

PIMS 3814: Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts in Mountain Forest Ecosystems of Armenia

UNDP Management Response Template

Mid-term Evaluation Date: June 2011

Prepared by: **Aram Ter-Zakaryan** 
 Cleared by: **Simon Papyan** 

Position: **Project Task Leader** Unit/Bureau: **UNDP Armenia**
 Position: **First Deputy Minister** Unit/Bureau: **Ministry of Nature Protection of RA**
 Position: **DRR** Unit/Bureau: **UNDP Armenia**

Input into and update in ERC: **Dirk Boberg**

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1.			
Management Response:			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*
			Comments Status
<p>The project team has identified the necessary legal strategy for formal incorporation of forest management recommendations related to climate change adaptation, and there are no specific risks foreseen for this activity. However, given the importance of this activity and the fact that official government processes often take longer than expected, the project team should pay particular attention to this activity to ensure completion of this critical activity by the end of the project</p>	2012-2013	Project Team	<p>Recommendations to mainstream CC adaptation in forest management plans are drafted and accepted by forest management authorities.</p> <p>Work in process</p>
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2.			
<p>This evaluation recommends that, to clarify the potential use of “scenario planning” as an input to the revision and development of forest management plans, the project team should investigate and discuss the tool of “scenario planning” for climate change in forest management (potentially with the input of international expertise), and share information about this tool with FREC for inclusion, as appropriate, in Forest</p>			

Enterprise management plans. It would also be appropriate for the project to focus on assisting data users in developing need-based data requests to be addressed at the national level. Along similar lines, the scope of the activity on the establishment of an “an early warning and response system” should be clarified.			
Management Response:			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*
This recommendation is considered as useful and appropriate under the current implementation progress of the project. The project will seek for additional clarification of “scenario planning” and “early warning and response system” as well as limitation for feasible implementation through consultations with the project’s International Technical Adviser and national experts.	2011-2012	Project Team, Project Partners	Comments The “scenario planning” and “an early warning and response system” are discussed with the Hydrometeorological Service and forest specialists, the corresponding recommendations will be elaborated with the assistance of International Consultant
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3.			
This evaluation recommends a 6-12 month no-cost extension to facilitate the originally planned 48-month implementation period. The officially expected completion date has as yet not been changed from November 2012, although the project did not begin implementation until six months later than expected, in May 2009 rather than November 2008. The current rate of budget disbursement should allow such an extension.			
Management Response:			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*
This recommendation is considered as useful and appropriate under the current implementation progress of the project. The extension need is included in the 2010 PIR and the proper justification will be submitted to the Outcome Board for discussion and approval	2011	UNDP CO, Project Team, Executing Partner	Comments The corresponding justification will be presented to the Outcome Board and the Project Multi-year Work Plan 2012-1013 will be reviewed
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4.			
Project quarterly operational reports should be organized under the project outcomes and key outputs for increased clarity and understanding			

of the report contents.				
Management Response:				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Comments Status	
The project progress reports have been developed under the administrative management frameworks since some of the activities were covering different outputs under different outcomes. The project quarterly operational reports will be further prepared to reflect the specific framework of the project outcomes/outputs.	2011	Project Team, UNDP CO	According to the UNDP CO guidelines starting from the Second quarter of 2011 the quarterly progress reports are provided to the EG portfolio for entering in the ATLAS system	Complied
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 5.				
The project partners should begin budgeting now for depreciation of the firefighting equipment, each component of which has an expected useful life. If there is no financial mechanism to replace the equipment at the end of its useful life this aspect of the project will have low sustainability, as once the equipment is fully depreciated (some of the equipment has an expected five year life) the benefits gained through its procurement (in the form of fire suppression) will also be lost.				
Management Response:				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Comments Status	
This recommendation is considered as useful and appropriate. The project will conduct consultation with "Hayantar" SNCO on further replacement of the depreciated equipment. Prior consultations discovered that upon successful and feasible results of testing and using of firefighting equipment and tools "Hayantar" SNCO will seek opportunities for procurement of similar equipment/tools either under the state budget allocation or other funding sources. Armenian Rescue Service has also planned to procure some of the introduced equipment and tools for local rescue/fire detachments.	2012	Project Team Project Partners	The recommendations will be elaborated and officially submitted to the forest authorities	Pending
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 6.				
The project should identify a way to take advantage of the training on forest management for climate change adaptation that has been suggested by the Director of FREC. Target beneficiaries could be foresters from Hayantar who will be responsible for implementing the forest				

