



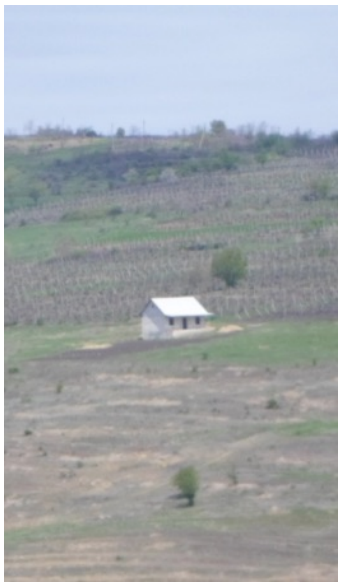


Clima East Pilots Project Mid-term Evaluation

Volume 1: Overall Clima East Pilots Project Summary Report
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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this report represent those of the authors alone, and do not reflect the positions or views of the European Union or the United Nations Development Programme. The evaluation team may be contacted regarding any matters related to the evaluation at:

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Acronyms

CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
COP	Conference of Parties
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENPI	Eastern Neighborhood Partnership Instrument
ETS	European Trading System
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German development assistance organization
GJ/a	Gigajoules per annum
HA	Hectares
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LPA	Local Public Authority
LULUCF	Land-use, Land-use Change, and Forestry
MTE	Mid-term Evaluation
N/A	Not applicable
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
PA	Protected Area
PIMS	Project Information Management System
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RLP	Regional Landscape Park (protected area type in Ukraine)
ROM	Results Oriented Monitoring
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States dollars

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Table 1 Clima East Pilots Project Data Table

Program Title:	*Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and Russia*			
Countries:	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine		*At endorsement (€)*	*At completion (€)*
Region:	Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States	EU financing:	11,000,000	N/A
Executing Agencies:	Relevant ministries of environment and natural resources in participating countries	Co-financing:	N/A	N/A
ProDoc Signature Date:	Program: December 4, 2012. Various dates for each national pilot project.	Operational Closing Date:	Proposed: December 31, 2016	Actual: N/A

1.1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Clima East Pilots Project is a four-year, 11 million euro project involving seven European eastern neighborhood countries and Russia. The project began in January 2013, and is currently scheduled for completion in December 2016. The project is structured as an "umbrella" project, with eight individual pilot projects being carried out in the seven countries, under the overall oversight and supervision of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Istanbul regional office, as the implementing organization. Individual pilot projects range in funding from 535,000 euros to 2,675,000 euros.

2. As stated in the project Description of Action (the "project document"), "*The main aim of this project is to show through pilot projects the feasibility of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, meaning that intact ecosystems such as peatlands, permafrost landscapes, boreal forests and pasture land can have a strong and cost-efficient positive effect both on climate change mitigation and adaptation.*"

3. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide an independent external view of the progress of the Clima East Pilots Project at its approximate mid-point, and to provide feedback and recommendations to UNDP and project stakeholders that can help strengthen the project and ensure its success during the second half of implementation. The objective of the evaluation is to assess progress towards the achievement of the Clima East Pilots Project objective, identify and document lessons learned (including lessons that might improve design and implementation), and to make recommendations regarding specific actions that might be taken to improve the project. The evaluation report is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 (this report), which summarizes overall findings, conclusions and recommendations for the Clima East Pilots Project in entirety. Volume 2 of this evaluation report includes individual evaluation reports for each of the pilot projects, with additional project-specific findings, conclusions and recommendations.

1.2. MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

4. The Clima East Pilots Project is highly relevant in the context of international development work to address climate change.

5. The Clima East Pilots Project uses ecosystem-based approaches to address a range of environmental issues in a holistic and integrated manner. The project aims to deliver impacts in five key

areas: i) climate change mitigation; ii) climate change adaptation; iii) biodiversity conservation; iv) sustainable land management; and v) socio-economic benefits and rural development. This is not a prevalent approach among current efforts to address climate change in combination with other key environmental issues. It is a highly effective and necessary approach, recognizing the inalienable linkages between environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity conservation. Through this integrated approach, the Clima East Pilots Project is securing and strengthening a multitude of ecosystem services.

6. The pilot projects are addressing issues of high national relevance, such as pasture management and peatland restoration, but have not yet had significant national influence.

7. The pilot projects have yet to gain much traction at the national level (except in Georgia, where the project has catalyzed a national technical working group), but this is likely mainly because the projects have not yet generated significant results at this stage. Their relatively small size is likely another factor. Although they have high potential national relevance, the pilot projects will need to produce and clearly document results to have much influence at the national level; this is their ultimate aim, as "pilot" projects.

8. The individual pilot projects are also strongly supported at the local level by resource users and local government.

9. The projects are expected to provide many local benefits in addition to the expected climate change benefits, such as a reduction of peat fires, which cause poor air quality in the areas where they occur. The pilot projects also expect to provide socio-economic benefits for local communities.

10. There are multiple lessons that can be drawn from the project design, which could have been improved.

11. The level of detail and quality of pilot project documents and the planning for pilot projects varies significantly; there is also not a unified project document template or structure applied to the projects. Partially as a result, the expected outcomes for each pilot project are not clearly identified or defined. The project documents also indicate some results or activities that were not actually going to be carried out. In addition, the Clima East Pilots Project was not adequately designed as a cohesive integrated "regional program", such that the whole would equal more than the sum of the parts. The pilot projects were designed individually, without specific linkages between each other, other than that they are addressing similar issues.

12. Some aspects of Clima East Pilots Project design contribute to project efficiency, and the pilot projects are well managed on the whole.

13. Some of the shortcomings in the project documents of the individual pilots may be trade-offs from the relatively efficient overall project development process, which was carried out in approximately 12 months, which is highly impressive for a project of this size and scope. A majority of the pilot projects also build on, or are directly linked with other previous or ongoing projects, creating efficiencies in project management and administration. Project implementation oversight and support from UNDP has been sufficient, with monitoring missions, timely reporting, and standard financial management procedures. UNDP's well-established relationships with national partners, and ability to draw on high quality project staff have significantly contributed to the project's progress thus far. The execution role of national partner institutions has also been adequate, with a few minor exceptions, such as the initial approval delays encountered in Belarus and Russia. Key aspects of execution, such as adaptive management, have been good, with multiple projects making key adjustments to focus on results.

14. A majority of the pilot projects were delayed in starting implementation, and overall disbursement as of the mid-term evaluation is significantly less than planned.

15. Three of the pilot projects experienced unexpected delays in start-up (Russia northern, Russia southern, and Belarus), and three other projects have progressed more slowly than planned (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia). As of the official mid-point of December 31, 2014, overall project disbursement was 29.3% (less than 1/3rd), and individual pilot projects' disbursement ranged from 7.6% (Belarus) to 62.7% (Moldova). Most of the pilot projects must significantly increase their rate of implementation in 2015. Considering these factors, a no-cost extension of 12 months, to December 31, 2017, may be prudent to ensure that all of the pilot projects have the full opportunity necessary to achieve and document their key results.

16. On a purely financial basis, the Clima East Pilots Project is expected to be a highly efficient means of climate change mitigation.

17. During project development it was estimated that the project would mitigate 3.40 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalent over a 20-year period following completion. If the 11 million euros funding the project were used to directly purchase carbon credits on the European Trading System (ETS) at current prices, only 1.47 million tons of CO_2 equivalent would be mitigated. The 2012 value of 3.40 million tons of CO_2 equivalent at current prices would be 14.57 million euros, representing an inflation-adjusted financial return of 32.5% on the original investment over 25 years. These calculations do not take into consideration the financial value of all of the benefits generated by the project other than climate change mitigation. However, these calculations are based on the initially estimated climate change mitigation benefits, and would need to be re-assessed at the end of the project based on the actual results achieved.

18. Many of the pilots have made significant progress toward their expected results, and all planned results remain within reach.

19. The analysis of the mid-term evaluation indicates that 11 of 18 results indicator targets have been met, or are likely to be met by the end of the project. At the same time, achievement of 7 of 18 indicator targets is uncertain, but still possible by the end of the project; therefore, there is at least the potential for all of the Clima East Pilots Project's results targets to be met by the end of the project. Progress toward results has been slowed by a variety of factors, such as slow initial national approvals, heavy procurement procedures, and the seasonal nature of field-based work. Given that there is no overall Pilots Project results framework, it is not possible to aggregate results from all of the pilot projects.

20. Results highlights from each of the pilot projects are summarized below:

- Armenia: Concept design for 2,000 hectares (ha) of pasture rehabilitation; oak forest restoration on 26 ha of Sevan National Park; pasture inventory in 6 target communities in Vardenis; assessment of organic carbon stocks in soil.
- Azerbaijan: Pasture inventory of 2,446 ha; degradation hotspots identified; implementation of hotspot restoration on 5 ha so far; tree nursery established near project site; baseline carbon storage capacity for target zones calculated based on IPCC 2006 tier II methodologies.
- Belarus: Piloted controlled burning for peatland management in 7,000 ha of Zvanets special protected area; private sector partnership for biomass fuel production; procurement of biomass harvesting equipment for Sporova special protected area; preparation of recommendations on calculations for avoided emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in relation to biomass harvesting and biomass fuel.

- Georgia: Near completion of pasture management plan; initial inventory of targeted pastures; development and initiation of pasture monitoring plan; activities supporting pasture restoration such as provision of dispersed water points; establishment of national working group.
- Moldova: Inventory of 5,890 ha of pasture lands; pasture management plans and Grazing Monitoring System adopted by local public authorities; pasture restoration grant agreements signed with 12 local public authorities for restoration of 32 plots covering 470 ha, and carried out covering 291 ha; afforestation on 150 ha; baseline of soil and biomass carbon in pastures carried out for first time in Moldova; computer-based carbon monitoring database developed.
- Russia northern: Socio-economic and biodiversity surveys completed for proposed "Chernorechenskyi" protected area, covering ~20,000 ha; development of climate mitigation and adaptation sections of Yugyd Va National Park management plan; review of ecological restoration in arctic environments, and preparation of guidelines to carry out restoration; rehabilitation design and documentation for Shapkina, Kumzha and Upper Kolva sites (~180 ha); establishment of three permafrost peatlands monitoring sites in Inta district; handbook for integrated peatland monitoring and system for classification of arctic peatlands.
- Russia southern: Field inventory of 74 (~1/3rd) of peatland sites in pilot region of Republic of Bashkortostan; nine sites proposed to regional government for inclusion in protected area system, covering ~1,000 ha; peatland restoration site identified (Berkazhan bog) and agreed with local stakeholders, covering 267 ha.
- Ukraine: Local milk producer cooperative established with three villages; partnership with water management authority for restoration of peatlands covering ~2,800 ha; stakeholder agreement secured for proposal to establish regional landscape park covering ~10,000 ha; development of carbon stocks and fluxes assessment and monitoring methodology for peatlands; guidelines and criteria for preatlands restoration projects; dedicated peatland themed geographic information system (GIS)-based dataset layers for national GHG inventory system for ten northern oblasts.

21. The mid-term evaluation is early to provide a robust assessment of sustainability, but prospects for sustainability of results of the Clima East Pilots Project are cautiously optimistic at this stage.

22. Assessing sustainability is further limited by the fact that the overall disbursement of funding from the project is less than 30% at the midpoint; many activities remain to be carried out in each of the pilot projects. In addition, sustainability is a dynamic, conditional, and indefinite state, and can be influenced positively or negatively by single events or actions; therefore a majority of activities under the Clima East pilot projects should be completed prior to a complete assessment of sustainability, which will occur at the time of the terminal evaluation. Sustainability has been assessed for each of the pilot projects, with further information included for each project in Volume 2 of this evaluation report.

1.3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The main recommendations of the mid-term evaluation are summarized below, with additional details included in the section on recommendations at the end of this report (Volume 1 of the mid-term evaluation). Additional recommendations specific to each pilot project are included in the individual project evaluation reports, which make up Volume 2 of this mid-term evaluation.

24. ***Key Recommendation 1:*** Strengthen the results-based approach, for improved effectiveness, and documentation of results. Clearly identify outcomes and impacts for each of the main results areas. Results should be aggregated where possible through an overall project results framework. An improved approach should be discussed and approved by the pilot projects during the 3rd quarter of 2015.

25. ***Key Recommendation 2:*** Strengthen the cohesive regional project approach. Although not originally designed as a well-integrated and cohesive regional program, there remain opportunities for synergies through enhancing activities such as possible joint Conference of Parties (COP) side events, strengthening communications and public relations (e.g. publications, movie, website, etc.), strengthening intra-pilot project communications (i.e. quarterly updates, technical peer reviews), strengthening the overall program results framework *(see Key Recommendation 1)*, and engaging external technical expertise at the regional level *(see Key Recommendation 3)*.

26. ***Key Recommendation 3:*** Strengthen technical support at the regional level. The Clima East Pilots Project should add a part-time, on-demand technical expert (i.e. Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)) to support regional synergies amongst pilot projects, and to assist in articulation of the key knowledge gaps the pilot projects are addressing, in relation to ecosystem-based approaches that are addressing climate change.

27. ***Key Recommendation 4:*** Ensure a strong focus on documenting results, lessons, experiences, and good practices within the "pilot" projects. There is a risk, particularly due to start-up delays, that the pilot projects may inadvertently focus on delivering results, and run out of time and resources to adequately document and disseminate the key lessons and experiences from their "pilot" activities. UNDP and the pilot projects must ensure there is a strong element of documenting results so they can be scaled-up and replicated.

28. ***Key Recommendation 5:*** Take additional concrete steps to continue collaboration with the Clima East Policy Project. Each pilot project should either maintain regular informal communication with policy project representatives to inform them about the pilot project activities, or should organize semi-annual meetings with policy project teams to identify areas for cooperation, input, collaboration, and synergy. Considering the previous attempts made to strengthen this collaboration, this should be a limited good-faith effort until there is full reciprocity from the policy project side, and should not draw significant time or financial resources away from the pilot projects' focus on delivering their planned results.

29. ***Key Recommendation 6:*** Open consideration of an overall Clima East Pilots Project 12-month no-cost extension. A number of the pilot projects had delays in start-up of activities, and are likely to require, or at least significantly benefit from, the opportunity to complete activities by December 2017, instead of December 2016. A final decision on an overall Clima East Pilots Project extension does not need to be taken until approximately the second quarter of 2016.

30. ***Key Recommendation 7:*** Re-assess expected results and conclusions from pilot projects' carbon-monitoring activities. The Clima East pilot projects are applying a range of carbon monitoring techniques and methodologies. The pilot projects' carbon monitoring activities have some of the greatest potential for addressing knowledge gaps (particularly in relation to pasture ecosystems), but the timeframes required for documenting results, and the levels of technical rigor applied needs to be reviewed. This should involve: written detailed technical description of the carbon monitoring activities being carried out in each pilot project including timeframes required to document results, and peer or external (i.e. CTA) review of methods, specification of knowledge gaps expected to be addressed. The pilot projects must also ensure the appropriate and necessary linkages to the national GHG inventory process for the Land-use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector, for reporting to the UNFCCC.

31. ***Key Recommendation 8:*** Strengthen potential for sustainability with specific exit strategies. Each pilot project should develop an exit strategy document that specifically outlines key elements necessary for the four areas of sustainability: financial, socio-economic, institutional and governance, environmental.

Table 2 Clima East Pilots Project Mid-term Evaluation Ratings Summary

	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Results	Sustainability[1]
Armenia Pastures	R	S	S	S	ML
Azerbaijan Pastures	R	S	MS	S	MU
Belarus Peatlands	R	MS	MS	S	ML
Georgia Pastures	R	MS	S	S	ML
Moldova Pastures	R	S	S	S	ML
Russia Northern Peatlands	R	S	S	S	ML
Russia Southern Peatlands	R	MU	MU	S	ML
Ukraine Peatlands	R	S	S	S	ML
Overall	**R**	**MS**	**MS**	**S**	**ML**

	Rating
Implementation and Execution	
Quality of UNDP Implementation	S
Quality of Execution (Executing Partners)	MS
Overall Quality of Implementation and Execution	S
Monitoring and Evaluation	
Monitoring and Evaluation Design at Entry	MU
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Implementation	S
Overall Quality of Monitoring and Evaluation	MS

Note: As per UNDP evaluation standards, rating on the main evaluation criteria of efficiency, effectiveness and results, as well as other aspects of the program uses a 6-point rating scale: Highly satisfactory, satisfactory, moderately satisfactory, moderately unsatisfactory, unsatisfactory, highly unsatisfactory. Relevance is rated as relevant/not relevance; sustainability is rated on a 4 point scale: Likely, moderately likely, moderately unlikely, unlikely.

[1] UNDP evaluation procedures require ratings on the four identified components of sustainability to make up the overall sustainability rating: financial, socio-economic, institutional and governance, and environmental. Ratings on the components are given in the individual pilot project ratings, in the individual reports in Volume II of this evaluation report. Ratings on the four components are not given at the program level because the overall sustainability rating of Moderately Likely is based on the average sustainability rating of the pilot projects, rather than an assessment of sustainability at the program level.

2. Project and Evaluation Overview

2.1. Clima East Pilots Project Description

32. The Clima East Pilots Project[2] is part of a broader European Union (EU) financing "package", 'Clima East: Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and Russia' which will be implemented in the years 2013-2016 in cooperation with the partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Clima East Pilots Project (ENPI/2012/303-093) has a budget of 11,000,000 euros, and is implemented by UNDP in cooperation with national and international partner organizations (see Table 3 below).

33. As stated in the project Description of Action (the "project document"), the main aim of the Clima East Pilots Project (the part of the Clima East package that is the subject of this evaluation), is to "*show through pilot projects the feasibility of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, meaning that intact ecosystems such as peatlands, permafrost landscapes, boreal forests and pasture land can have a strong and cost-efficient positive effect both on climate change mitigation and adaptation.*"

34. The Clima East Pilots Project is financed from the Regional Action Programme 2011-2013 of the EU Eastern Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Clima East Pilots Project is broken down into four components, and further into nine constituting elements, each managed by the respective UNDP country office for the country in which the project is located:

I. **Peatlands component:** Belarus, Russia (Southern Peatlands), Ukraine
II. **Permafrost and boreal forests component:** Russia (Northern Peatlands)
III. **Southern pastures and forest management component:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova
IV. **Global component:** Technical knowledge generation and sharing, evaluation and awareness raising (implemented by UNDP Energy and Environment Group Headquarters represented by Istanbul Regional Support Center, which also has the overall supervision responsibility for the package and reporting in front of EU)

35. A map showing the Clima East pilot projects' locations in Europe is included as Annex 1.

Table 3 Clima East Pilot Projects Summary

UNDP PIMS	Country	Title	Executing Partner	Amount (euros)	% of total
3918	Global	Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and Russia	UNDP Bureau for Development Policy	300,000	2.7
5195	Armenia	Sustainable management of pastures and forest in Armenia to demonstrate climate change	Ministry of Nature Protection	1,070,000	9.7

[2] Throughout this evaluation report the subject of the evaluation in its entirety is referred to as the "Clima East Pilots Project", or simply "the project", while the individual sub-projects are referred to individually or collectively as "pilot projects". The full Clima East investment from the EU, including the Clima East Policy Project, is referred to as the "package".

UNDP PIMS	Country	Title	Executing Partner	Amount (euros)	% of total
		mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities			
4418	Azerbaijan	Sustainable land and forest management in the Greater Caucasus landscape	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	1,070,000	9.7
5196	Belarus	Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change, while contributing to the overall mitigation and adaptation effort	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection	1,498,000	13.6
5197	Georgia	Sustainable management of pastures in Georgia to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities	Ministry of Environment Protection Agency of Protected Areas	1,070,000	9.7
5234	Moldova	Sustainable management of pastures and community forests in Moldova's first National Park Orhei to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities	Ministry of Environment	535,000	4.9
2496	Russian Federation	Protection and restoration of forest and peatland permafrost carbon pools in Komi Republic and Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2,675,000	24.3
4194	Russian Federation	Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Russia to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change, while contributing to the overall mitigation and adaptation effort	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	856,000	7.8
5230	Ukraine	Conservation and sustainable use of peatlands	State Environment Investment Agency	1,926,000	17.5

2.2. EVALUATION APPROACH[3]

36. The **purpose** of the evaluation is to provide an independent external view of the progress of the Clima East Pilots Project at its approximate mid-point, and to provide feedback and recommendations to UNDP and project stakeholders that can help strengthen the project and ensure its success during the second half of implementation.

