertaken and fulfilled GEF reporting requirements?	Evidence from document review	Board meeting minutes and other documents	Document review Triangulation, Validations
How have PIRs been shared with the Project Board and other key stakeholders?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, Board meeting minutes and other documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations
How have lessons derived from the adaptive management process been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners, and incorporated into project implementation?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, AWP, Lessons Learned reports, Board meeting minutes,	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations
Communication			
Was communication regular and effective? Were there feedback mechanisms when communication was received? Did this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and long-term investment in the sustainability of project results?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review, evidence of appropriate feedback tools used	Stakeholders, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes, other documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations
Were proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review, evidence of appropriate communication tools	Stakeholders, PIRs, AWP, Board meeting minutes, other documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, socio-political, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?			
To what extent are the achieved outcomes and outputs sustainable? How could Project's results be further sustainably projected and expanded, having in mind the remaining needs?	Evidence from project staff and stakeholder feedback	Project staff, Stakeholders	Interviews with project staff Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
What mechanisms have been set in place by CBIT project to support the Government of Armenia to sustain improvements made through these interventions?	Evidence from project staff and stakeholder feedback	Project staff, Stakeholders, Minutes of Board meetings	Interviews with project staff Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions

Are there any social or political factors that may influence positively or negatively the sustenance of Project results and progress towards impacts?	Evidence from project staff and stakeholder feedback	Project staff, Stakeholders, Minutes of Board meetings	Interviews with project staff Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
What opportunities exist for financial sustainability?	Evidence from project staff and stakeholder feedback	Project staff, Stakeholders, Minutes of Board meetings	Interviews with project staff Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Financial Risks to Sustainability:			
What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)? What additional factors are needed to create an enabling environment for continued financing?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Has there been the establishment of financial and economic instruments and mechanisms to ensure the ongoing flow of benefits once the GEF assistance ends (i.e., from the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and market transformations to promote the project's objectives)?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs and other documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Socio-Economic Risks to Sustainability			
Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Is there sufficient public/ stakeholder awareness in support of the objectives of the project?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Project staff, Lessons Learned reports	Interviews with project staff Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Are the project's successful aspects being transferred to appropriate parties, potential future beneficiaries, and others who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?	concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions

Institutional Framework and Governance Risks to Sustainability			
Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize project benefits?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Has the project put in place frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes that will create mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer after the project's closure?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback evidence from document review evidence of the project using appropriate frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
How has the project developed appropriate institutional capacity (systems, structures, staff, expertise, etc.) that are likely to be self-sufficient after the project closure date?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents (PIRs, government papers)	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
How has the project identified and involved champions (i.e., individuals in government and civil society) who can promote sustainability of project outcomes?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Has the project achieved stakeholders' (including government stakeholders') consensus regarding courses of action on project activities after the project's closure date?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents (esp. the Board meeting minutes)	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Does the project leadership have the ability to respond to future institutional and governance changes (i.e., foreseeable changes to local or national political leadership)? Can the project strategies effectively be incorporated/mainstreamed into future planning?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Environmental Risks to Sustainability			
Are there environmental factors that could undermine and reverse the project's outcomes and results, including factors that have been identified by project stakeholders?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback, evidence from document review	Stakeholders, documents	Interviews with stakeholders Document review Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Gender equality and women's empowerment: How did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment?			
How does the project address gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of climate change actions?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Gender expert, Stakeholders, Progress reports, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings,	Document review Interview with Gender expert Interviews with stakeholders

		Monitoring session reports, Gender related project deliverables	Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
To what extent has gender been addressed in the design, implementation and monitoring of the CBIT project?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Gender expert, Stakeholders, Progress reports, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Gender related project deliverables	Document review Interview with Gender expert Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
What specific measures does the project employ to monitor and enhance the involvement and benefits of women in climate change initiatives?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Gender expert, Project staff, Gender related project deliverables, M&E tools	Document review Interview with Gender expert Interviews with project staff Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
How does the project integrate a gender lens into its results-based management, and what tools and frameworks does it align with to ensure effective consideration of gender perspectives?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Gender expert, Project staff, Gender related project deliverables, M&E tools	Document review Interview with Gender expert Interviews with project staff Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
To what extent has CBIT project promoted positive changes in gender equality? Were there any unintended effects?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Gender expert, Stakeholders, Progress reports, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Gender related project deliverables	Document review Interview with Gender expert Interviews with project staff Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Impact: Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress towards reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?			
What is the Project impact in qualitative as well as quantitative terms from a broader development and system building perspective?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, Progress reports, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions Progress and trend analysis
What real differences have the Project interventions made to the beneficiaries? How many people have been affected?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, Progress reports, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Gender related project deliverables, gender segregated data from project activities	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
To what extent has the Project elevated cooperation between relevant institutions?	Evidence from interviewee feedback	Stakeholders	Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
How have cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality and reaching the most vulnerable, been effectively taken up?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders

			Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
What is the mid-term and long-term Project influence on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the country resulting from the national transparency framework under Paris Agreement?	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Catalytic role of the Project: To what extent the Project has			
Catalysed behavioural changes in terms of use and application by the relevant stakeholders and of capacities developed;	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Contributed to institutional changes, for instance institutional uptake of Project demonstrated technologies, practices or management approaches;	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Project deliverables	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Contributed to policy changes (on paper and in implementation of policy);	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports, Affected national policies and regulations	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions
Contributed to sustained follow-on financing (catalytic financing) from Governments, private sector, donors etc.;	Concurrence of interviewee feedback and evidence from document review	Stakeholders, PIRs, Minutes of the Board meetings, Minutes of the Working group meetings, Monitoring session reports	Document review Interviews with stakeholders Triangulation, Validations, Interpretations, Abstractions

A6: Co-financing tableCONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

PLEASE COMPLETE FOR ALL PROJECTS AT MTR AND TE STAGES

TERMINAL EVALUATION

PROJECT "BUILDING ARMENIA'S NATIONAL TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK UNDER PARIS AGREEMENT (CBIT PROJECT)"

UNDP PIMS+ ID: 6332; GEF ID: 10138

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form (please add rows as necessary)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Investment Mobilized	Amount \$ (at CEO approval)	Amount \$ (at TE stage)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	400,000	352,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	170,000	150,000
Other	Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development	In-kind	Investment mobilized	0	9,800
(select)		(select)	(select)		
(select)		(select)	(select)		
(select)		(select)	(select)		
(select)		(select)	(select)		
(select)		(select)	(select)		
(select)		(select)	(select)		
(select)		(select)	(select)		
(select)		(select)	(select)		
Total Co-financing				570,000	511,800

A7: TE Rating scales

Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight, Execution, Relevance	Sustainability ratings:
<p>6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings</p> <p>5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings</p> <p>4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings</p> <p>3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings</p> <p>2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below expectations and/or major shortcomings</p> <p>1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings</p> <p>Unable to Assess (U/A): available information does not allow an assessment</p>	<p>4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability</p> <p>3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability</p> <p>2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability</p> <p>1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability</p> <p>Unable to Assess (U/A): Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability</p>

A8: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators

Independence entails the ability to evaluate without undue influence or pressure by any party (including the hiring unit) and providing evaluators with free access to information on the evaluation subject. Independence provides legitimacy to and ensures an objective perspective on evaluations. An independent evaluation reduces the potential for conflicts of interest which might arise with self-reported ratings by those involved in the management of the project being evaluated. Independence is one of ten general principles for evaluations (together with internationally agreed principles, goals and targets: utility, credibility, impartiality, ethics, transparency, human rights and gender equality, national evaluation capacities, and professionalism).

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained, and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated and did not carry out the project's Mid-Term Review.

A9. Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Evaluator: Natasa Markovska

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at Skopje, North Macedonia (Place) 20 March 2024

Signature:



A8a: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators

Independence entails the ability to evaluate without undue influence or pressure by any party (including the hiring unit) and providing evaluators with free access to information on the evaluation subject. Independence provides legitimacy to and ensures an objective perspective on evaluations. An independent evaluation reduces the potential for conflicts of interest which might arise with self-reported ratings by those involved in the management of the project being evaluated. Independence is one of ten general principles for evaluations (together with internationally agreed principles, goals and targets: utility, credibility, impartiality, ethics, transparency, human rights and gender equality, national evaluation capacities, and professionalism).

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
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6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained, and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated and did not carry out the project's Mid-Term Review.

A9a. Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:


Name of Evaluator: Hasmik Altunyan

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at Yerevan, Armenia (Place) on 20 March 2024

Signature:

DocuSigned by:

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A10: Signed TE Report Clearance form

**Terminal Evaluation of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Project:
Building Armenia's National Transparency Framework under Paris Agreement
Commissioning Unit (M&E Focal Point)**

Name: Armine Hovhannisyan

20-Mar-2024

Signature: _____

DocuSigned by:

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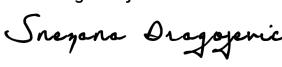
Date: _____

Regional Technical Advisor (Climate Hub)

Name: Snezana Dragojevic

20-Mar-2024

Signature: _____

DocuSigned by:

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Date: _____