management plans, as well as others at the policy level who will be involved in overseeing the development and updating of forest management plans in the future.

Management Response:

Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Comments	Status
This recommendation is considered as useful. It will be discussed with forest management authorities at national and local levels during the planned consultations based on detailed proposals on mainstreaming climate change risks into forest management plans elaborated under the project.	2011-2012	Project Team Project Partners	The training modules for consideration of the climate change factor in forest management developed and training organized. Corresponding report developed , submitted to UNDP and posted on the project web-page	Pending

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 7.

There have been a number of activities targeted towards raising community-level awareness and understanding related to climate change and forest adaptation issues. This evaluation recommends that the project seek innovative ways to continue and expand these efforts, for example through the replication of the involvement of schoolchildren in the Meghri demonstration site.

Management Response:

Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Comments	Status
This recommendation is considered as useful and appropriate. The project has planned to involve schoolchildren in planting and watering activities during the implementation of fourth forest rehabilitation pilot project planned to contribute into protection of forest biodiversity (wild fruit tree species) around Tatev Monastery in Syunik region. The project will also discuss with Hayantar to apply this opportunity in Goris and Kapan sites. Besides the project has conducted 12 public awareness raising event solely targeted on Syunik schoolchildren. The subjects covered climate change issues, forest biodiversity protection, pest infestation and forest fires. Moreover, schoolchildren	2011-2012	Project Team Project Partners	Number of students/schoolchildren participated in the reforestation works; number of similar events	Work in progress

<p>were assigned to prepare essays on the seminar subjects; the best essays were awarded.</p>				
<p>Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 8.</p>				
<p>The project has overall done an excellent job of leveraging synergies with relevant stakeholders and related initiatives. This evaluation recommends that the project team also seek synergies with the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme to support community-based climate resilience initiatives in Syunik region.</p>				
<p>Management Response:</p>				
<p>Key Action(s)</p>	<p>Time Frame</p>	<p>Responsible Unit(s)</p>	<p>Tracking*</p>	
<p>This recommendation is considered as useful. In the past the project kept informing community based organizations in Syunik region on UNDP-GEF Small Grant Programme opportunities and assisted in communication between the local organizations and SGP. The project will conclude additional consultations with UNDP-GEF SGP team in Armenia targeted to support community-based climate resilience and afforestation/reforestation initiatives in Syunik region. Besides, consultations are provided to UNDP DRR project, which is currently planning implementation of the CC risk reduction projects in Syunik marz.</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>UNDP Country Office Project Team</p>	<p>Comments</p> <p>Number of pilot projects in Syunik region enhancing community resilience to CC</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Work in progress</p>
<p>Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 9.</p>				
<p>To support wider dissemination of the pest early warning monitoring information, this evaluation recommends the training be conducted using a “train the trainer” approach, or that the training be open to all interested forestry sector professionals, depending on the available resources.</p>				
<p>Management Response:</p>				
<p>Key Action(s)</p>	<p>Time Frame</p>	<p>Responsible Unit(s)</p>	<p>Tracking*</p>	
<p>This recommendation is considered as useful and appropriate. The training of trainers on pesthole monitoring based on the monitoring approach developed under the project will be conducted in Spring 2011.</p>	<p>2011-2012</p>	<p>Project Team Project Partners</p>	<p>Comments</p> <p>Trainings conducted</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Pending</p>