37. The **objective** of the evaluation is to assess progress towards the achievement of the Clima East Pilots Project objective, identify and document lessons learned (including lessons that might improve design and implementation), and to make recommendations regarding specific actions that might be taken to improve the project. The evaluation will play a critical role in the future implementation of the project by providing advice on: (i) how to strengthen the adaptive management and monitoring function of the project; (ii) how to ensure

[3] The evaluation approach was described in detail in an evaluation inception report that was circulated to the UNDP Clima East Pilots Project team for feedback prior to the start of the evaluation. The evaluation inception report is available upon request.

accountability for the achievement of the Clima East Pilots Project objectives; and (iii) how to enhance organizational and development learning. The evaluation also considers the linkages within the overall Clima East package – between Clima East Pilots Project and Clima East Policy Project. The mid-term evaluation evaluates early signs of project success or failure and identifies the necessary changes to be made. The project performance will be measured based on the identified indicators of the project's expected results.

38. The Clima East Pilots Project mid-term evaluation was carried out by a team of two international evaluators. The pilot projects were divided into two groups, each to be covered by one of the evaluation team members. The pilot projects are divided into a group primarily focused on peatlands (pilot projects in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine) and a group primarily focused on pasture and forest ecosystems (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova). The global component of the Clima East project was covered by the joint work of the evaluation team members.

39. The **scope** of the evaluation was as outlined in the Terms of Reference (see Annex 2) for the evaluation, and as further outlined below. The evaluation was conducted based on five **main evaluation criteria**, as identified by the OECD-DAC, and the evaluation Terms of Reference: Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Results, and Sustainability. The evaluation criteria are further defined in Annex 3. An evaluation matrix was developed with evaluation questions for each of the evaluation criteria, to guide the data collection and assessment of each criteria; the evaluation matrix is also included in Annex 3. The mainstreaming of UNDP programming principles is also assessed, as required.

40. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with standard UNDP evaluation procedures and requirements, as outlined in the UNDP Evaluation Handbook. The evaluation was also in-line with OECD-DAC evaluation standards and norms.

41. The evaluation applied a participatory mixed-methods approach, with three main data collection methods: i) stakeholder interviews; ii) site visits; and iii) document review. These data collection methods were selected as the most appropriate and effective for meeting the purpose and objectives of the evaluation, given the time and resources available.

42. In-country visits were conducted in all seven Clima East countries by one of the evaluation team members, with a total of 37 person-days in country on evaluation missions between April 13, 2015 – May 8, 2015. Site visits were conducted to specific Clima East pilot projects' field sites.

43. Stakeholder interviews were conducted targeting a range of stakeholder types, from national to local levels, including local resource users. Additional stakeholder interviews were held with other stakeholders, including UNDP and EU mission staff. Individuals targeted for interviews were intended to represent the main project stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries, and those most knowledgeable about various aspects of the project. The evaluation also sought to include a representative sample covering all different types of stakeholders, including national and local government, civil society, local communities, and the private sector. In total more than 125 individuals were interviewed. The list of persons interviewed is included as Annex 4.

44. A desk review of program and external documentation was carried out, covering more than 250 documents from the central Clima East Pilots Project, and from individual pilot projects, as well as relevant external documents, such as EU policies, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) documents. A list of key documents reviewed is included as Annex 5.

45. There were no major limitations to the evaluation. Minor limitations included the fact that not all pilot project documents were available in English, though UNDP and pilot project teams made reasonable efforts to ensure that key information was available to the evaluation team in English.

2.3. Evaluation Report Structure

46. The Clima East Pilots Project consists of eight individual projects, plus the global component. The mid-term evaluation report is structured in two volumes. Volume 1, the present document, provides an aggregate evaluation assessment with summary conclusions and recommendations for the Pilots Project as a whole, drawing on the data and findings from the individual pilot projects. Volume 2 of the evaluation report includes brief mid-term evaluation reports for each of the pilot projects individually, with specific findings, conclusions and recommendations targeted for each pilot project.

3. Main Findings and Conclusions

3.1. Relevance[4]

3.1.1. Global Strategic Relevance

47. The Clima East Pilots Projects is rated as **relevant**. The Pilots Project is highly relevant in the context of international development work to address climate change because it builds on ecosystem-based approaches to address multiple environmental issues in an integrated manner. This is not a prevalent approach among current efforts to address climate change. It is a highly effective and necessary approach, recognizing the inalienable linkages between a range of environmental issues, such as climate change and biodiversity conservation. Through this integrated approach, the Clima East Pilots Project is securing and strengthening a multitude of ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, provisioning of materials for human use, conservation of biodiversity, fire suppression, and water flows.

48. The Clima East Pilots Project aims to deliver benefits related to the following areas:

- **Climate change mitigation**: carbon sequestration, emissions avoidance
- **Climate change adaptation**: increased ecosystem resilience (e.g. reduced likelihood and impact of fires), increased community resilience, reduced negative impacts on communities
- **Biodiversity conservation**: maintenance or enhancement of integrity of ecosystems and populations of rare and other species
- **Sustainable land management**: reduced overgrazing, reduced erosion

[4] UNDP evaluation guidelines require evaluations to assess the mainstreaming of UNDP programming principles. This is included in Annex 6 of this evaluation report.

- **Socio-economic benefits and rural development**: sustainable livelihoods secured or strengthened (e.g. sustainable agriculture), social benefits (e.g. reduced negative health impacts, improved school conditions for children, etc.)

49. Although the Clima East Pilots Project is funded and framed within the rubric of climate change, and all of the pilot projects are expected to generate climate change benefits, the project activities on the ground are well-integrated, recognizing that benefits of one type cannot have "priority" over others – all are inextricably linked, as is inherently necessary when applying ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change.

50. The evaluation team posits that this fully integrated approach is possible within the Clima East Pilots Project because of the flexibility of the funding mechanism, under the EU ENPI. This funding source is not dedicated to a single environmental issue, and does not have sector "silos" within the program. Many other international development funding mechanisms addressing global environmental issues are dedicated to a single issue. For example, the Adaptation Fund is specifically dedicated to addressing climate change adaptation activities. The United Kingdom's International Climate Fund specifically targets climate change mitigation activities. The Climate Investment Funds, under the World Bank, each specifically target climate change mitigation or adaptation. In other realms, although international funds dedicated to biodiversity conservation are few, examples such as the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund are in place to specifically address biodiversity conservation. This is not to say that multiple benefits do not come from investments under dedicated climate change funding sources, but that projects or programs funded from them do not frequently apply an integrated strategic approach, with equal weight for all benefits: benefits other than climate benefits are secondary and ancillary.

51. Some international funding mechanisms are moving in a more integrated direction, but this has only begun to happen in the past few years. For example, of the 210 multi-focal area projects approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (projects addressing more than one of the GEF's focal areas of climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, etc.), approximately 2/3rds (141 projects) have been approved in the past three years[5] – subsequent to Clima East's approval. Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) makes a specific effort to include activities addressing biodiversity conservation, but few projects funded through this mechanism are truly integrated. In describing the program's portfolio from 2008-2014, the IKI breaks its funding down into four areas of support: Area 1: Mitigating GHG emissions (52% of funding); Area 2: Adapting to the impacts of climate change (16% of funding); Area 3: Conserving natural carbon sinks and REDD+ (18% of funding); and Area 4: Conserving biodiversity (14% of funding). Within the IKI portfolio a number of projects do take a more integrated approach.[6]

52. Although there is some progress in the international realm in moving toward integrated approaches, the Clima East Pilots Project strategy and experience should be considered a highly useful example for others to replicate. One of the main recommendations of this evaluation is

[5] Multi-focal area projects of more than $1 million USD approved during the GEF's fiscal year 2012 or later.
[6] E.g. "Forest and Climate Protection in the Panay Mountain Range," Philippines, 6 million euro, 2010-2018.

that the pilot projects must ensure a strong focus on documenting results, lessons, experiences, and good practices so that they may be shared more widely, replicated, and scaled-up.

53. Beyond its strategic relevance, the Clima East Pilots Project is also directly relevant to and supportive of the EU's European Neighborhood Policy, including the Eastern Regional Strategy Paper 2007-2013, within the framework of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument. The Eastern Regional Strategy Paper states *"support in the area of climate change….is foreseen, where a regional dimension is justified."* In addition, under the heading of "Key environment areas where action is required," the regional strategy paper states *"As regards climate change, the countries need to implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. Major sinks of greenhouse gases exist due to the many forests in the region. Land degradation and desertification also constitute a challenge in particular in the Southern Caucasus region."*

54. As further detailed in the individual pilot project reports in Volume 2 of this evaluation, the pilot projects are also relevant to and supportive of the respective UNDP Country Programme Documents, Country Programme Action Plan, or United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the participating countries.

55. The Clima East Pilots Project is further considered relevant to implementation of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, particularly with regard to climate change mitigation related to Land-Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry. The Clima East Pilots Project supports climate change adaptation as outlined in the Cancun Adaptation Framework. The Clima East Pilots Project is relevant to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly with regard to the program of work on protected areas, and the program on inland waters biodiversity. The Clima East Pilots Project is relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), particularly with respect to land degradation issues and pastoralism.

3.1.2. National Strategic Relevance

56. The individual Clima East pilot projects do address issues that are highly relevant in the national context of each of the participating countries, such as reducing peat fires, and sustainable pastoralism. However, awareness and attention at the national level is thus far limited (with the possible exception of Georgia, where the project has catalyzed a national working group). This may be due to multiple factors: a.) The pilot projects are primarily focused at the sub-national and local level; b.) Many of the pilot projects are still in the early stages of implementation; c.) The pilot projects individually are relatively small investments, with an average of $1.7 million USD; d.) limited uptake thus far of lessons and experiences from the Clima East pilot projects to the policy projects; e.) pilot project country governments often have centralized institutions, with slow information flows from practical field-level activities (including; f.) country institutions are typically separated by their mandates according to the issues they address, whereas the Clima East pilot projects address issues in an integrated manner. The results of the pilot projects are expected to have strategic relevance at the national level in terms of demonstrating and piloting ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change, but the pilot projects will need to deliver results before they register significantly at the national level.

3.1.3. Local Strategic Relevance

57. The Clima East pilot projects are relevant to and supportive of local-level needs and priorities. For example:

- District-level government stakeholders in Ukraine's Chernigiv region are fully supportive of the pilot project's work to restore drained peatlands, and to establish a local agriculture cooperative
- Local farmers living and working near the proposed Russia southern steppe peatlands restoration site support the planned work as it will improve livestock fodder conditions in the area, and reduce the likelihood of peat fires which result in bad air quality
- Tush pastoralists in Georgia for whom secure tenure and access to winter pastures in Vashlovani National Park is critical to survival (culturally and economically)
- Communities around Lake Sevan in Armenia who already experience significant climate change impacts and need to adapt to increasingly warm and arid conditions and re-establish sustainable pasture use.

3.1.4. Relevance of Design

58. While the Clima East Pilots Project objective and strategy has high relevance, some aspects of the individual pilot projects' designs were not fully relevant. The level of detail and quality of pilot project documents and the planning for pilot projects varies significantly, and is inconsistent. There is not a unified project document template or structure applied to the projects. Partially as a result, the outcomes expected for each of the pilot projects are not clearly identified or defined. For example, the Armenia and Ukraine project documents use widely varying forms of the "Project Results and Resources Framework", and only the Armenia version includes expected outcomes. Two of the pilot projects do not even appear to have individual project documents: the Russia northern peatlands and Azerbaijan pastures pilots. This is due to the fact that these two pilots were closely linked with already ongoing projects funded by the Global Environment Facility; however, while this linkage was on the whole positive (as further discussed under Section 3.2 below on efficiency), the results expected specifically from these Clima East pilots were not adequately defined.

59. In a few pilot projects, results indicated in the project document were not highly relevant to the actual expected project results. For example, in the Russia southern steppe peatlands pilot, Bryansk oblast was included as a pilot region in the project document, although this region does not include any of the targeted ecosystem type. In Georgia, pilot sites were not adequately vetted or approach reviewed with country stakeholders.

60. In addition, the Clima East Pilots Project was not adequately designed as a cohesive integrated "regional program", such that the whole would equal more than the sum of the parts. The pilot projects were designed individually, without specific linkages between each other. The project does have a "global component", but this is defined as supporting monitoring and evaluation, communication, and knowledge management, and equals only 2.7% of the total project budget. Also, for example, there is no overall "program level" results framework that aggregates the results of the individual pilot projects.

61. Given that the Clima East Pilots Project was not approved as an integrated cohesive program, it is not realistic to expect it to become one at this stage. There may have been

opportunities to strengthen the design of this aspect of the project early on, but no significant action was taken to redesign or add to the project to enhance the expected substantive regional-level results following the initial EU-mandated Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission in the 2nd half of 2013. The "regional" aspect of the project is further discussed in Section 3.3, on effectiveness and results.

3.2. EFFICIENCY

62. The overall rating for efficiency of the Clima East Pilots Project at the mid-term is **moderately satisfactory**.

3.2.1. EFFICIENCY OF PROJECT DESIGN AND APPROVAL

63. In the previous section of this report on relevance, some shortcomings in the project design were highlighted, including a lack of consistency and comprehensiveness of individual pilot projects' design, and the lack of a cohesive regional approach. These shortcomings may be trade-offs resulting from what was a relatively quick and efficient project design phase. According to project stakeholders, the project concept was initiated in late 2011 or early 2012 in discussions between the EU and UNDP. The overall project and individual pilot projects were developed during 2012, and final EU approval was given at the end of 2012, with the project officially starting in January 2013. Therefore the full project development and approval process took approximately 12 months, which is impressively fast for a project of 11 million euros. For comparison, the GEF has a target of 18 months for project development and approval, beginning once the initial project concept has already been developed and approved.

64. Another strong aspect of efficiency is that many of the Clima East pilot projects are linked with other projects that had started prior to or at approximately the same time as the Clima East pilots. For example, the Russia northern peatlands project was developed as an add-on activity to a GEF-funded project, "Strengthening Protected Area System of the Komi Republic to Conserve Virgin Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora Headwaters Region" (UNDP PIMS ID 2496), which started in 2009. The Russia southern peatlands project was integrated with the GEF-funded project "Improving the Coverage and Management Efficiency of Protected Areas in the Steppe Biome of Russia" (UNDP PIMS ID 4194), which began in 2010. The Azerbaijan pilot was integrated with the GEF-funded project "Sustainable land and forest management in the Greater Caucasus landscape" (UNDP PIMS ID 4418), which started at approximately the same time as the Clima East pilot.

65. While there are multiple potential efficiency benefits of integrating the Clima East pilots with other ongoing initiatives, such as reduced overhead and administrative costs, one particular benefit is that it also allowed the Azerbaijan project to avoid going through separate bureaucratic government approval processes. Unfortunately these were not unavoidable in Russia, and have caused some delays.

66. Other pilots build on previous efforts. The Clima East pilot in Belarus draws on multiple previous initiatives in Belarus related to peatland restoration. In Moldova the Clima East pilot activities build on a foundation of stakeholder engagement at Orhei National Park established through the GEF-funded project, "Improving Coverage and Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova" (UNDP PIMS ID 4016). The Ukraine pilot project is in a new region from other previous UNDP projects, but as one of its results the project plans to

establish a Regional Landscape Park, a process that was previously undertaken in the GEF-funded project "Strengthening Governance and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System" (UNDP PIMS ID 1275), and which will be supported by the national protected areas association, which was also established under the previous project. The Armenia Clima East pilot project includes activities on community-led afforestation, which the project team had gained experience in during an earlier GEF-funded project, "Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts in Mountain Forest Ecosystems of Armenia," (UNDP PIMS ID 3814).

3.2.2. Implementation and Execution

67. UNDP is the Clima East implementing organization, and therefore is tasked with project oversight, administrative and financial management, and reporting. The respective UNDP country offices where the pilot projects are located have primary responsibility for project oversight, while the UNDP regional bureau in Istanbul oversees the Clima East Pilots Project as a whole, and is responsible for the "global" component of the project. Pilot project oversight has been fully adequate, with relevant UNDP staff carrying out oversight missions to the projects and field sites. Reporting has been good, with comprehensive information provided about each of the pilot projects, and timely completion of reports. On the whole, project financial management and procurement are in-line with international norms and standards, following UNDP standard procedures and according to national requirements.

68. UNDP has long-standing relationships with the national executing partner organizations. The relevant national institutions (i.e. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Russia) are defined as the executing partners for each of the pilot projects (see previous Table 3), and have oversight at the national level. However, the project managers are UNDP contract employees. The project managers are all well-qualified individuals, and all but one has a previous positive track-record managing UNDP projects. In the one exception, in Azerbaijan, the project manager is also considered to be highly qualified. UNDP's ability to marshal a highly qualified set of project managers across all seven participating Clima East countries is key to the project's positive progress thus far, and bodes well for its ultimate success.

69. The only notable issues thus far with respect to execution, is that the countries are partially responsible for timely initiation and approval of the projects. In at least two cases, this has not happened. In Belarus, the national governmental approval took approximately one year longer than anticipated, and thus project activities were only fully initiated in early 2014. Although it is well known that such approval processes in Belarus can take a long time, evidently this process took longer than anticipated for the Clima East pilot project. In the case of the Russia peatlands projects, both projects were somewhat delayed by the national approval process that is required for foreign-funded development projects. However, the northern peatlands project was able to pass this process earlier than the southern peatlands project, which has contributed to the significant delay of activities for the Russia southern peatlands project.

3.2.3. Adaptive Management

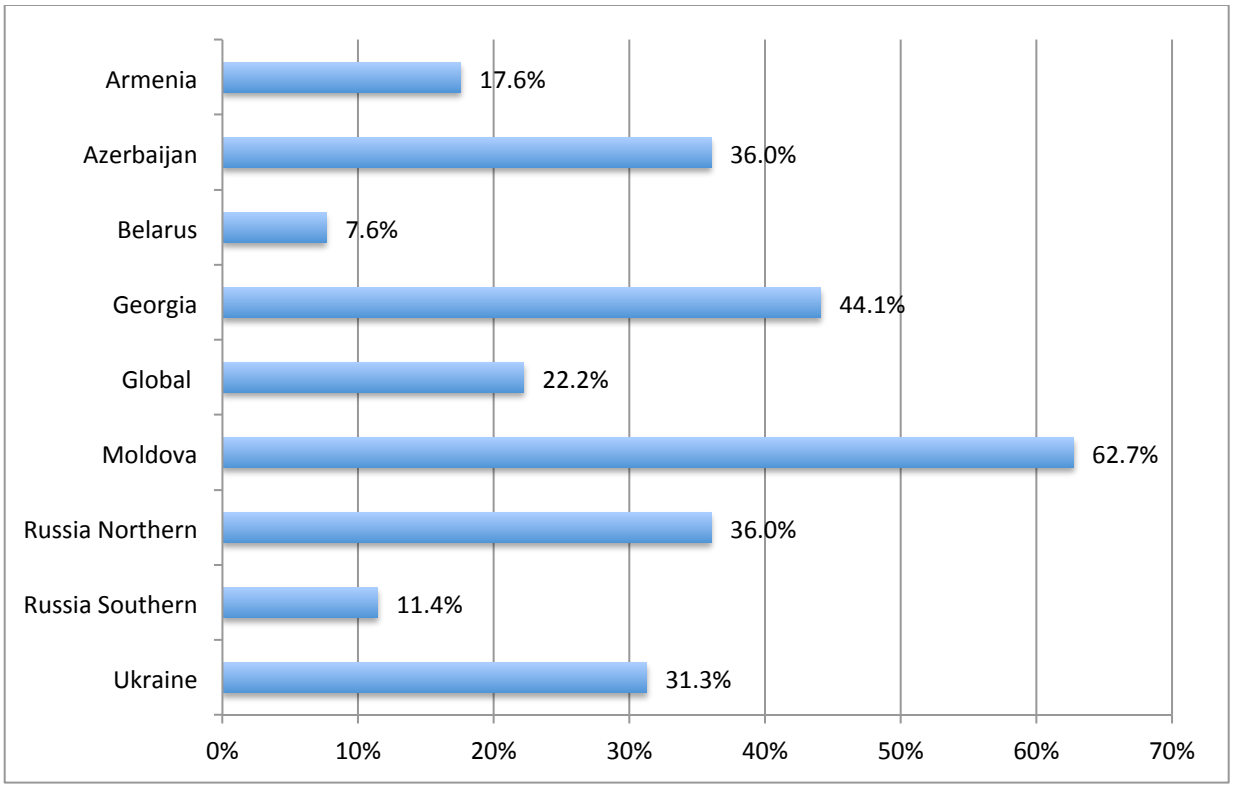
70. The Clima East pilot projects have effectively applied adaptive management, which has contributed positively to efficiency and effectiveness of the projects. For example:

- In Russia southern steppe peatlands the project has focused on the Republic of Bashkortostan as the primary pilot region, without work in Bryansk, and limited work in Voronezh
- Project stakeholders in Belarus are revising and updating financial projections related to biomass energy in relation to market changes due to the global drop in the price of oil in 2014
- In Georgia the project management and contractors quickly adapted implementation to realistic / relevant directions despite limitations of project design
- Armenia project adapted to changing environmental impact assessment (EIA) legislation that potentially impacted forestry activities
- Moldova project applied lessons learned regarding better survival rates of oak under drought conditions when planted as seed rather than using seedlings

3.2.4. Pilot Projects' Financial Status

71. As a whole, as of December 31, 2014 (the official mid-point of the project, in terms of time) the total disbursement for the Clima East Pilots Project was 29.3%, with 8.0% disbursed in 2013, and 21.3% disbursed in 2014. These figures reflect the slow start-up of some of the individual pilot projects. Individual pilot project disbursement rates are indicated in Figure 1 below. As can be seen, the lowest disbursements are for the Belarus and Russia southern peatlands projects, while Moldova and Georgia have the highest disbursement. Disbursement is expected to significantly increase in 2015.

Figure 1 Clima East Pilot Project Disbursement as of December 31, 2014



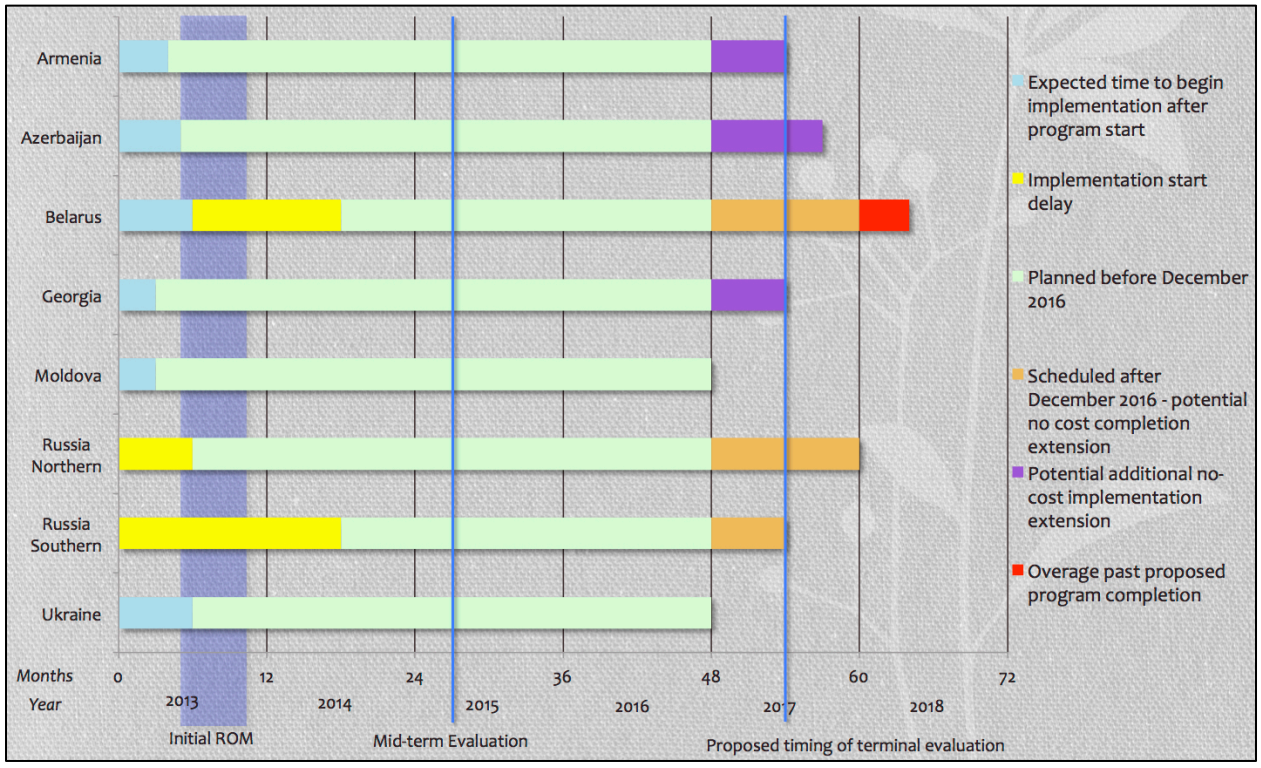
72. The overall level of disbursement is lower than is ideal at the mid-point of the project, but with the expected significant increase in disbursement in 2015, the current disbursement rate is not of critical concern, keeping in mind that a potential 12-month no-cost extension is possible (discuss further below). However, a few of the individual pilot projects certainly must significantly increase their disbursement in 2015 to remain on track - notably the Belarus peatlands and Russia southern peatlands projects.

3.2.5. Timeframe and Milestones

73. The overall Clima East Pilots Project was planned for 48 months (four years), and officially started in January 2013, following the EU project approval December 4, 2012. The pilot projects were individually planned for 48 months or less. Therefore the project is currently planned for completion December 31, 2016. It was not anticipated that all pilot projects would start immediately in January 2013, as further work was required in each country to complete the necessary national approvals, pilot project initiation, and other preparations. Evidently it was anticipated that the two Russia projects would be able to start immediately in January 2013, as no start-up time for these projects was indicated. For other projects, the anticipated required start-up time was between two to six months.

74. Figure 2 below provides an overview of the timeframes for each of the pilot projects.

Figure 2 Clima East Pilot Projects Timing and Progress



75. Further explanation of the status of each of the projects is included in Annex 7. Based on the status of all the pilot projects as of the mid-term evaluation, a project-wide no-cost extension may be necessary and prudent to ensure achievement of expected results for each of the pilot projects. A 12-month no-cost extension to December 2017 would potentially allow all

pilot projects except Belarus to complete their originally planned activities, and would facilitate adequate monitoring and implementation of activities to appropriately assess preliminary results from activities such as peatland restoration activities, and pasture management plans. However, a decision on a project-wide no-cost extension does not need to be considered until approximately the 2nd quarter of 2016. In case a no-cost extension is considered, all pilot projects seeking a no-cost extension should submit an explicit justification of the basis for the extension, describing the reasons that an extension is required, and the results and potential benefits to be achieved with the extension.

76. The Clima East pilot projects are expected to finish at different times within an approximately 12 month period, which presents potential challenges for the timing of a Clima East Pilots Project-wide terminal evaluation. As indicated in Figure 2 above, if a project-wide no-cost 12-month extension is granted, it is proposed that a terminal evaluation be conducted in mid-2017, at which some of the projects will have completed activities in the previous six months, while the remaining projects will complete their activities within the following six months.

3.2.6. Efficiency of Carbon Sequestration Results

77. Another way to assess the efficiency of the Clima East Pilots Project is in pure financial terms based on the project's climate change mitigation benefits, in terms of the cost of sequestering CO_2, or avoiding emissions. During development of the Clima East Pilots Project it was estimated that the project would mitigate 3.40 million tons of CO_2 equivalent over a 20-year period following completion. The assumptions on which this estimate was developed were not available for this evaluation, and it must be stressed that the actual mitigation of CO_2 equivalent for the 20 years following project completion will need to be estimated at the end of the project, based on the actual results achieved. However, taking the initially estimated figure of 3.40 million tons of CO_2 equivalent, at the current EU ETS carbon price of 7.50 euros / tCO_2 equivalent, the initial 11.00 million euro investment would return a value of 14.57 million euros (see Figure 3 below).[7] Since this amount is greater than the initial investment, it indicates that the project is a highly efficient way to mitigate climate change. The same calculation indicates that the project would be cost-effective down to a carbon price of 4.28 euros / tCO_2 equivalent. Purchasing carbon credits with 11.00 million euros at a price of 7.50 euros / tCO_2 equivalent would only mitigate 1.47 million tCO_2 equivalent, compared to the project's estimated 3.40 million tons (see Figure 4 below).

78. These figures are only calculated in terms of the project's climate change mitigation benefits, whereas the project's other benefits also have significant financial value. Again, it must be considered that an actual assessment of likely climate change mitigation benefits would need to be calculated at the end of the project to further validate the financial efficiency of the Clima East Pilots Project.

[7] Including a five year program implementation period, the return on initial investment must be calculated for a 25 year period. At the price of 7.50 euros / tCO_2 equivalent, this equates to 25.50 million euros 20 years after program completion. However, applying the current euro inflation rate of 1.13%, this translates to 14.57 million euros in today's dollars.

Figure 3 Cost Effectiveness of Clima East Climate Change Mitigation Benefits at Carbon Price of 7.50 euro / tCO2 Equivalent

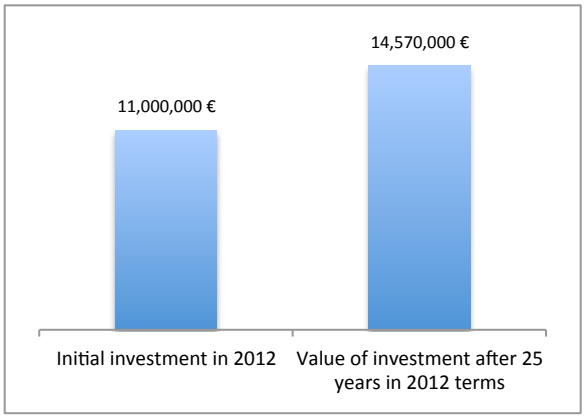
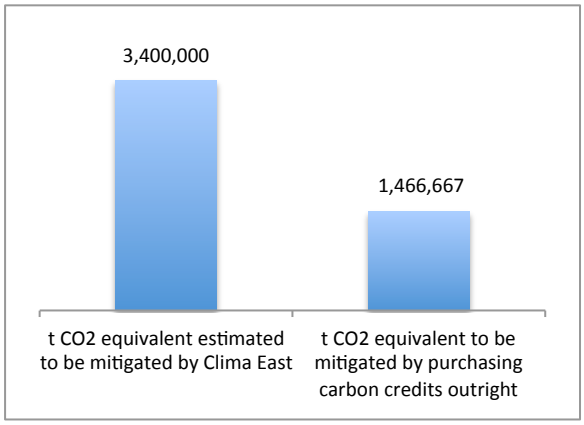


Figure 4 Climate Change Mitigation Benefits Under Clima East Compared to Outright Purchase of Carbon Credits at 7.50 euro / tCO2 Equivalent



3.2.7. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

79. The Clima East Pilots Project did not have a specifically developed monitoring and evaluation plan, though aspects of the expected monitoring, reporting and evaluation are described in the project Description of Action, and in the individual pilot project documents. The project results framework indicators are generally adequate, but as previously mentioned, a "program level" results framework was not developed to aggregate results across all pilot projects. The further development of this reporting tool is included as one element of this evaluation's key recommendation to strengthen the project's results-based approach.

80. The required reports have been completed and submitted in a timely manner. UNDP submits quarterly progress reports to the EU, with the 4th quarter report comprising the full annual report for the year. The first EU-required ROM mission was carried out in the 2nd half of 2013, before many of the pilot projects had substantially begun activities. The ROM made seven recommendations at the regional level, as well as recommendations for each of the pilot projects. UNDP developed a management response to the ROM (as required by UNDP implementation procedures), outlining how each of the recommendations would be followed-up on. While the Clima East Pilots Project provided valid responses to the ROM recommendations, some recommendations have not been extensively implemented, perhaps due to insufficient specificity about exactly what actions should be taken. For example, the first ROM recommendation states that there should be "Development of clear strategy on how Partner Country Projects work together to add value and sharing, evaluation and awareness raising to the Regional Component", while the program's stated planned response to this recommendation focused mainly on information sharing and maintaining lines of communication.

81. Monitoring and evaluation design is considered moderately unsatisfactory due to the lack of a well-defined monitoring and evaluation plan, and the lack of an aggregate "program level" results framework. Monitoring and evaluation implementation has been satisfactory; therefore the overall monitoring and evaluation rating is moderately satisfactory.

3.3. EFFECTIVENESS AND RESULTS

82. The Clima East Pilots Project mid-term rating for **effectiveness** (progress toward results) is *moderately satisfactory*, while the rating for **results** produced thus far is *satisfactory*.

3.3.1. OVERALL PROGRESS TOWARD RESULTS

83. As previously discussed, the project's financial disbursement as of December 31, 2014 was 29.3% - less than the ~50% that would be anticipated at the project's mid-point. This implies that the project has experienced a slower than expected rate of implementation, and the mid-term evaluation has validated that progress toward the planned results is less than expected at the mid-point.

84. The Clima East Pilots Project has 18 key results indicators: one or two key results indicators for each of the pilot projects, except for the Russia northern peatlands pilot, which has 6 of the 18 indicators (justified by the fact that this pilot has 24.3% of the total project budget). A summary of the Clima East results indicators, and progress toward the targets for each indicator are included in Annex 8 of this report. The analysis of the mid-term evaluation indicates that 11 of 18 results indicator targets have been met, or are likely to be met by the end of the project. At the same time, achievement of 7 of 18 indicator targets is uncertain, but within reach by the end of the project.

85. Therefore it is assessed that all of the project's results targets at least have the potential to be met by the end of the project. Given all of the initial pilot project delays, this is an important finding, indicating that the initial delays encountered have not lead to a situation where the achievement of planned results is precluded.

86. A number of factors have influenced the slower than expected progress thus far. As previously described, there were initial delays for some pilot projects to start implementation. Another factor is that some of the projects have significant budgets for procurement of equipment (such as biomass harvesting tractors in Belarus), and such extensive procurement procedures can take a long time to complete. As one example, the Belarus pilot project has at least five instances of individual procurements over $100,000 USD, which requires special procedures in the UNDP system. Naturally, procuring the equipment must be completed before the equipment can actually be used in the field.

87. Another important factor is that projects applying ecosystem approaches can be heavily affected by seasonality in their targeted areas. The Russia Northern peatlands project is the most extreme case, but this project has a field season for research and restoration activities of only approximately three to four months of the year. Although the field season for research and restoration activities in the other peatlands pilot projects is longer, there is still a significant portion of the year, during winter, when field activities cannot be carried out. Similarly, in pasture ecosystems there are typically summer pastures at higher elevations, and winter pastures at lower elevations. The Clima East pastures pilot projects are focusing on one system or the other, and thus fieldwork is limited during the offseason. Therefore, the fact that most of the pilot projects missed the 2013 field season because they were still getting up and running means that as of the mid-term evaluation in the 2nd quarter of 2015, the projects had only had one field season (summer 2014) to make progress on their field-based work.

88. Ironically, another factor that has slowed project progress is the necessity, in some cases, of dealing with national regulations pertaining to EIA requirements. In the case of the Russia Southern peatlands project, the planned restoration of Berkazhan bog could potentially trigger an EIA requirement, depending on how the construction activities are classified by local environmental authorities. Needing to comply with EIA procedures would significantly slow the pace of restoration activities. The pilot projects in Armenia and Ukraine have also faced issues related to EIA procedures.

3.3.2. Communicating Results in the Framework of Ecosystem Services

89. The Clima East Pilots Project is targeting a range of different but linked benefits, addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and rural development. Communicating results on such a range of issues can be a challenge, both for internal and external stakeholders. Target audiences for Clima East communications include local resource users, national decision-makers, and external audiences such as the EU, and technical bodies of international conventions (e.g. UNFCCC). To better communicate results and to conceptually align the project with international thinking, results from the Clima East Pilots Project may be communicated within the conceptual framework of ecosystem services. Clima East applies an ecosystem-based approach, addressing land use and land use change in peatland and pasture ecosystems. Highlighting how the efficient and effective functioning of these ecosystems provides a range of benefits would provide a common foundation for communicating the range of positive results the project is catalyzing.

3.3.3. Documentation and Dissemination of Results

90. Any important aspect of the Clima East Pilot projects is their “pilot” nature. The projects are primarily site-based demonstration activities, intended to generate benefits at the local level, but also to test new concepts and generate data to address key knowledge gaps related to ecosystem management, climate change, carbon cycles, and other inter-related issues. Given this focus, a significant portion of the projects’ value will be in the documentation and dissemination of their results. This is implied for many of the projects, but not sufficiently emphasized in the project documents or current workplans. For example, not all of the pilot projects have identified planned results relating to knowledge documentation and sharing. All too often such “pilot” projects focus so much on achieving their results (particularly when there are start-up delays) that the subsequent documentation and sharing of the results receives insufficient attention; thereby much of the potential catalytic or upscaling benefit of the pilots is unfulfilled. One of the key recommendations of this evaluation is that the pilot projects ensure there is a strong focus on documentation and dissemination of results before the end of the project. This may be aided through the global component, but primary responsibility lies with the individual pilot project teams. This may be further assisted through improved identification of the actual key knowledge gaps that the pilot projects are addressing, which can be filtered up to decision-makers at the national and international levels; this work may be supported by the Clima East Policy Project, or through the support of an international CTA (the addition of which is another of this evaluation’s key recommendations).

3.3.4. Progress Toward Results and Key Results to Date

91. Progress and key results of each of the pilot projects are summarized in following Tables 4 - 11. A summary of results from the global components follows in the subsequent section.

Green	*= Achieved or likely to be achieved by end of project*
Yellow	*= Achievement uncertain by end of project*
Red	*= Achievement unlikely by end of project*

Table 4 Armenia Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Armenia Pastures	1. 2,000 ha of degraded pastures restored and 60 ha of degraded forests restored	a. New set of policies and standards on sustainable pasture management approved at the local level (by local authorities in the target districts) b. Increased quality of fodder production at target sites resulting in higher productivity and higher income from cattle products for local population c. Reduced grazing pressure on degraded areas
Results Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	• Rapid rural appraisal of pre-selected 10 rural communities in Vardenis sub-region of Gegharkunik Marz, Pasture inventory six in target communities • Trainings modules on sustainable management of mountain ecosystems implemented (58 local community members, Regional Administration, and Sevan National Park SNCO trained in the Gegharkunik region) • Forest rehabilitation and restoration field activities (initiated April 2015) - Community forestry and windbreak planting in two communities and two sites managed by Sevan National Park (total 33.2 ha) • Natural oak forest restoration activities on at two sites (25.8 ha) managed by Sevan National Park • Pasture Rehabilitation Concept Design in target communities for 2,000 ha of pilots developed in collaboration local authorities • Study tour to Kyrgyzstan regarding pasture management and rehabilitation experience • Assessment of organic carbon stock in soil (mountain rangeland, pilot sites of degraded natural oak forest rehabilitation and afforestation sites) was piloted through soil sampling and laboratory analysis	

Table 5 Azerbaijan Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Azerbaijan Pastures	1. 3,000 ha of degraded pastures restored	a. Increased quality of fodder production at target sites resulting in higher productivity and higher income from cattle products for local population b. Reduced grazing pressure on degraded areas
		c. Advanced knowledge on the carbon storage and carbon flow capacities of the Azerbaijani grasslands (before and after restoration)
Results Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	• Digital land use map for the entire district, including pasture, pasture inventory methodology developed - simplified inventory methodology developed • Pasture inventory completed for 2,446 ha (including some basic socio-economic context and local knowledge of pasture) • Pasture management recommendations based on inventory work including suggested stocking rates and rotation practices	

	• Pasture degradation hotspots (based on remote sensing data) identified and bio-engineering methods selected (fencing, fencing and tree / grass planning, pasture seeding / enrichment) • Initial implementation of hotspot restoration activities fencing and so-called brush layering approach – approximately 5 ha so far. Seeds of hay were collected by the local community and sowed in identified "bare soil" categorized areas • Tree nursery established close to project sites (as source of seedlings for rehabilitation works) • Baseline carbon storage capacity for target zones calculated (baseline carbon calculated for the region based on IPCC 2006 tier 2 methodologies) • Study tour to Germany for the local stakeholders involved in the project (local government and pasture leasers)

Table 6 Belarus Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Belarus Peatlands	1. 3,500 ha of peatlands reduced of overgrowth with shrub / reed / trees 2. 2,500 tons of dry biomass harvested from peatland used per year	a. Positive ecological effects (e.g. safe breeding habitat of threatened species, maintained ecosystem functions of the peatland such as spring flood control and nutrient recycling) at Zvanets and Sporovo fen peatlands and around them b. Heat value of biomass equivalent to 15,000 gigajoules/annum (GJ/a) c. Set-up of producer-user structure for harvesting, processing and use of biomass d. Increased stability of the population of the globally threatened species (Aquatic Warbler)
Results Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	• Tested controlled burning technique for peatland management aimed at elevation of production capacity of peatland ecosystems and quantity of globally endangered species in 7,000 ha of Zvanets special protected area • Established partnership with private sector biomass fuel producer • Some equipment procured for Sporovsky special protected area for peatland management • Analysis of aquatic warbler monitoring data in the territory of Zvanec reserve for 10 census seasons conducted. Investigations revealed decrease in quantity of the indicated species mainly due to reed expansion. • Flora characteristics of Sporava and Zvanec peatlands conducted and estimated vegetation condition before harvesting on fixed fields. • Practical recommendations on calculations of the avoided emissions of GHG prepared. Data received for calculation of carbon dividends from biomass harvesting and fuel pellets production.	

Table 7 Georgia Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Georgia Pastures	1. 4,064 ha of degraded pastures restored 2. Methods for migratory route rehabilitation applied in 300 ha area	a. Improved status of protected areas (35,053 ha) b. A model of involvement of local communities in protected area management c. Sustainable livelihood opportunities explored for local people (wool production, milk products).
Results	• Inventory of pastures conducted. Rapid assessment in 2013, which is being updated now	

Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	using GIZ simplified methodology adapted to semi-arid winter pasture. • Monitoring plan developed and implementation initiated (include fenced enclosures to monitor changes that occur to pasture without grazing pressure, and procurement of weather monitoring stations. • Development of Pasture Management plan – majority of task completed. Should be completed following additional field inventory and consultations by summer 2015. • Pilot activities on pasture restoration – construction of infrastructure to eliminate need of watering migrations (provision of water supply to eight pasture units) complete in April 2015 • Specific training materials on veterinary issues prepared for pasture users and local vets and disseminated • Pasture Stakeholder Meetings / think tank (range of players from high level to municipality and NGOs) held in in mid 2014 and December 2014 (next one mid 2015).

Table 8 Moldova Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Moldova Pastures	1. 500 ha of pasture land restored 2. 150 ha of degraded lands afforested	a. Development of pasture management plans and community forest plans for 18 communities (5,890.92 ha) and 1,392 ha, respectively in a participatory manner b. Improved management of pastures and community forests to reduce pressures from grazing and unsustainable use c. A robust system for monitoring of the carbon dividends and ecological integrity of pastures and forest ecosystem in place to ensure ability of park administration to respond to trends of pressures on natural resources in the area
Results Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	• All 5,890 ha of pasture lands were inventoried in the field (soil, vegetation and water resources conditions) • Pasture management plans and Grazing Monitoring System adopted by Local Public Authorities (LPAs) - One LPA already introduced pasture use regulations approved by Local Council • Pasture Restoration Grant agreements were signed with 12 LPAs for restoration of 32 pasture plots covering 470 ha • Pasture restoration activities carried out by 10 (out of 12) LPAs (including range of interventions depending on site) covering 291 ha • Afforestation activities on 150 ha of territory designated by the LPAs carried out in spring/autumn 2014 or spring 2015 (variety of approaches depending on site conditions) • Initiation of post planting maintenance, guarding and protection activities • A computer-based system in Microsoft Access was developed for monitoring of the carbon dividends and ecological integrity of the ecosystem • Baseline in pastures was established for carbon from soil, and carbon from biomass. This is the 1st such work on pasture carbon monitoring carried out in Moldova • The initial data from carbon monitoring of degraded lands included in the computer based Carbon Monitoring Database	

Table 9 Russian Northern Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Russia Northern Peatlands	1. 20,000 ha of new regional protected area created in the Chernorechenskaya area	a. Establishment of a protected area ensures that at 20,000 ha permafrost melt is 5-times slower as it would have been without protection. The new protected area will be equipped with skilled staff, equipment and infrastructure necessary to maintain the optimal ecological regime at this area.
	2. Strengthened protected area management capacities of the largest existing forest-and-permafrost protected area Yugyd Va National park (1.9 million ha) 3. 180 ha of abandoned permafrost peatland ecosystem restored 4. 60 ha of permafrost peatland under ongoing industrial exploitation – agreements reached with companies on biodiversity and climate-friendly restoration after completion of their activity, in order to avoid permafrost melt 5. 1 method for restoring permafrost ecosystem demonstrated resulting in slowing down of permafrost thaw	b. At the existing protected area (Yugyd Va), strengthened capacities will translate into more effective prevention and control over illegal fire and logging activities, more efficient patrolling units, integration of climate aspects in management plan, community engagement in forest fire prevention, and better environmental monitoring capacities. c. Re-installed peatland permafrost ecosystem functions (permafrost protection, water-flow and micro-climate regulation) at 180 ha targeted by restoration activities. d. The agreements with companies at 60 ha will help to prevent the otherwise highly probable risk of permafrost degradation and loss of its ecosystem functions, which would ultimately lead to speeding up of permafrost melt. e. Internationally important innovation / experimenting with permafrost ecosystem piloted resulting in advanced knowledge of possibilities and technologies to slow down permafrost melt, e.g. through restoration and conservation of the upper soil and vegetation layer of permafrost peatlands f. High national and international visibility g. Data delivered to IPCC for incorporation into the Guidelines for National GHG Inventories
	6. 3 articles in leading international journals on the subject of permafrost ecosystems relationship with climate change	h. Linkage with other leading research and applied research initiatives.
Results Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	• Socio-economic and biodiversity surveys completed for proposed "Chernorechenskyi" protected area (PA) (zakaznik) • Developed climate mitigation and adaptation sections to the management plan for Yugyd Va National Park • Review of ecological restoration within Artic environments and preparation of provisional guidelines for carrying out restoration • Legislation review to determine the scope for economic incentives for restoration within the voluntary carbon market • Environment rehabilitation design and documentation for the Shapkina, Kumzha and Upper Kolva sites prepared (~180 ha), including identification based on agreed criteria, baselines, and feasibility and engineering studies • Establishment of three sites for monitoring permafrost peatlands in Inta district • Development of a handbook for integrated peatland monitoring and the development of a system for the classification of peatland	

Table 10 Russia Southern Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Russia Southern Peatlands	1. 200 ha steppe peatlands rehabilitated 2. 4,000 ha of steppe peatlands improved in their protection status	a. GIS database and up-dated inventory on the state of steppe peatlands in Southern Russia b. Integration of sustainable peatland management principles, following IPCC, Wetlands International methodologies, into land-use plans of two subjects of the Russian Federation Voronezh Region and Republic of Bashkortostan) c. Strengthening of existing (tentatively ca. 3,500 ha) and/or creation of new protected areas (tentatively ca. 500 ha)
Results Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	• Field inventory of ~ 1/3rd of peatland sites (74 sites) in Republic of Bashkortostan • 9 sites proposed to government for inclusion in protected areas system (covering ~1,000 ha) • Restoration site identified and agreed by local stakeholders: Berkazhan Bog in Aslykul nature park (267 ha)	

Table 11 Ukraine Pilot Project Planned Results, and Results as of Mid-term Evaluation

	Key Results Indicators	Other Planned Results
Ukraine Peatlands	1. 3,000 ha of degraded former agricultural peatlands restored 2. 16,000 ha of peatlands improved in their protection status	a. Biomass harvested at 300 ha, producing 300 tons of dry biomass per year (equivalent to 5,250 GJ/a) b. At one cooperative of land users demonstration of a mechanism for restoration and sustainable management of degraded peatlands
Results Highlights as of Mid-term Evaluation	• Local cooperative established with three villages • Conducted trainings for the farmers in Chernigov oblast on establishment and functioning of cooperative • Partnership established with water management authority for restoration of peatlands covering ~2,800 ha • Stakeholder agreement secured for proposal to establish Regional Landscape Park covering ~10,000 ha • Five trainings for the personnel of protected areas conducted • Carbon stocks and fluxes assessment methodology for organic (peat) soils developed • Monitoring program for carbon flux assessment in peatlands developed • Guidelines and criteria for peatlands re-wetting projects developed • Set of dedicated peatland thematic (GIS-based) dataset layers for the National GHG Inventory System (for ten north oblasts of Ukraine) prepared	

3.3.5. Results Related to Carbon Monitoring

92. One important area of results for many of the Clima East Pilot Projects relates to assessments and monitoring of carbon stocks and fluxes in the peatland and pastures ecosystems targeted. This mid-term evaluation, however, found a range of technical approaches and levels of rigor in carbon monitoring activities amongst the pilot projects. For

example, in the Russia peatlands projects, leading scientists who are internationally recognized authorities on peatland ecosystems and carbon cycles are utilizing state of the art scientific equipment to conduct field-based carbon assessments. In Ukraine, the pilot project aims to provide inputs to the national GHG accounting for the LULUCF sector, but this will primarily be done through desk-based analysis relying on known metrics for peatlands. However, even in Russia the carbon monitoring results foreseen in the project documents may exceed the reality: For example, the Russia Southern peatlands pilot project document states under the second of three project activities that *"Adapting the agricultural peatland management (paludiculture) and peatland carbon monitoring will be introduced at 18,000 ha."* It is not fully clear what this statement is meant to imply, but most likely it was not meant to indicate that field-based carbon monitoring would be implemented across 18,000 ha, which would be cost-prohibitive, and would be unnecessary.

93. In addition, many carbon cycle results will only be seen in the pilot project target regions long after the pilot projects are completed. For example, in Belarus the Clima East pilot project is applying ecosystem management approaches such as controlled burning and biomass harvesting to stimulate increased carbon sequestration over the long-term. It may take even longer in pasture ecosystems than peatlands to measure changes in carbon fluxes resulting from project-implemented pasture management plans and other measures. The pastures projects are likely to have at most two field seasons to implement pasture management plans, and trying to assess changes in carbon cycles resulting from project activities may have little value during project completion.

94. This evaluation recommends that there be a well-considered re-assessment of the expected results of the pilot projects in relation to carbon monitoring and assessment. Such an assessment should clearly identify the key knowledge gaps related to carbon cycles that the pilot projects are aiming to address, particularly as they relate to international norms and standards, such as the IPCC guidelines for carbon accounting in peatland and pasture ecosystems. In addition, the methodologies being applied for carbon monitoring and assessment in each pilot project should be reviewed, and assessed in terms of their technical rigor and expected outputs. It is not necessary for all pilot projects to be applying equally rigorous methods, but there should be a clear understanding about the level and type of analysis being applied in each case, and the expected results.

95. Such a review of expected carbon monitoring results could potentially be done, at least partially, through a peer review process amongst all of the pilot projects, but most likely would benefit from external input (for example, through the guidance of an international CTA). As part of the identification of knowledge gaps, it may also be beneficial to conduct a brief literature review; for example, under the EU LIFE program, 230 peatland restoration projects have been carried out, and 20 of these have included direct monitoring or modeling of the impact of their conservation measures on reducing carbon loss, and 13 projects have developed calculation models for assessing the contribution of their actions to reducing carbon loss. How are the Clima East projects applying, building on, or adapting such already-developed methods?

96. It is important to point out that the Clima East Pilot projects are working with extremely complex ecological systems, and with a range of activities that have potentially both positive and negative impacts on climate change. For example, in the Belarus project, the project team

is supporting the piloting of controlled burning to avoid catastrophic peat fires, and to stimulate additional larger-scale longer-term carbon sequestration through new vegetation growth (as well as to improve habitat for key species). The overall positive and negative climate change mitigation outcomes of this type of ecosystem management are not well understood. In addition, both the Belarus and Ukraine pilot projects plan to produce biomass fuel for energy use, with the hypothesis that biomass energy generates lower carbon emissions than fossil fuel energy, and therefore if biomass energy can displace fossil fuel use, total emissions will be lower. However, the actual positive or negative outcomes of biomass energy depend significantly on the specific circumstances, and may be either positive or negative.[8] Finally, as another example, the pasture management activities undertaken by the Clima East Pilot projects in Moldova and the three participating Caucuses countries may improve carbon sequestration in the pasture ecosystems, but may also lead to increases in livestock on those pastures, and livestock also generate GHG emissions; thus the overall net climate change mitigation benefit cannot be easily assessed. One important lesson from the Clima East Pilots Project is that other similar projects in the future should carefully consider the full range of possible negative or positive climate mitigation outcomes, if climate mitigation is the primary and single most important desired result. In the Clima East pilot projects, some of the climate change mitigation results may be ambiguous, but there may be other clear benefits, for example for biodiversity conservation or rural development, that validate the investment.

3.3.6. Results from the Clima East "Global" Component

97. The Clima East Pilot Projects has a global component that is budgeted for approximately 2.7% of the total budget. Disbursement of funding under this component stood at 22.2% as of December 31, 2014. This component was not originally included in the project as first funded by the EU, but was added through an amendment to the project document ("Description of Action"), approved May 16, 2013. This component was described as *"monitoring and evaluation, communication, knowledge management"*. According to project stakeholders, it was anticipated that through this component the project would support a more integrated regional approach, drawing together the results and lessons of the individual pilot projects, although this is not clearly described in the Description of Action. The project inception report provides further elaboration on the planned activities under the global component. The inception report discusses the planned communications aspects of the project (i.e. publications, articles, placement of information on the web, visibility), and states *"once projects start to generate specific data, articles and publications would start to be drafted too, and would ultimately be published in established international climate magazines."* The budget from the global component includes support for the UNDP regional task manager charged with oversight of the project, including oversight mission travel to the pilot countries.

98. Given that the global component depended mainly on progress to initially be made in each of the pilot countries, there have not been major results under the global component as yet. The global component had three key results indicators, and three additional results areas,

[8] For example, see "Carbon Emission Estimates for Drax biomass powerplants in the UK sourcing from Enviva Pellet Mills in U.S. Southeastern Hardwoods using the BEAC model," May 27, 2015, Southern Environmental Law Center.

as shown in Table 12 below, which were developed at the end of 2014. However, these indicators are not well defined and lack adequate targets.

Table 12 Clima East Pilots Project Global Component Key Results Indicators

Global Component Activity	Key Results Indicator	Other Planned Results
Promotion of technical exchanges among pilots	1. Technical knowledge generated on pilots-level shared regularly.	a. By end of project, technical knowledge in region on carbon potential in protected areas of peatlands and pastures / forests increased.
	2. Technical experience from carbon measurements and monitoring in pilots gathered and scientific review prepared	b. Cooperation among researchers in region facilitated.
Knowledge and awareness of eco-system based approach to climate issues raised	3. Experiences in eco-system based approach to climate change shared at regional level through: - at least 4 sub-regional and regional workshops; - study tours among countries in the region	c. Knowledge and awareness of linkages between biodiversity and climate change increase in the region

99. As of the mid-term evaluation (second quarter 2015), there have been a few outputs from the global component. On June 3 and 4, 2014, a multi-country workshop was organized in Tbilisi, Georgia, on addressing climate change and ecosystem based approaches to pasture management, with participation of representatives from the pilot projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, and the Clima East Policy Project. The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences among the Clima East countries involved in pastures management and to provide a forum to discuss common issues and challenges faced on climate change and eco-system based approach. Additional work has also been done in relation to cooperation with the Clima East Policy Project, as further discussed in Section 3.3.8 below.

100. Pilot project monitoring missions were also carried out, as summarized in Figure 5 below. The global component regional task manager is also responsible for aggregating and summarizing the pilot project results in the quarterly and annual reports submitted to the EU.

101. Now that the pilot projects are making increasing progress and beginning to generate results, it is anticipated that more regional-level activities will be conducted, and production of communications materials will be ramped up. There are plans to organize a meeting amongst all Clima East pilot projects working on peatlands, in Belarus in September 2015, and an additional meeting for all Clima East pilot projects in Moldova, also in September 2015.

Figure 5 UNDP Clima East Pilots Project Monitoring Missions

Armenia: September 2013, March 2014
Azerbaijan: July 2013, May 2014, March 2015
Belarus: November 2014
Georgia: July 2013, March 2014
Moldova: September 2015
Russia Northern Peatlands: February 2013
Russia Southern Peatlands: May 2015
Ukraine: September 2013

102. The Clima East "package" website is located at http://www.climaeast.eu/. The website was developed and is maintained by the Clima East Policy Project, with contributions from the Clima East Pilots Project. The website has a professional design, and is regularly updated with

news and events postings related to activities of the Clima East Policy Project. However, there is limited information about the activities or results of the Clima East pilot projects. The website has the potential to be a much more dynamic resource for regional knowledge sharing, and as a communication tool for the Clima East pilot projects. Enhancing use of the website as a communication tool for the Clima East pilot projects is part of one of the key recommendations of this evaluation, relating to strengthening the regional cohesion of the project as a whole.

3.3.7. Regional Integration, Approach, and Synergy

103. One might expect that there would be more regional integration within a project addressing similar issues in multiple neighboring countries, taking advantage of the potential opportunity to build synergies, and generate broader results that are greater than the sum of the individual pilot projects. Climate change is a global issue, although not necessarily a transboundary issue; therefore the main rationale for Clima East as a "regional" project is based on the potential similarity of ecosystems and issues that the participating countries may have. For example, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine could potentially share experience and knowledge about peatland restoration. The Caucuses countries could potentially share experience related to pasture management regimes, and sustainable pastoralism.

104. However, the Clima East Pilot Projects was not initially developed along these lines. The project document does not provide a strong basis for this type of approach, and it should not be expected that the Clima East Pilots Project would spontaneously develop into a well-integrated cohesive regional program, without adequate planning and resources. There may have been missed opportunities to leverage regional cooperation and knowledge sharing in the early stages of the project, when each of the pilot projects was starting up (e.g., technical approaches related to carbon monitoring), but this opportunity has passed.

105. However, there remain additional opportunities for increased regional engagement in the 2nd half of implementation; the question is, to what extent this should be pursued? There are three basic options for further regional engagement. As it stands, regional activities will remain limited, with basic information sharing and exchange, through additional regional workshops amongst pilot project teams and possible study tour exchanges. Alternatively, the regional aspect of the project could be moderately scaled-up, with additional centralized technical input, and an expanded set of activities that engage all of the pilot projects (or at least the two sub-clusters of "peatlands" and "pastures"), and draws together the knowledge, lessons, and experiences of the pilot projects. Finally, the Clima East Pilots Project could be expanded into a full regional initiative, with extensive centralized human and technical resources to support the individual pilot projects and synthesize their results into regionally applicable technical guidelines and other outputs.

106. Considering the time and resources available, and the stage of project implementation, this evaluation recommends the "moderate" approach. This would involve the inclusion of additional centralized technical support, such as a part-time international Chief Technical Advisor. Other "regional" aspects of the project could be enhanced as well, including increased internal communication between the pilot projects, and peer-review of technical aspects of the pilot projects. Also valuable would be development of project-wide communication products, such as publications, short videos, presentations and public events (i.e. UNFCCC, UNCCD, or CBD COP side events). Other suggestions for strengthening the regional integration of the

project are included in the key recommendation addressing this aspect, in Section 4.2 at the end of this report. The potential resources required for such a moderate increase in regional activities would need to be assessed relative to the resources currently available under the global component budget line, as less than approximately $200,000 USD is currently available.

3.3.8. Synergies with Clima East Policy Project

107. The Clima East "package" is actually a two-part initiative: The 11 million euro Clima East Pilots Project, implemented by UNDP, and the approximately 7 million euro "Policy Project", implemented by a consortium of companies led by HTSPE UK Ltd. The main aim of this project is to improve the information access of partner countries to EU climate change *Acquis Communautaire* (legislation), policies, knowledge and experience, both on an EU and member-state level. It was foreseen that the Clima East Policy Project and Pilots Project would generate synergies. As stated in the Clima East Description of the Action, "*The Clima East Policy and the Clima East Pilots projects are intrinsically linked. Project contents have been identified by a joint consultative process with the seven ENPI-partner countries and form concrete elements of the climate change relations of the European Union with this region. Results achieved in the ecosystems-based Clima East Pilots project will be integrated into adaption and mitigation strategies supported by the Clima East Policy project.*" The Clima East Pilots Project inception report foresaw that a coordination mechanism would be established with quarterly exchanges of information between the Pilots Project regional coordinator and Policy Project representative, with the main focus on mutual information placement and sharing.

108. The Clima East Policy Project is beyond the scope of this evaluation, which is limited to only the Clima East Pilots Project. Only a few representatives of the Clima East Policy Project in some of the pilot project countries were interviewed. However, since it was anticipated that there would be synergies between the two parts of Clima East, this evaluation briefly addresses this aspect of the overall Clima East package, from the point of view of the Pilots Project. Pilot Project representatives were interviewed about the Policy Project, and feedback received on cooperation was neutral (no contact between pilots and policy projects at national level) to negative (perception of limited effectiveness of Policy Project).

109. There has been regular communication between the two sides of Clima East thus far, as foreseen at the inception phase, with quarterly, if not more frequent, information exchanges between the Pilot Project regional coordinator and representatives from the Policy Project. The Pilot and Policy projects have cooperated in providing information for the Clima East website, which was developed through the Policy Project.

110. One key opportunity for synergies is to feed the experiences of the pilot projects up to the Policy Project, identifying key ecosystem-based climate change issues on the ground that required a policy response. Based on initial experience from the Clima East pilot projects, the projects identified the following key areas as having key policy-related gaps:

- Pasture management
- Landscape management related to pasture management plans
- Carbon monitoring
- Land use and land tenure
- Incentive measures

111. According to Pilot Project representatives, feedback has been received from the Policy Project that some of these issues, such as land tenure, are outside of the immediate scope of the Policy Project, which is limited to issues specifically addressed in the Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC. However, this disconnect highlights the complex aspects of applying ecosystem-based approaches to address climate issues, and the necessity of improved communication about ecosystem-based approaches: Issues such as land tenure and pasture management clearly do relate to land use and land use change, which is a key component of climate issues.

112. The Clima East Policy Project also includes an "on-demand expert facility" to support proposals by the Clima East countries to address climate policy issues. It was expected that this expert facility would be linked with the pilot projects, by responding to proposals that build on the pilot project experiences, among other things. The functioning of the expert facility appears to be limited as of this mid-term evaluation, and as yet no proposals from the Clima East pilot projects have been supported through the expert facility.

113. While the good intentions of having the separate pilot and policy sides in the design of the overall Clima East package is evident, in practice there are many problems with this approach. A valuable lesson from the Clima East experience is that if synergies are expected between pilot activities on the ground and national policy level support, the intervention design needs to be well integrated, preferably within the primary purview of a single implementation partner. One of the key recommendations from this evaluation is for the pilot project and policy project teams to communicate on a regular basis at the national level. In addition, the synergy between the two Clima East sides would also be supported by this evaluation's recommendation to strengthen the technical analytical support of the Clima East Pilots Project, particularly in relation to the linkages between land use / land use change, and UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol.

3.4. SUSTAINABILITY

114. As of the mid-term evaluation, the **sustainability** of benefits from the Clima East Pilots Project is considered *moderately likely* (3 on a 4 point scale). The mid-term evaluation is generally early to draw firm conclusions about the likely sustainability of benefits arising from a project or program, and this is the case for the Clima East Pilots Project. Assessing sustainability is further limited by the fact that the overall disbursement of funding from the project is less than 30% at the midpoint; many activities remain to be carried out in each of the pilot projects. In addition, sustainability is a dynamic, conditional, and indefinite state, and can be influenced positively or negatively by single events or actions; therefore a majority of activities under the Clima East pilot projects should be completed prior to a complete assessment of sustainability, which will occur at the time of the terminal evaluation.

115. As per UNDP evaluation procedures and guidelines, sustainability is assessed through analysis of four components of sustainability: financial, institutional and governance, socio-economic, and environmental. Each of these elements has been analyzed at the level of the pilot projects, and ratings for each pilot project are included in the individual pilot project reports in Volume 2 of this evaluation report.

116. While there are a variety of risks at the individual pilot project level, there are no overall project-level critical sustainability risks seen. Examples of risks seen at the pilot project level include:

- Questions in Belarus and Ukraine about the financial sustainability and viability of the planned biomass energy schemes;
- Questions in Azerbaijan about the long-term socio-economic viability of proposed pasture management plans;
- Questions in Russia about the institutional sustainability of management of protected areas incorporating peatlands; and
- Questions in all pilot projects about environmental sustainability in peatland and pasture ecosystems in the face of increasing climate risks.

117. This evaluation's key recommendations provide suggestions intended to support sustainability. For example, one crucial aspect for sustainability of the results of the Clima East Pilots Project is to ensure that the results of the field level demonstration and pilot activities are well-documented and published.

4. LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. KEY LESSONS

118. Lessons have been identified for each of the pilot projects, and these are included in the individual projects reports in Volume 2 of this evaluation. There are also some overall project-level lessons, and some lessons that have been identified for multiple pilot projects, and are therefore worth highlighting at the overall project level.

119. ***Key Lesson:*** Procurement-heavy projects take a long time to start-up before on-the-ground activities begin, and this should be taken into account in work planning in the design phase. Multiple Clima East Pilot Projects (i.e. Russia northern peatlands, Belarus, and Ukraine) required extensive procurement procedures, which took a long-term and delayed some project activities. It should not be a surprise that extensive procurement requires a long time, and this should be appropriately integrated in planning project activities.

120. ***Key Lesson:*** Seasonality has significant implications for ecosystem-based projects, and must be considered in work-planning during the design phase. Most of the Clima East pilot projects are affected by limited seasonal opportunities to carry out their work in the field. The most extreme is the Russia Northern peatlands project, which has only two to three months of summer to carry out fieldwork. The projects working on pasture ecosystems also are generally limited by their focus on either summer pastures (high elevation) or winter pastures (lower elevation). Many of the pilot projects were slightly delayed in start-up, but because of this seasonal limitation, many projects were not able to carry out field activities in the 2013 field season, which meant that for some of the projects it was only by approximately the third quarter of 2014 that on-the-ground activities had been initiated.

121. ***Key Lesson:*** Projects involving infrastructure work related to ecosystem restoration can encounter bureaucratic EIA procedures, and risks of delays from such procedures should be assessed in the design phase, and appropriate mitigation measures implemented. Multiple

Clima East pilot projects face potential slight or significant delays due to the potential need to comply with EIA procedures relating to construction works for peatland restoration, or other ecosystem management measures.

122. ***Key Lesson:*** It would be best for such programs in the future to be designed in a more cohesive and systematic manner. The Clima East program design faces a disjuncture at two points. First, in the fact that the Clima East pilots project is not cohesive as a regional project; it is mainly a collection of eight separate projects, and thus regional efficiencies, or results beyond the individual project level, are more limited than they might have been had the program had a strong "regional" component. Second, the Clima East pilots project and policy project are implemented through completely separate mechanisms, by different entities, which makes generating synergies particularly challenging.

123. ***Key Lesson:*** Another important lesson from the Clima East program is that other similar projects in the future should carefully analyze the full range of possible negative or positive climate mitigation outcomes, if climate mitigation is the primary and single most important desired result. In the Clima East Pilot projects, some of the climate change mitigation results may be ambiguous, but there may be other clear benefits, such as biodiversity conservation or rural development, that validate the investment. For example, implementation of pasture management, and peatland restoration that improves forage, could potentially increase the number of livestock in an area relative to the baseline, which could have negative climate impacts, as livestock also produce GHG emissions. In addition, ecosystem management measures such as controlled burning, or strategies such as biomass fuel production, also have potential negative short-term climate impacts, although they are intended to help mitigate climate change in the long-term. One-size-fits-all strategies can rarely be applied in ecosystem-based approaches, as different sites of similar ecosystems have complex interactions that pertain to their own particular circumstances.

4.2. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

124. The following are the main recommendations from the mid-term evaluation for the overall Clima East Pilots Project. Recommendations for each of the specific pilot projects are included in the individual country reports in Volume 2 of this mid-term evaluation report.

125. ***Key Recommendation 1:*** Strengthen the results-based approach, for improved effectiveness, and documentation of results. This should include clear identification of the outcome and impact level results for each of the pilot projects for each of the main results areas of climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and socio-economic benefits. Common results achieved for each results area should be aggregated at the overall project level. A draft proposed overall project results framework is included as Annex 9 of this report. Overall project level indicators should be identified for any key results areas not adequately covered. A draft strengthened approach should be developed in time for discussion at the September 2015 meeting of all pilot projects, and should be integrated with annual reporting for 2015.

126. ***Key Recommendation 2:*** Strengthen the cohesive regional project approach. The Clima East Pilots Project was not designed as a cohesive regional program, but rather a collection of individual projects addressing similar themes. Nonetheless there is still an opportunity to

generate some regional synergies from the collection of pilot projects. This evaluation suggests the following opportunities for strengthening synergies:

- Consider organizing a project-wide side event at the UNFCCC COP (in 2015 in Paris, and in subsequent years)
- Strengthen public relations and communications aspects, to build regional identity among project participants, and (e.g. regional documentary movie highlighting program objectives and results, publications highlighting ecosystems and results from multiple pilot projects, etc.)
- Require projects to provide their outputs for posting on the project website, and provide as much overall documentation on the website as possible
- Quarterly internal program update shared amongst all pilot projects, supporting information sharing and catalyzing a common identity within the umbrella project
- Sharing among projects for peer review approaches for carbon monitoring and assessment being applied in each of the pilots, comparison and analysis - identifying knowledge gaps, good practices, expected results (in terms of knowledge generated, not necessarily the emissions results)
- In results assessment, implement a few indicators in each results area that can be aggregated amongst all pilots *(see Key Recommendation 1)*
- Contracting an international CTA to provide project-wide technical support and inputs *(see Key Recommendation 3)*

127. ***Key Recommendation 3:*** Strengthen technical support at the regional level. The Clima East Pilots Project should add a part-time, on-demand technical expert (i.e. CTA) to support regional synergies amongst pilot projects, and to assist in articulation of the key knowledge gaps the pilot projects are addressing, in relation to ecosystem-based approaches that are addressing climate change. Initial key needs from a CTA would include:

- Brief technical report describing linkage of land-use and land-use change issues the pilot projects are working on with climate mitigation and adaptation. Purpose: To support linkages with the Clima East Policy Project regarding the key policy issues identified by the Pilots Project.
- Analysis of pilot projects' results within an ecosystem services framework. Purpose: Inputs for pilot projects to local and national decision-makers (and for potential basis for an ecosystem services valuation analysis of one or more pilot projects by another technical expert)
- Brief technical report describing the many ways in which the Clima East Pilots Project is supporting implementation of the UNFCCC, and providing inputs to the IPCC. Purpose: Input to overall project results reporting, and input to publications and communication materials.
- Brief technical report for each of the pilot projects, identifying, defining and articulating the key technical knowledge gaps the Clima East Pilots Project is addressing. Purpose: Improve results-based approach and results reporting, and provide basis for communicating results at local, national, and international levels.

128. ***Key Recommendation 4:*** Ensure a strong focus on documenting results, lessons, experiences, and good practices within the "pilot" projects. The Clima East pilot projects are,

after all, called pilots for a reason, as they are experimenting with new approaches and testing ecosystem-management techniques linked with climate change. The value of such projects is in the local benefits they produce, but also significantly in the knowledge that they generate, with possibilities for upscaling the pilots' positive experiences. Unfortunately many successful "pilot" environmental projects focus so much on implementation that they fail to adequately document and disseminate their experiences. The majority of Clima East pilot projects do include planned activities on documentation of lessons and experiences, but with the initial delays, projects may run short of time to sufficiently focus on these aspects. The Clima East pilot projects must ensure there is sufficient time and resources for documenting results and lessons before project completion. This aspect of the projects would be strengthened by each project specifically identifying the three to five key knowledge gaps of national or international relevance that it is contributing to. The projects should clearly document the key results and lessons in a clear and concise format to be shared in the national and international context. This could include producing case studies or knowledge briefs for an international audience. Disseminating this information is the key final step, such as through a national workshop at project completion, or through participation in other international fora. Posting information in a permanent online repository, such as a ministry website, is also critical (particularly useful for an international audience in English). In all communications and publications the Clima East should observe appropriate visibility requirements, clearly indicating the EU as the funding partner, and UNDP as the implementing partner.

129. ***Key Recommendation 5:*** Take additional concrete steps to continue collaboration with the Clima East Policy Project. Although the structure of the overall Clima East "package" presents some challenges for collaboration between the Pilot Project and Policy Project, there remain potential opportunities for synergies, and these should be exploited to the extent possible. An important way to do this is through improved communication between pilot projects and Policy Project representatives at the national level. Each pilot project should either maintain regular informal communication with policy project representatives to inform them about the pilot project activities, or should organize semi-annual meetings with policy project teams to identify areas for cooperation, input, collaboration, and synergy. Synergies between the pilot projects and Policy Project would also be improved through strengthened technical analysis on implications for climate change of land-use and land-use change *(See Key Recommendation 3*). Considering the previous attempts made to strengthen this collaboration, this should be a limited good-faith effort until there is full reciprocity from the policy project side, and should not draw significant time or financial resources away from the pilot projects' focus on delivering their planned results.

130. ***Key Recommendation 6:*** Open consideration of an overall Clima East Pilots Project 12-month no-cost extension. A number of the pilot projects had delays in start-up of activities, and are likely to require, or at least significantly benefit from, the opportunity to complete activities by December 2017, instead of December 2016. This is partially due to the seasonality of many of the pilot project activities; thus a 12-month extension would provide the opportunity of another field season to validate, consolidate and document results. However, a no-cost extension must be individually justified for each pilot project. Each pilot project must submit a justification of the necessity for extension, and must specifically identify the activities that

would need to be carried out in extension period, and the benefit that those activities would generate. Pilot projects that are able to complete their activities as planned, or by December 2016, should be supported to do so, with the expectation that any replication or up-scaling is only likely to occur after the pilot project is complete. A final decision on an overall Clima East Pilots Project extension does not need to be taken until approximately the second quarter of 2016. The fact that the eight pilot projects are likely to be finishing at different times within an approximately 12 month timespan presents some challenges for the terminal evaluation of the Clima East Pilots Project; however, if pilot projects are completed at various times between December 2016 and December 2017, mid-2017 would present the best overall opportunity to complete the terminal evaluation.

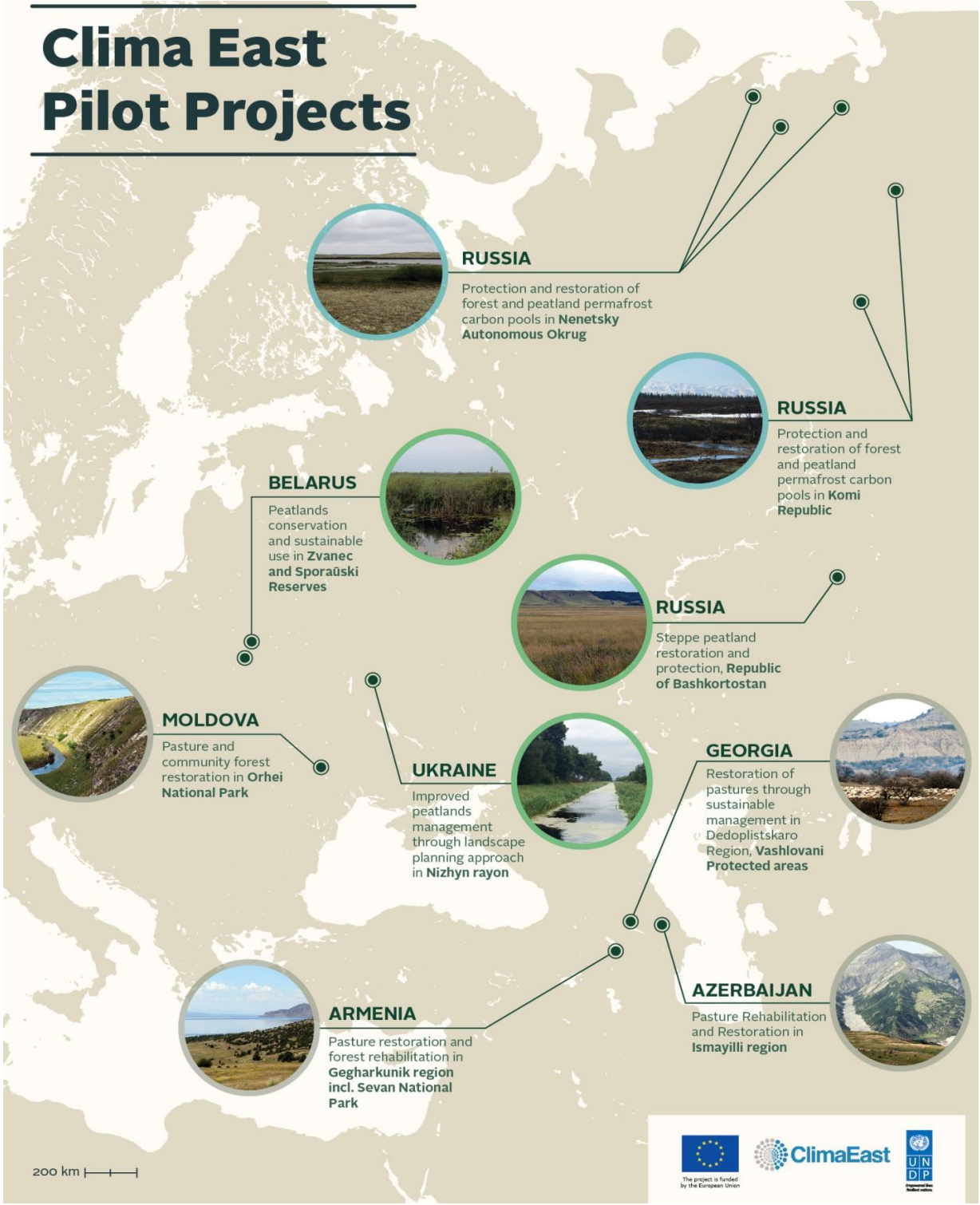
131. ***Key Recommendation 7:*** Re-assess expected results and conclusions from pilot projects' carbon-monitoring activities. The Clima East pilot projects are applying a range of carbon monitoring techniques and methodologies. The carbon monitoring activities of the projects have some of the potentially most significant potential for addressing knowledge gaps (particularly in relation to pasture ecosystems), but the timeframes required for documenting results, and the levels of technical rigor applied needs to be closely considered. For example, it is likely that carbon sequestration results from the pilot project activities will occur long beyond the project completion dates for both peatlands and pastures projects. This is an area where there is more opportunity for regional cooperation and information sharing *(see Key Recommendation 2)*, but the appropriate experts and scientists in each country must be engaged and in communication. At a minimum, the pilot projects must ensure the appropriate and necessary linkages to the national GHG inventory process for the LULUCF sector, for reporting to the UNFCCC.

132. ***Key Recommendation 8:*** Strengthen potential for sustainability with specific exit strategies. Each pilot project should develop an exit strategy document that specifically outlines key elements necessary for sustainability, including aspects such as:

- Who will be responsible for equipment procured
- How will financial sustainability of results be ensured
- How will other aspects of sustainability be ensured: socio-economic, institutional, environmental
- Should include plans to disseminate and present results at national level

5. ANNEXES

5.1. ANNEX 1: CLIMA EAST PILOT PROJECTS MAP WITH FIELD SITE LOCATIONS



5.2. ANNEX 2: EVALUATION TERMS OF REFERENCE

MID-TERM EVALUATION TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with UNDP M&E policies and procedures, and the EU-UNDP Agreement of the *'Clima East: Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and Russia (Clima East Pilots)',* the project is required to undergo a mid-term evaluation. These terms of reference (TOR) sets out the expectations for the Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) of the Clima East Pilots. The essentials of the project to be evaluated are as follows:

PROJECT SUMMARY TABLE

<table>
<tr><td>Project Title:</td><td colspan="5">Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and Russia (Clima East</td></tr>
<tr><td>Countries:</td><td colspan="2">Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine</td><td colspan="2"><u>at endorsement (Million Euro)</u></td><td><u>at completion (Million US$)</u></td></tr>
<tr><td>Region:</td><td>Europe & CIS</td><td>EU financing:</td><td colspan="2">11</td><td>11</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Other Partners involved:</td><td rowspan="3">Relevant ministries of Environment, agencies of Protected areas, municipalities in each country</td><td colspan="3">ProDoc Signature (date project began):</td><td>22 July 2008</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Official EU Clima East Project start date:
EU Clima East project start-up (implementation):</td><td>Dec 2012
July 2013[9]</td></tr>
<tr><td>(Operational) Closing Date:</td><td>Proposed:
2016</td><td>Actual:
2016</td></tr>
</table>

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The Clima East Pilots Project is part of a broader EU financing package 'Clima East: Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and Russia' which will be implemented in the years 2013-2016 in cooperation with the partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Clima East package consists of: - The Clima East Policy project, the main aim of which is to improve the information access of partner countries to EU climate change Acquis Communautaire (legislation), policies, knowledge and experience, both on an EU and member-state level and - The Clima East Pilots project, a project (ENPI/2012/303-093) with a maximum budget of 11 MEUR, implemented by UNDP in cooperation with national and international partner organisations. The main aim of the Clima East Pilots project, which is the subject of this evaluation, is to show through pilot projects the feasibility of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, meaning that intact ecosystems such as peatlands, permafrost landscapes, boreal forests and pasture land can have a strong and cost-efficient positive effect both on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Clima East Pilots Project is financed from the Regional Action Programme 2011-2013 of the EU Eastern Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, ENPI, with contributions made from UNDP in some pilot countries. The Clima East Policy and the Clima East Pilots projects are intrinsically linked. Results achieved in the ecosystems-based Clima East Pilots project will be integrated into adaption and mitigation strategies supported by the Clima East Policy project.

The Clima East Pilots project is broken down into 4 components and further into 9 constituting elements, each managed by a separate country office of UNDP:

[9] Specific start dates of implementation vary from country to country and the Belarus component implementation began in February 2014.

Peatlands component

1. Belarus peatlands conservation and restoration (implemented by UNDP Belarus, Minsk)
2. Ukraine peatlands conservation and restoration (implemented by UNDP Ukraine, Kiev)
3. Russia steppe peatlands restoration (Implemented by UNDP Russia, Moscow)

Permafrost and boreal forests component

4. Russia permafrost peatlands and boreal forests in Komi and NAO (Implemented by UNDP Russia, Moscow)

Southern pastures and forest management

5. Moldova ecosystem based approaches to climate change in Orhei National Park (implemented by UNDP Moldova, Chisinau)
6. Azerbaijan pastures restoration and protection (Implemented by UNDP Azerbaijan, Baku)
7. Georgia pastures restoration and protection (Implemented by UNDP Georgia, Tblilisi)
8. Armenia pastures restoration and protection (Implemented by UNDP Armenia, Yerevan)

Global

9. Global component on technical knowledge generation and sharing, evaluation and awareness raising (implemented by UNDP EEG Headquarters represented by Istanbul Regional Support Center, which also has the overall supervision responsibility for the package and reporting in front of EC).

The MTE will be conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Office's Handbook on Monitoring and Evaluating for Results (http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/handbook/me-handbook.pdf), and as agreed in the EU-UNDP Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).

The objectives of the evaluation are is to assess progress towards the achievement of the Clima East Pilot Project objective, identify and document lessons learned (including lessons that might improve design and implementation), and to make recommendations regarding specific actions that might be taken to improve the project. The evaluation will play a critical role in the future implementation of the project by providing advice on: (i) how to strengthen the adaptive management and monitoring function of the project; (ii) how to ensure accountability for the achievement of the EU Clima East Pilot project objective; and (iii) how to enhance organizational and development learning, including among the other pilots projects under the Clima East. The evaluation shall also look at the linkages within the overall Clima East package – between Clima East Pilots and Clima East Policy. The added value of the Global component shall also be considered and its role in facilitating the regional purpose of the Pilots Project.

The MTE for the Permafrost and boreal forests component (nr. 7 above) was conducted in late 2014. The findings of the 2014 Komi evaluation will be integrated into the report of this evaluation to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Clima East Pilots Project as a whole.

EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHOD

An overall approach and method[10] for conducting project mid-term evaluations of UNDP-implemented projects has developed over time. The evaluator is expected to frame the evaluation effort using the criteria of **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact,** as defined and explained in the UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects, the overall approach of which is also relevant for this EU-funded project. A set of questions covering each of these criteria have been drafted and are included with this TOR (*Annex C*) The evaluator is expected to amend, complete and submit this matrix as part of an evaluation inception report, and shall include it as an annex to the final report.

The evaluation must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The evaluator is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government

[10] For additional information on methods, see the Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results, Chapter 7, pg. 163

counterparts, in particular the Project Directors, UNDP Country Office, project team, EU Clima East Pilot Project Regional Coordinator and key stakeholders. The evaluator is expected to conduct a field missions to the pilots. Interviews with the main institutions and organization involved in the Pilots project are to be conducted during the missions.

The evaluator will review all relevant sources of information, such as the project document, project reports – including Annual APR/PIR, project budget revisions, midterm review, progress reports, project files, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the evaluator considers useful for this evidence-based assessment. A list of documents that the project team will provide to the evaluator for review is included in Annex B of this Terms of Reference.

EVALUATION CRITERIA & RATINGS

An assessment of project performance will be carried out, based against expectations set out in the Clima East Pilots Project Indicative Indicators Framework (see Annex A. 1) and the Results Resource Frameworks (RRF) prepared by the country pilots, which provide performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The evaluation will at a minimum cover the criteria of: **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability** and **impact.** Ratings must be provided on the following performance criteria. The completed table must be included in the evaluation executive summary. The obligatory rating scales are included in Annex D.

Evaluation Ratings[11]**:**			
1. Monitoring and Evaluation	***rating***	**2. IA& EA Execution**	***rating***
M&E design at entry		Quality of UNDP Implementation	
M&E Plan Implementation		Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	
Overall quality of M&E		Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	
3. Assessment of Outcomes	**rating**	**4. Sustainability**	**rating**
Relevance		Financial resources:	
Effectiveness		Socio-political:	
Efficiency		Institutional framework and governance:	
Overall Project Outcome Rating		Environmental:	

The evaluation will provide a rating for each pilot, as well as on the global component. The Indicative Indicators for the global component were developed only at the end of 2014. Thus, the evaluation of the global component shall include the evaluators' analysis of the indicators developed, their relevance and added value to the Pilots project. UNDP would also welcome any recommendations on indicator improvement that may arise as a result of the evaluation.

PROJECT FINANCE

The Evaluation will assess the key financial aspects of the project. Project cost and funding data will be required, including annual expenditures. Variances between planned and actual expenditures will need to be assessed and explained. Results from recent financial audits, as available, should be taken into consideration. The evaluator(s) will receive assistance from the country offices (CO) and project teams to obtain financial data in order to complete the co-financing table below, which will be included in the Evaluation report.

Co-financing (type/source)	EU Financing (mill. US$)		Government (mill. US$)		UNDP financing (mill. US$)		Other		Total (mill. US$)	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Grants	0									
Loans/Concessions										
• In-kind										

[11] The MTE for the Permafrost and boreal forests component (Komi) was conducted in late 2014. The findings of the 2014 evaluation will be integrated into the report of this evaluation to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Clima East Pilots Project as a whole.

support										
• Other										
Totals										

MAINSTREAMING

The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project was successfully mainstreamed with other UNDP priorities, including poverty alleviation, improved governance, the prevention and recovery from natural disasters, and gender. Any collaboration and cooperation conducted with other EU-funded projects (regional and national) shall be noted.

IMPACT

The evaluators will assess the extent to which the project is achieving impacts or progressing towards the achievement of impacts. Key findings that should be brought out in the evaluations include whether the project has demonstrated: a) verifiable improvements in ecological status, b) verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems, and/or c) demonstrated progress towards these impact achievements.[12]

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS

The evaluation report must include a chapter providing a set of **conclusions**, **recommendations** and **lessons**. This section should include observations not only on the specific pilot, but also consider regional-level recommendations in lieu of strengthening cooperation and lessons learned among the pilots, as well as between the Pilots and Policy components within the Clima East package.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation resides with the Clima East Regional Coordinator and the UNDP Regional Support Centre. The UNDP RSC will contract the evaluators and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements to the countries for the evaluation team. The national Pilots Project teams will be responsible for liaising with the Evaluators team to set up stakeholder interviews, arrange field visits, coordinate with the Government, etc.

EVALUATION TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the evaluation will be up to four months; expected to be distributed according to the following plan:

Independent International Evaluator (peatlands management) will cover the pilots in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine

Activity	Time allocation	Tentative timeframe
Preparation	*7* days	*Tentatively March 2-6*
Evaluation Mission	*18* days (incl.travel)	*Tentatively March 9- April 30*
Draft Evaluation Report	*12* days	*Tentatively May 15*
Final Report	*6* days	*Tentatively June 8*

Independent International Evaluator (pasturelands/forests) will cover pilots in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova

Activity	Time allocation	Tentative timeframe

[12] A useful tool for gauging progress to impact is the Review of Outcomes to Impacts (ROtI) method developed by the GEF Evaluation Office: ROTI Handbook 2009

Preparation	*7* days	*Tentatively March 2-6*
Evaluation Mission	*25* days (incl.travel)	*Tentatively March 9- April 30*
Draft Evaluation Report	*12* days	*Tentatively May 15*
Final Report	*6* days	*Tentatively June 8*

The evaluators will be responsible for the assessment of the particular pilots within their scope for the missions and for the Pilots-specific parts of the report. In addition the evaluators will be requested to evaluate the global component and to work as a team in drafting the evaluation report and integrating comments. During preparation of the mission, the evaluation team will be requested to submit a plan for the elaboration of the report with the contributions of the individual evaluators identified for clarity of roles and responsibilities. One evaluator will be selected as Team Leader.

EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

The evaluation team is expected to deliver the following:

Deliverable	Content	Timing	Responsibilities
Inception Report	Evaluator provides clarifications on timing and method, including proposed evaluation questions (Annex C)	No later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission.	Evaluator submits to Clima East Regional Coordinator, who, in turns coordinates with EU Task Manager
Presentation	Initial Findings	End of evaluation mission	To project management, relevant UNDP CO and Regional Coordinator
Draft Final Report	Full report, (per annexed template) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of the completion of the evaluation mission	Sent to Clima East Regional Coordinator, COs, PCUs
Final Report*	Revised report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft	Sent to CO for uploading to UNDP ERC.

*When submitting the final evaluation report, the evaluator is required also to provide an 'audit trail', detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final evaluation report.

TEAM COMPOSITION

The evaluation is conducted by two international evaluator with prior experience in evaluating similar projects. Experience with UNDP implemented projects is an advantage. The evaluators selected should not have participated in the project preparation and/or implementation and should not have conflict of interest with project related activities.

The evaluator (peatlands) must present the following qualifications:

- Minimum *4* years of relevant professional experience
- Knowledge of UNDP, experience in EU –funded projects is considered to be an asset;
- Previous experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies;
- Technical knowledge in the targeted focal area(s). Knowledge of role of biodiversity (eco-system management) in climate change issues (including GHG mitigation benefits and peatlands function as carbon pools;) is considered an asset;
- Familiarity with protected area policies and management structures in Eastern Europe/CIS/Russia
- Excellent English communication and report writing skills

The evaluator (pasturelands/forests) must present the following qualifications:

- Minimum *4* years of relevant professional experience
- Knowledge of UNDP, experience in EU –funded projects is considered to be an asset;
- Previous experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies;
- Technical knowledge in the targeted focal area(s). Knowledge of role of biodiversity (eco-system management) in climate change issues (including GHG mitigation benefits and the role of pastures and forests in carbon sequestration) is considered an asset;
- Familiarity with protected area policies and management structures in Eastern Europe/CIS/Russia
- Excellent English communication and report writing skills

EVALUATOR ETHICS

Evaluation consultant will be held to the highest ethical standards and are required to sign a Code of Conduct (Annex E) upon acceptance of the assignment. UNDP evaluations are conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations'

PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

%	Milestone
10%	At contract signing and after submission of the inception report listed under 'Evaluation deliverables'
40%	Following submission and approval of the 1ST draft MTE report
50%	Following submission and approval (UNDP-CO and Regional Coordination) of the mid-term evaluation report

TOR ANNEX A.1: INDICATIVE INDICATORS TABLE

	Activity	**Indicator**	**Other measures/effects**
Component 1: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change, while contributing to the overall mitigation and adaptation effort			
1.1. Belarus peatlands	Shrub, tree and reed harvesting at natural fen peatlands in the border area with Ukraine	3,500 ha of peatlands reduced of overgrowth with shrub/reed/trees, 2,500 tons of dry biomass harvested from peatland used per year.	Positive ecological effects (e.g. safe breeding habitat of threatened species, maintained ecosystem functions of the peatland such as spring flood control and nutrient recycling) at Zvanets and Sporovo fen peatlands and around them, Heat value of biomass equivalent to 15,000 GJ/a, Set-up of producer-user structure for harvesting, processing and use of biomass, Increased stability of the population of the globally threatened species (Aquatic Warbler).
1.2. Russia peatlands	Steppe peatland restoration, protection and sustainable management in European South Russia	200 ha steppe peatlands rehabilitated; 4,000 ha of steppe peatlands improved in their protection status	GIS database and up-dated inventory on the state of steppe peatlands in Southern Russia, Integration of sustainable peatland management principles, following IPCC, Wetlands International methodologies, into land-use plans of two subjects of the Russian Federation Voronezh Region and Republic of Bashkorkostan), Strengthening of existing (tentatively ca. 3,500 ha) and/or creation of new protected areas (tentatively ca. 500 ha)
1.3. Ukraine peatlands	Hydrological restoration and	3,000 ha of degraded former agricultural peatlands	Biomass harvested at 300 ha, producing 300 tons of dry biomass/a per year (equivalent to 5,250 GJ per

	sustainable management of agricultural peatlands in border area with Belarus	restored; 16,000 ha of peatlands improved in their protection status	year) At one cooperative of land users demonstration of a mechanism for restoration and sustainable management of degraded peatlands;
Component 2: Protection and restoration of forest and peatland permafrost carbon pools in Komi Republic and Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug			
2.1. Strengthening protection of forests and permafrost ecosystems	Strengthening of existing and creation of new protected areas	20,000 ha of new regional protected area created in the Chernorechenskaya area Strengthened protected area management capacities of the largest existing forest-and-permafrost protected area Yugyd Va National park (1.9 million ha).	Establishment of a protected area ensures that at 20,000 ha permafrost melt is 5-times slower as it would have been without protection. The new protected area will be equipped with skilled staff, equipment and infrastructure necessary to maintain the optimal ecological regime at this area. At the existing protected area (Yugyd Va), strengthened capacities will translate into more effective prevention and control over illegal fire and logging activities, more efficient patrolling units, integration of climate aspects in management plan, community engagement in forest fire prevention, and better environmental monitoring capacities.
2.2. Piloting restoration of peat permafrost ecosystems	Hydrological restoration, assisted re-vegetation,	180 ha of abandoned permafrost peatland ecosystem restored 60 ha of permafrost peatland under ongoing industrial exploitation – agreements reached with companies on biodiversity and climate-friendly restoration after completion of their activity, in order to avoid permafrost melt	Re-installed peatland permafrost ecosystem functions (permafrost protection, water-flow and micro-climate regulation) at 180 ha targeted by restoration activities. The agreements with companies at 60 ha will help to prevent the otherwise highly probable risk of permafrost degradation and loss of its ecosystem functions, which would ultimately lead to speeding up of permafrost melt. Internationally important innovation/experimenting with permafrost ecosystem piloted resulting in advanced knowledge of possibilities and technologies to slow down permafrost melt, e.g. through restoration and conservation of the upper soil and vegetation layer of permafrost peatlands, High national and international visibility.
2.3. Monitoring and research	Exchanges between leading permafrost scientists, publication of results	1 method for restoring permafrost ecosystem demonstrated resulting in slowing down of permafrost thaw 3 articles in leading international journals on the subject of permafrost ecosystems relationship with climate change	Data delivered to IPCC for incorporation into the Guidelines for National GHG Inventories Linkage with other leading research and applied research initiatives.
Component 3: Sustainable management of pastures in the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities			
3.1. Armenia pastures	Restoration of pastures and forests, and putting them under sustainable management in Gegharkunik	2,000 ha of degraded pastures restored and 60 ha of degraded forests restored	New set of policies and standards on sustainable pasture management approved at the local level (by local authorities in the target districts) Increased quality of fodder production at target sites resulting in higher productivity and higher income from cattle products for local population Reduced grazing pressure on degraded areas

	region		
3.2. Azerbaijan pastures	Restoration and sustainable management of pastures in Ismayilli and Shamakhi regions	3,000 ha of degraded pastures restored	Increased quality of fodder production at target sites resulting in higher productivity and higher income from cattle products for local population Reduced grazing pressure on degraded areas Advanced knowledge on the carbon storage and carbon flow capacities of the Azerbaijani grasslands (before and after restoration)
3.3. Georgia pastures	Restoration and sustainable management of pastures in a close vicinity of the Vashlovani protected areas	4, 064 ha of degraded pastures restored Methods for migratory route rehabilitation applied in 300 ha area	Improved status of protected areas (35,053 ha) A model of involvement of local communities in protected area management Sustainable livelihood opportunities explored for local people (wool production, milk products).
Component 4: Sustainable management of pastures and community forests in Moldova's first National Park Orhei to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities			
4.1. Moldova pastures	Restoration of pastures and community forests within the territory of the Orhei National Park	500 ha of pasture land restored 150 ha of degraded lands afforested	Development of pasture management plans and community forest plans for 18 communities (5,890.92 ha) and 1,392 ha, respectively in a participatory manner Improved management of pastures and community forests to reduce pressures from grazing and unsustainable use A robust system for monitoring of the carbon dividends and ecological integrity of pastures and forest ecosystem in place to ensure ability of park administration to respond to trends of pressures on natural resources in the area
Global component on technical knowledge generation and sharing, evaluation and awareness raising			
G.1. Technical knowledge	Promotion of technical exchanges among pilots	Technical knowledge generated on pilots-level shared regularly. Technical experience from carbon measurements and monitoring in pilots gathered and scientific review prepared	By end of project, technical knowledge in region on carbon potential in protected areas of peatlands and pastures/forests increased. Cooperation among researchers in region facilitated.
G.2. Eco-system based approach to climate issues	Knowledge and awareness of eco-system based approach to climate issues raised	Experiences in eco-system based approach to climate change shared at regional level through: - at least 4 sub-regional and regional workshops; - study tours among countries in the region (at least 3) - common scientific reviews - through the Clima East Project website	Knowledge and awareness of linkages between biodiversity and climate change increase in the region

Summarizing all carbon benefits as stated in the project description, the total GHG benefit (emissions avoided + carbon sequestered) resulting from the implementation of the project in all countries is assessed to be approximately 170,000 tCO2-eq per year, or over 3.4 mln tCO2-eq in 20 years following the implementation of project activities (20 year scale is use as a standard for LULUCF projects in Voluntary Carbon Market and by Global Environment Facility).

TOR ANNEX B: LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE EVALUATOR

- Project Description of Action
- Pilots' project documents (Armenia pasturelands/forests, Azerbaijan pastures, Belarus peatlands, Georgia pastures, Moldova pastures and forests, southern peatlands Russia, Ukranian peatlands)
- Pilots Inception Reports
- Quarterly operational reports
- Annual Project Implementation Reports
- Results-oriented Monitoring Mission (ROM) reports
- Management response to ROM reports
- Project Steering Committee meeting minutes
- Notes from project monitoring missions
- Financial management documents, such as project budget revisions and audit reports
- Various reports and documents available on the project website/with the PIU

TOR ANNEX C: EVALUATION QUESTIONS

This is a generic list, to be further elaborated during the evaluation mission.

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of the EU regional programme, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?			
• Did the project's objectives fit EU strategic priorities?			
• Did the project's objectives fit within national priorities, priorities of the local government and local communities?			
• Do the project's objectives support implementation of the relevant multi-lateral environmental agreement?			
Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?			
• To what extent have the project Objective and Outcomes have been achieved?	• Indicators at the level of project Objective and Outcomes achieved as planned/otherwise	• Project indicators, RRFs, Annual report	
• How did stakeholder involvement and public awareness contribute to the achievement of project objective and outcomes?	• Stakeholder pools from the project show raise of interest to project objective and activities; corresponding indicator values show progress as planned; interview with the project management and key stakeholders confirmed/otherwise PM reports on stakeholder involvement	• Annual reports, Project indicators, interviews	
• Which were the key factors that contributed to project success/underachievement; can positive key factors be replicated in other cases, or could negative factors have been anticipated and minimized?			
Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently, in-line with international and national norms and standards?			

• Was the project cost-effective? In case its implementation was delayed, did that affect cost-effectiveness? Were expenditures in line with international standards and norms? Was co-financing received at the level anticipated in the project document?	• Project expenditures for each of the outcomes correspond with rates agreed in the project document; project management costs did not exceed acceptable levels; project audits revealed no questionable costs and/or violation of procurement, financial and HR administration rules	• Project financial statements, co-financing reports, PIRs, NIM audit reports	
• Was the project management effective? Were there any particular challenges with the management process? Did the project Steering Committee provide the anticipated input and support to project management? Were risks assessed in time and adequately dealt with? Was the level of communication and support from the implementing agency adequate and appropriate?	• Project management arrangements contributed/otherwise to attainment of project objective and outcomes, and were implemented according to the established principles and procedures	• Interviews with key project stakeholders, incl. National Implementing Agency and UNDP; project risk log, project Steering Committee minutes	
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?			
• What is the likelihood that any required financial resources will be available to sustain the project results once the EU funding is over?	• Major project endeavors (such as financial instruments, institutional arrangements, infrastructure support) will get financial support and be maintained without EU funding	• Interviews with stakeholders, project reports, financial data if available	
• What is the likelihood that institutional and technical achievements, legal framework, policies and governance structures and processes will allow for the project results to be sustained? Are there key institutional and governance risks to sustainability?	Major institutional changes, technical solutions, legal framework amendments get strong support at policy and decision-making levels	Interviews with stakeholders, project reports,	
• Are there any environmental risks that can undermine the post-project impact and global environment benefits?			
• What is the likelihood that the technical achievements, investments in capacity development, etc introduced through the project will be sustainable in the target communities?			
Impact: Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?			
• Did the project achieve its planned impacts? Why or why not?			
• Are there (and what are) secondary impacts achieved by the project, especially as related to local livelihoods?			
• Which where the key lessons learned in course of project implementation?			

TOR ANNEX D: RATING SCALES

Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, I&E Execution	***Sustainability ratings:***	***Relevance ratings***
6: Highly Satisfactory (HS): no shortcomings 5: Satisfactory (S): minor shortcomings 4: Moderately Satisfactory (MS) 3. Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): significant shortcomings 2. Unsatisfactory (U): major problems 1. Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe problems	4. Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability 3. Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks 2. Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks 1. Unlikely (U): severe risks	2. Relevant (R) 1. Not relevant (NR) ***Impact Ratings:*** 3. Significant (S) 2. Minimal (M) 1. Negligible (N)
Additional ratings where relevant: Not Applicable (N/A) Unable to Assess (U/A		

TOR ANNEX F: EVALUATION REPORT OUTLINE[13]

i. Opening page:
- Title of UNDP implemented EU financed project
- UNDP project ID#s.
- Evaluation time frame and date of evaluation report
- Region and countries included in the project
- Implementing Partner and other project partners
- Evaluation team members
- Acknowledgements

ii. Executive Summary
- Project Summary Table
- Project Description (brief)
- Evaluation Rating Table
- Summary of conclusions, recommendations and lessons

iii. Acronyms and Abbreviations
(See: UNDP Editorial Manual[14])

1. Introduction
- Purpose of the evaluation
- Scope & Methodology
- Structure of the evaluation report

2. Project description and development context
- Project start and duration
- Problems that the project sought to address
- Immediate and development objectives of the project
- Baseline Indicators established
- Main stakeholders
- Expected Results

3. Findings
(In addition to a descriptive assessment, all criteria marked with (*) must be rated[15])

[13] The Report length should not exceed *60* pages in total (not including annexes).
[14] UNDP Style Manual, Office of Communications, Partnerships Bureau, updated November 2008

3.1 Project Design / Formulation

- Analysis of Indicative indicators/Results Framework (Project logic /strategy; Indicators), including regional-level indicators
- Assumptions and Risks
- Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g., same focal area) incorporated into project design
- Planned stakeholder participation
- Replication approach
- UNDP comparative advantage
- Linkages between the Pilots and Policy project, linkages among the different Pilots and other interventions within the sector, including other EU projects in the region
- Management arrangements

3.2 Project Implementation

- Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)
- Partnership arrangements (with relevant stakeholders involved in the country/region)
- Feedback from M&E activities used for adaptive management
- Project Finance:
- Monitoring and evaluation: design at entry and implementation (*)
- UNDP and Implementing Partner implementation / execution (*) coordination, and operational issues

3.3 Project Results

- Overall results (attainment of objectives) (*)
- Relevance(*)
- Effectiveness & Efficiency (*)
- Country ownership
- Mainstreaming
- Sustainability (*)
- Impact

4. Conclusions, Recommendations & Lessons

- Corrective actions for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project
- Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project
- Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives
- Best and worst practices in addressing issues relating to relevance, performance and success
- Identified recommendations for strengthening regional component

Annexes

- ToR
- Itinerary
- List of persons interviewed
- Summary of field visits
- List of documents reviewed
- Evaluation Question Matrix
- Questionnaire used and summary of results
- Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

[15] Using a six-point rating scale: 6: Highly Satisfactory, 5: Satisfactory, 4: Marginally Satisfactory, 3: Marginally Unsatisfactory, 2: Unsatisfactory and 1: Highly Unsatisfactory, see section 3.5, page 37 for ratings explanations.

5.3. Annex 3: Definition of Evaluation Criteria and Evaluation Matrix

5.3.1. Definition of Main Evaluation Criteria

Relevance
• The extent to which the activity is suited to local and national development priorities and organizational policies, including changes over time. • The extent to which the project is in line with the GEF Operational Programs or strategic priorities under which the project was funded. • Note: Retrospectively, the question of relevance often becomes a question as to whether the objectives of an intervention or its design are still appropriate given changed circumstances.
Effectiveness
• The extent to which an objective has been achieved or how likely it will be achieved.
Efficiency
• The extent to which results have been delivered with the least costly resources possible; also called cost-effectiveness or efficacy.
Results
• The positive and negative, foreseen and unforeseen changes to and effects produced by a development intervention. • In GEF terms, results include direct project outputs, short to medium-term outcomes, and longer-term impact including global environmental benefits, replication effects and other local effects.
Sustainability
• The likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended period of time after completion: financial risks, socio-political risks, institutional framework and governance risks, environmental risks • Projects need to be environmentally, as well as financially and socially sustainable.

5.3.2. CLIMA EAST MID-TERM EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
Evaluation Criteria: Relevance			
• Did the ClimaEast project's objective fit within the national environment and development priorities of the participating countries, including climate change priorities?	• Level of coherence between project objective and national policy priorities and strategies, as stated in official documents	• National policy documents related to climate change mitigation priorities	• Desk review • National level interviews
• Did the project objective fit EU strategic priorities?	• Degree of alignment between project objective and EU strategic priorities (including alignment of relevant objective and outcome indicators)	• EU strategic priority documents	• Desk review
• Was the project linked with and in-line with UNDP priorities and strategies for the participating countries?	• Degree of alignment between project objective and design with UNDAF, CPAP, CPD	• UNDP strategic priority documents for participating countries	• Desk review
• Did the ClimaEast project's objective support implementation of the UNFCCC? Other relevant MEAs?	• Linkages between project objective and elements of the UNFCCC, such as key articles and programs of work	• UNFCCC website • National UNFCCC reports	• Desk review
• Did the ClimaEast pilot-projects' objectives align with the priorities of the local government and local communities in the participating countries?	• Level of coherence between project objective and stated priorities of local stakeholders	• Local stakeholders • Document review of local development strategies, environmental policies, etc.	• Local level field visit interviews • Desk review
• Did the project concept originate from local or national stakeholders, and/or were relevant stakeholders sufficiently involved in project design and development?	• Level of involvement of local and national stakeholders in project origination and development (number of meetings held, project development processes incorporating stakeholder input, etc.)	• Project staff • Local and national stakeholders • Project documents	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
Evaluation Criteria: Effectiveness			
• Are the ClimaEast pilot-project objectives likely to be met? To	• Level of progress toward the pilot-project indicator targets relative to	• Project documents • Project staff	• Field visit interviews

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
what extent are they likely to be met?	expected level at current point of implementation	• Project stakeholders	• Desk review
• Are the ClimaEast global component objectives likely to be met? To what extent are they likely to be met?	• Level of progress toward project global component indicator targets relative to expected level at current point of implementation	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Phone interviews • Desk review
• What are the key factors contributing to project success or underachievement? Can positive key factors be replicated in other cases, or could negative factors have been anticipated and minimized?	• Level of documentation of and preparation for project risks, assumptions and impact drivers	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• How did stakeholder involvement and public awareness contribute to the achievement of project objective and outcomes?	• Stakeholder groups from the project show increasing interest relevant to project objective and activities • Corresponding pilot project indicator values show progress as planned	• Project documents • Interview with the project management and key stakeholders confirmed/otherwise PM reports on stakeholder involvement	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• What are the key risks and barriers that remain to achieve the ClimaEast objectives and reach the expected outcomes?	• Presence, assessment of, and preparation for expected risks, assumptions and impact drivers	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• Are the key assumptions and impact drivers necessary for the achievement of outcomes and impacts likely to be met?	• Actions undertaken to address key assumptions and target impact drivers	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
Evaluation Criteria: Efficiency			
• Was the project cost-effective?	• Quality and adequacy of financial management procedures (in line with Implementing Entity and national policies, legislation, and procedures) • Financial delivery rate vs. expected rate • Management costs as a percentage of	• Project documents • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
	total costs		
• Were expenditures in line with international standards and norms?	• Cost of project inputs and outputs relative to norms and standards for donor projects in the country or region • Cost of project inputs and outputs relative to norms and standards for the subject field in which the project is working	• Project documents • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff
• Was the project implementation approach efficient for delivering the planned project results? Has results-based adaptive project management been applied? Were there any particular challenges with the management process?	• Adequacy of implementation structure and mechanisms for coordination and communication • Planned and actual level of human resources available • Extent and quality of engagement with relevant partners • Effectiveness of adaptive management in resolving implementation issues	• Project documents • National and local stakeholders • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• Did the project Steering Committee provide the anticipated input and support to project management? Did UNDP provide the anticipated input and support to project management?	• Number of meetings of project steering committee • Quality of input from project steering committee – key issues addressed, decisions made in a timely and productive manner, etc. • Responsiveness of UNDP to implementation issues	• Project documents • National and local stakeholders • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• Was the project implementation delayed? If so, did that affect cost-effectiveness?	• Project milestones in time • Planned results affected by delays • Required project adaptive management measures related to delays	• Project documents • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff
• Were project risks identified, tracked and addressed in a timely and adequate manner?	• Risk log tracking – resolution of key risks, or mitigation measures enacted	• Project documents • National and local stakeholders • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• Was the level of communication	• Timely response to implementation	• Project documents	• Desk review

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
between key implementing and executing partners adequate?	issues raised	• National and local stakeholders • Project staff	• Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• Has there been communication between ClimaEast pilot projects? What have been the results of inter-project knowledge sharing?	• Level of direct or indirect communication and interaction between pilot project teams	• Project documents • National and local stakeholders • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• Has the project's partnership approach been effective? Have the partnerships necessary and appropriate to achieve project objectives been established and leveraged?	• Existence of partnerships with key stakeholders (formal or informal)	• Project documents • National and local stakeholders • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• Was monitoring and reporting well designed, and carried out in a timely and useful manner?	• Clarity of monitoring and reporting requirements, procedures, roles and responsibilities • Adequacy of information provided in monitoring and reporting procedures to meet requirements, and support adaptive management • Documentation and integration of key lessons learned	• Project documents • National and local stakeholders • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• What was the contribution of cash and in-kind co-financing to project implementation?	• Level of cash and in-kind co-financing relative to expected level	• Project documents • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff
• To what extent did the project leverage additional resources?	• Amount of resources leveraged relative to project budget	• Project documents • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff
Evaluation Criteria: Results (Leading to Impact)			
• Have the planned outputs been produced? Have they contributed to the project outcomes and objectives?	• Level of project implementation progress relative to expected level at current stage of implementation • Existence of logical linkages between	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
	project outputs and outcomes/impacts		
• Are the anticipated outcomes likely to be achieved? Are the outcomes likely to contribute to the achievement of the project objective?	• Existence of logical linkages between project outcomes and impacts	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• Does the project results framework adequately facilitate tracking impact?	• Quality of impact indicators (SMARTness)	• Project documents • Project staff	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff
• Are impact level results likely to be achieved? Why or why not? (E.g. Intervention timeframe to achieve impact, ecological factors, etc.)	• Impact indicators • Degree of progress through the project's results chain	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• Are there (and what are) secondary impacts achieved by the project, especially as related to local livelihoods	• Existence of secondary impacts	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
• Are there any unexpected results? (positive or negative) What are they? Do they relate to trade-offs in relation to the primary expected results?	• Existence of unexpected results	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Desk review • Interviews with project staff • Interviews with national and local stakeholders
Evaluation Criteria: Sustainability			
• To what extent are the benefits from the project likely to be dependent on continued financial support? What is the likelihood that any required financial resources will be available to sustain the project results once the EU assistance ends?	• Financial requirements for maintenance of project benefits • Level of expected financial resources available to support maintenance of project benefits • Potential for additional financial resources to support maintenance of project benefits	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• Do relevant stakeholders have the necessary technical capacity to ensure that project benefits are	• Level of technical capacity of relevant stakeholders relative to level required to sustain project benefits	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
maintained?			
• To what extent are the project results dependent on socio-political factors? Do relevant stakeholders have or are likely to achieve an adequate level of "ownership" of results, to have the interest in ensuring that project benefits are maintained?	• Existence of socio-political risks to project benefits • Level of initiative and engagement of relevant stakeholders in project activities and results	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• To what extent are the project results dependent on issues relating to institutional frameworks and governance?	• Existence of institutional and governance risks to project benefits	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• Are there any environmental risks that can undermine the future flow of project impacts?	• Existence of environmental risks to project benefits	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• Following project completion, what is likely to be the adaptive capacity of resource users and ecological resources to external shocks or changing conditions? (Including climate change, but also political, social, economic, national, regional, global)	• Level of capacity of resource users to respond to external shocks • Level of ecosystem resilience to external shocks	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
Cross-cutting and UNDP Mainstreaming Issues			
• Did the project take incorporate gender mainstreaming or equality, as relevant?	• Level of appropriate engagement and attention to gender-relevant aspects of the project	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review
• Did the project take into consideration human rights issues, as relevant?	• Level of appropriate engagement and attention to human rights-relevant aspects of the project	• Project documents • Project staff • Project stakeholders	• Field visit interviews • Desk review

5.4. Annex 4: List of Persons Interviewed

5.4.1. Clima East Pilots Project Phone or In-person Meetings

- Ms. Bella Nestarova, Programme Manager – EU policies, European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Unit C/2 - Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East
- Ms. Silvija Kalnins, Clima East Pilots Project Regional Task Manager
- Mr. Maxim Vergeichik, UNDP Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Istanbul Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

5.4.2. Armenia Pastures Pilot Project Evaluation Mission

Name	Title and Organization
Mr. Simon Papyan	First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection, CEPP Board member
Mr. John Barker	Attaché/International Cooperation Officer, CEPP Advisory Board member, EU Delegation to Armenia
Mr. Aram Gabrielyan	National Senior Expert on Carbon Stock Assessment and Monitoring, UNFCCC National Focal Point
Mr. Hunan Ghazaryan	National Expert on Carbon Stock Assessment in Soil
Mr. Vahe Matsakyan	National Expert on Carbon Stock Assessment in Forest
Mr. Levon Mkrtchyan	National Consultant on Mountain Rangeland Management
Mr. Armen Harutyunyan	Deputy Minister of Agriculture, CEPP Board member
Mr. Hambardzum Hambardzumyan	Head of Environment Division, Gegharkunik Regional Administration
Mr. Garik Hakobyan	Head of Tsovak Community Administration
Mr. Harutyun Manukyan	Head of Makenis Community Administration
Mr. Lyova Gevorgyan	Head of Lchavan Community Administration
Mr. Vakhtang Ghrimyan	Deputy Head of Karchaghbyur Community Administration
Mr. Gurgen Tovmasyan	Agriculture Expert at Karchaghbyur Community Administration
Mr. Sasha Melkonyan	Head of Gegharkunik Agriculture Support Regional Center
Mr. Vahagn Dabaghyan	Project Local Monitor in Gegharkunik Marz
Mr. Andranik Ghulijanyan	Representative of Young Foresters Union NGO (UNDP contractor)
Mr. Spandar Grigoryan	Deputy Head of Tsovak Community Administration
Mr. Andranik Ghulijanyan	Representative of Young Foresters Union NGO (UNDP contractor)
Mr. Mkhitar Harutyunyan	Head of Vardenis Section, Sevan National Park SNCO
Mr. Pavel Abovyan	Representative of Verelk NGO (UNDP contractor)
Ms. Taguhi Boyakhchyan	Head of Tsapatagh Community Administration
Mr. Harutyun Azaryan	Head of Pambak Community Administration
Mr. Petros Tozalakyan	Clima East Policy Project National Coordinator
Mr. Aram Ter-Zakaryan	Technical Task Leader, Clima East Pilot Project
Mr. Georgi Arzumanyan	Environmental Governance Programme Policy Adviser, Project Coordinator, UNDP Armenia
Mr. Armen Martirosyan	Environmental Governance Portfolio Analyst, UNDP
Ms. Claire Medina	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

5.4.3. Azerbaijan Pastures Pilot Project Evaluation Mission

Name	Title and Organization	Project Role
John Barker	EU Delegation, Baku	EU oversight, Project Executive Board member

Issa Aliyev	UNFCC Focal Point, Head of Division on Public Awareness, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Chair of Project Executive Board
Emin Garabaghli	Head of International Dept. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Project Executive Board Member
Agami Agayev	Chairman Burovadal Municipality, Ismaylli district	Stakeholder
Farmer A	Summer pasture leaser, Ismaylli District	Stakeholder
Farmer B	Summer pasture leaser, Ismaylli District	Stakeholder
Deputy Governor	Deputy Governor, Ismaylli District	Stakeholders
Oliver Koegler	Head of South Caucasus Mountains Biodiversity Project (Az. Component) GIZ	Partner organization
Elmaddin Nanazov	Erosion Control project (sub-project of South Caucasus Mountains Biodiversity Project) GIZ	Partner organization
Eltekin Omarov	Project Manager, Clima East Pilot Project	Management
Oglay Jafarov	Project Manager, UNDP / GEF SLFM Project	Project "parent" Project
Nato Alhazishvili	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP	Implementing Agency
Jamila Ibrahimova	Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP	Implementing Agency

5.4.4. Belarus Peatlands Pilot Project Evaluation Mission

Name	Title and Organization
Igor Tchoulba	UNDP Programme Specialist
Vladimir Koltunov	Project Manager, Belarus Peatlands Pilot Project
Anna Ivanchyk	Project Administrative and Financial Assistant
Mikhail Maksimenkau	Project Scientific Coordinator
Oleg Borodin	Director-General, Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources (SPCB), National Academy of Sciences
Alexander Pugachevskij	Director of the Institute of Experimental Botany, Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources (SPCB), National Academy of Sciences
Oleg Prischepchik	Senior Researcher, Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources (SPCB), National Academy of Sciences
Nadezhda Leschinskaya	Junior Researcher, Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources (SPCB), National Academy of Sciences
Pavel Prohorchik	Junior Researcher, Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources (SPCB), National Academy of Sciences
Elena Rakova	EU Delegation Representative for Environment
Igor Kachanovskij	Deputy Minister, National Project Director Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Alexander Kozulin	Head of Sector for International Cooperation and Support of Nature Protection Conventions, Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources (SPCB)
Vadim Protasevich	Reserve Director, Sporava National Biological Reserve (Special Protected Area)
Valentin Zavadskij	Enterprise owner, Biomass energy pellet enterprise
Nikolaj Jurashevich	Reserve Director, Zvanec National Landscape Reserve (Special Protected Area)

5.4.5. Georgia Pastures Pilot Project Evaluation Mission

Name	Title and Organization	Project Role
Yimsher Koshade	Deputy, Agriculture and Food, Ministry of agriculture	Project High level Stakeholder consultation group
Irakli Shavgulidve	NACRES (NGO)	Pasture Planning Contractor

		and long term stakeholder in VPAs
Vazha Chervezishvili	Deputy Director VPAs	Main stakeholder
David Murtazashvili	Chair Akhmeda Natural Resource Planning Commission and Chair of Tusheti Shepherds Association	Key stakeholders
Vano Naskidashvili	1st Deputy Govornor Akhmeda Municipality	Key stakeholders
Tamaz Kavtarashvili	Member of Council of Akhmeda Municipality	Key stakeholders
Gela Jugashvili	Chairman Akhmeda Municipality Council	Key stakeholders
Nino Antadze	UNDP CO Georgia Project Focal Point	Implementing agency
Alvero Ortega-Apacio	EU Delegation	Donor oversight
Meaka Inashvili	Regional Coordinator ClimaEast Policy Project	Not clear

5.4.6. MOLDOVA PASTURES PILOT PROJECT EVALUATION MISSION

Name	Title and Organization	Project Role
Mr. Tudor Botnari	Deputy Director of the Forestry Agency "Moldsilva"	Implementing Partner, Member of the Project Board
Mr. Alexandre Darras	Attache-Project manager, EU Delegation	Donor oversight
Ms. Maria Nagornii	CLIMA-EAST Focal Point, Head of Analysis, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation division, Ministry of Environment	Member of the Project Board, Executing agency representative
Ms. Ala Rotaru	CBD Focal Point, Head of Division of Natural Resources and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment	Executing agency representative Stakeholder agency
Mr. Vitalie Grimalschi	Chief of Biodiversity, Protected Areas Unit, Division of Natural Resources and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment	Executing agency representative Stakeholder agency
Mr. Alexandru Postoronca	NGO "Apa Codrilor"	Member of the Project Board
Mr. Dumitru Galupa	Director, Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS)	Stakeholder agency / contractor
Mr. Ion Talmaci	Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS)	Project expert
Mr. Nicolae Talpa	Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS)	Project expert
Ms. Aliona Miron	Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS)	Project expert
Mr. Pavel Covali	Climate Change Resilience Officer CPIU-IFAD Moldova	Project collaborator / beneficiary
Mr. Valeriu Cartin	Mayor of Mascauti	Stakeholder
Mr. Leonid Gorbei	Vice-Mayor of Ivancea	Stakeholder
Mr. Nicolae Buzu	Mayor of Peresecina	Stakeholder
Ms. Vera Caruntu	Mayor of Donici	Stakeholder
Mr. Sergiu Guzun	Cadastre Engineer, Donici	Stakeholder
Mr. Vladimir Popusoi	Deputy Head of Raion Orhei	Stakeholder
Mr. Nicolae Strechii	Director of Forest Enterprise Orhei	Stakeholder
Mr. Petru Dogocher	Head of Mayors' Association from Orhei Region	Stakeholder
Mr. Aurel Lozan	Programme manager FLEG II	Partner project
Mr. Alexandru Rotaru	Project Manager	Project Team
Ms. Olga Driga	Admin. Finance Assistant	Project Team
Ms. Valeria Ieseanu	Portfolio Manager, UNDP Moldova	Implementing agency
Ms. Silvia Pana-Carp,	Programme Analyst, UNDP Moldova	Implementing agency
Ms. Narine Sahakyan	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative	Implementing agency

5.4.7. Russia Northern Peatlands Evaluation Mission

Note: The Mid-term Review of the Russia Northern Peatlands Pilot Project was carried out as a separate exercise by an international consultant, Mr. Stuart Williams. The mid-term review report served as a direct input to the Clima East Pilots Project Mid-term Evaluation. Mr. Williams interviewed the persons listed below while carrying out the mid-term review.

Name	Title and Organization
Irina Bredneva	UNDP Program Specialist
Aleksander Popov	Head of Komi Department of the Nature Protection Agency and National Director of the project
Yuri Lisin	Minister of Natural Resources And Environmental Protection of Komi
Aleksandr Yermakov	Director of the Protected Areas Center
Roman Polshvedkin	First Deputy of Minister of Natural Resources And Environmental Protection of Komi (former Director of the Protected Areas Center)
Ruslan Ulyanov	Head of the Forest Committee of the Republic of Komi
Vladimir Drobakhin	Director of the Komi Regional Forest Fire Centre
Vasily Ponomarev	Project Manager
Olga Makoyeva	Head of institutional component
Andrei Melnichuk	Head of economic component
Ruslan Bolshakov	Manager for peat ecosystem rehabilitation in the Nenetsky Autonomous Region
Svetlana Zagirova	Monitoring expert and Head of the carbon component
Margarita Moiseyeva	Awareness raising and media relations
Andrei Yeshchenko	Helicopter poaching prevention expert
Anastasiya Tentyukova	Project assistant
Dominika Kudriavtseva	Director of Pechora-Illych reserve
Konstantin Satsyuk	Director of the non-commercial partnership Union of Protected Areas of Komi
Kapitolina Bobkova	Chief Academic Advisor of the carbon component
Aleksei Fedorkov	Expert on adaptation to climate change
Oleg Mikhailov	Researcher at Biology Institute - Komi Research Center of the Urals Subsidiary of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Svetlana Degteva	Director of the Biology Institute - Komi Research Center of the Urals Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Olga Konakova	Deputy Minister for Economic Development of Komi Republic
Tamara Dmitrieva	Head of laboratory of Institute for Social- Economic and Energy Issues of the North- Komi Research Center of the Urals Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Sergei Gabov	Head of the Interregional Civic Movement Komi Voityr
Valentina Semyashkina	Member of the Public Pechora Rescue Committee and Civic Movement of Komi Izhem Residents “Izvatas”
Lyubov Chalysheva	Head of Center of Education for Sustainable Development of Komi- Komi State Teacher-Training University
Yuri Pautov	Director of the Komi Regional Non-commercial Fund Silver Taiga
Svetlana Plyusnina	Head of the Ecology and Education Center Snegir
Tatyana Fomicheva	Director of the National Park
Natalya Shalagina	Chief government inspector
Tatyana Pystina	Expert of the UNDP/GEF protected areas project
Olga Kirsanova	Researcher, Pechora-Illych *zapovednik*
Andrei Satsuk	Elk Farm, Pechora-Illych *zapovednik*
Alexei Mosin	Deputy Director for ecological education, Pechora-Illych *zapovednik*
Andrei Zverev	Deputy Director of Pechora-Illych *zapovednik* – Head of Security
Anna Grechanaya	Pechora-Illych *zapovednik*, protection and security department
Sergei Kochanov	Head of laboratory for the ecology of terrestrial vertebrate species (Biology Institute,

	Komi Research Center of the Urals Subsidiary of the Russian Academy of Sciences)
Sergei Uretskiy	Main Ecologist of GazpromTransgas Ukhta
Andrei Sirin	Director of Forestry Institute

5.4.8. Russia Southern Peatlands Evaluation Mission

Name	Title and Organization
Irina Bredneva	UNDP Program Specialist
Evgeny Kuznetsov	Project Manager, Southern Peatlands Pilot Project
Andrei Sirin	Director, Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Sciences
XXXX	Researcher, Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Sciences
Vasily Martynenko	Head of Laboratory , Ufa Institute of Biology, Russian Academy of Sciences
Ildus Yasin	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Nature Management and Ecology of the Republic of Bashkortostan

5.4.9. Ukraine Peatlands Pilot Project Evaluation Mission

Name	Title and Organization
Leonid Sakhnevich	First Deputy Head of Chernihiv Oblast State Administration
Sergiy Kravchenko	Deputy head of analytical division of Executive Office, Chernihiv Oblast State Administration
Kateryna Tkanko	Acting Director of Department of environmental and natural resources, Chernihiv Oblast State Administration
Anatoly Moroz	Head of Yalovschyna regional landscape park, delegate of Chernihiv Oblast Council
Arsen Didur	Chairman of the committee on agriculture, land, environmental and land resources, Chernihiv Oblast Council
Ihor Raikhyl	Deputy Head, Desna Basin Administration for Water Resources
Yuriy Tkachov	Executive director, Cooperative “Chernihiv region environmental”
Oksana Necheporuk	Coordinator on project administrative and land issues in Chernihiv region
Oleh Buzun	Head of Nyzhyn rayon council
Serhiy Batrak	First Deputy head of Nizhyn rayon state administration
Yevhen Kovalenko	Head of analytical department of the executive office Nizhyn rayon council
Iryna Pankevych	Head of administrative and organizational department, Nizhyn rayon council
Vadym Shelest	Head of economic development and trade department, Nizhyn rayon state administration
Oleksandr Pyvovar	Head of the Kukshyn village council
Volodymyr Orel	Head of Grygoro-Ivanivka village council
Oleksandra Teslyk	Head of the Vertiyvka village council
Anatoly Rybka	Head of Kolisnyky village council
Mykola Sandulenko	Head of Stodoly village council
Rimma Oleksenko	Deputy Director of Agricultural Development, Chernihiv Oblast State Administration; project focal point assigned by Chernihiv Oblast State Administration

5.5. ANNEX 5: LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Clima East Pilots Project Overall and Global Component

European Union Contracting Agreement with UNDP, ENPI/2012/303-093, December 4, 2012

Annex 1 to EU-UNDP Contribution Agreement No. ENPI/2012/303-093, Description of Action: "*Clima East: Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Neighbourhood East and Russia (Clima East Pilots)*"

Addendum No. 1 – Annex 1: Description of Action (May 2013)

Addendum No. 1 – Annex 3: Budget (May 2013)

Clima East Pilot Projects Financial Status, March 2015 (project provided)

Clima East Pilots Project Annual Report 2013, 2014

Clima East Pilots Project Quarterly Reports Q3 2013 – Q1 2015

Clima East Pilots Project Inception Report, May 2013

EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, Clima East: Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Russia and eastern Neighbourhood countries (part II), December 14, 2013, Monitoring Reference: MR-146849.07.

EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, Background Document, "Clima East: Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Russia and eastern Neighbourhood countries (part II)", December 14, 2013, ROM ID: C-303093 / MR-146849.07.

UNDP Management Response to 2013 EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report.

Annex 3 – Policy Issues Identified Through the Clima East Pilots Project Implementation

EU ENPI Summary List of Regional projects in the entirety of ENP East countries and Russia relating to climate change mitigation or adaptation

Clima East Pilots Project Regional Task Manager Terms of Reference

Armenia

Project Document

Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014

Quarterly Reports Q1 2014, Q2 2014, Q2 2014

EU Monitoring Report 2013

Project EU Monitoring Report Management Response

Stakeholder Analysis

Project Activities and Results Presentation

Project Board Minutes

Project Advis0ry Board Minutes

2014, 2015 Workplan

External Reference: https://www.facebook.com/climaeastarmenia?fref=nf

Azerbaijan

UNDP /GEF SFLM Project Document
ClimaEast Pilot RRF / Implementation plan
Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014
Quarterly Reports Q1 2014, Q2 2014, Q2 2014
EU Monitoring Report 2013 (December 14, 2013)
Project EU Monitoring Report Management Response
Project Activities and Results Presentation
Pasture Inventory Report
From ClimaEast Website (http://www.climaeast.eu/clima-east-activities/pilot-projects/pilot-project-in-azerbaijan):
- Erosion-Protection measures and further planning report
- Concept for Pasture Inventory and for carbon inventory and monitoring in Ismayilli (July 2014)
- Data Sheet I (English): Questionnaire for assessing pasture management of Summer pastures

Belarus
Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014
Belarus Clima East EU Donor Reporting Annual Report 2013, 2014
Belarus Clima East EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, December 12, 2013
Belarus Clima East EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, Background, December 12, 2013
Annual Work Program 2014, 2015
UNDP Belarus Monitoring Mission Back to Office Report, November 2014
Combined Delivery Report (financial report), as of January 28, 2015
Belarus Clima East Pilot Project Inception Report, May 2014
Presentation: “Редкие и находящиеся под угрозой исчезновения дикие животные заказника «Званец» и пути их сохранения”, December 2014
Presentation: “Опыт управления низинными болотами Званец и Споровское: проведение контролируемого выжигания сухой растительности” March 2015
Belarus Clima East Pilot Project Document
Belarus Clima East Project Steering Committee Minutes, December 5, 2014
Belarus Clima East Project Steering Committee Minutes, February, 2015
Quarterly Progress Reports, Q1 2014 – Q4 2014
Belarus Clima East Issues Log, 2nd half 2014
Belarus Clima East Lessons Log, 2nd half 2014
Belarus Clima East Risk Log, 2nd half 2014
European Union, European Neighborhood and Partnership and Instrument, Belarus, Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and National Indicative Programme 2007-2013.

Georgia

Project Document (x 2)
Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014
Quarterly Reports Q1 2014, Q2 2014, Q2 2014
EU Monitoring Report 2013 (December 14, 2013)
Project EU Monitoring Report Management Response
Protect technical reports (Pasture assessment, Socio-economic Assessment)
TORs for key contracts and consultancies

Moldova

Project Document
Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014
Quarterly Reports Q1 2014, Q2 2014, Q3 2014
EU Monitoring Report 2013 (December 14, 2013)
Project EU Monitoring Report Management Response
Stakeholder Analysis
Project Activities and Results Presentation

Russia Northern Peatlands

Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014
Quarterly Progress Report, Q3 2013 – Q1 2015
Mid-term Review Report, September 2014
Work Plans 2013, 2014, 2015
Various project publications and brochures
English Summary, Technical Report "Analyzing current and potential threats to permafrost ecosystems." The final report, Syktyvkar, 2014. 76 pp.
Project Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2013
Project Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2014
Project Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, March 10, 2015
Terminal Evaluation, "Strengthening Protected Area System of the Komi Republic to Conserve Virgin Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora Headwaters Region", November 2014
Russia Clima East EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, December 12, 2013
Russia Clima East EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, Background, December 12, 2013
UNDP Management Response to EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, January 2014
European Union, Russian Federation, Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013.

Russia Southern Peatlands
Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014
Quarterly Progress Reports, Q1 2014 – Q1 2015
Russia Southern Peatlands Clima East Pilot Project Document
Project Presentation on Activities and Results, April 2015
Project Stakeholder Analysis
UNDP Management Response to EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, January 2014
S. E. Vompersky, A. A. Sirin, A. A. Sal'nikov, O. P. Tsyganova, and N. A. Valyaeva, "Estimation of Forest Cover Extent over Peatlands and Paludified Shallow-Peat Lands in Russia", *Contemporary Problems of Ecology*, 2011, Vol. 4, No. 7, pp. 734–741.
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Wetlands International, "News: Peat restoration – the key solution for large peat-fires in Russia," August 25, 2014.

Ukraine
Ukraine Clima East Peatlands Pilot Project Document
Annual Workplan 2014, 2015
Annual Progress Report 2013, 2014
Quarterly Progress Reports, Q1 2014 – Q4 2014
Project Budget
Project Combined Delivery Report (Financial Report), 2013, 2014
List of official project meetings since 2013
European Union, European Neighborhood and Partnership and Instrument, Ukraine, Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013.
Ukraine Clima East Pilot Project Inception Report, September 2013.
Project Memo: Assignment of the Project Manager for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Peatlands Project, March 18, 2014.
Project Brochure
Ukraine Clima East Peatlands Pilot Project Board Meeting Minutes, December 2013
Ukraine Clima East Peatlands Pilot Project Board Meeting Minutes, January 2015
Ukraine Clima East EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, December 12, 2013
Ukraine Clima East EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, Background, December 12, 2013
UNDP Ukraine Management Response to EU Results Oriented Monitoring Report, January 2014

General
Buchholz, Thomas and John Gunn, 2015. "Carbon Emission Estimates for Drax biomass powerplants in the UK sourcing from Enviva Pellet Mills in U.S. Southeastern Hardwoods using the BEAC model," Spatial Informatics Group LLC, prepared for Southern Environmental Law Center, May 27, 2015.

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Partnership for Policy Integrity, 2013. "Carbon Emissions from burning biomass for energy: Is biomass 'Worse than coal'? Yes, if you're interested in reducing carbon dioxide emissions anytime in the next 40 years." Online at http://www.pfpi.net/carbon-emissions, as accessed June 26, 2015.

Warrick, Joby, 2015. "How Europe's Climate Policies Led to More U.S. Trees Being Cut Down," *The Washington Post*, June 2, 2015.

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5.6. Annex 6: Assessment of Mainstreaming of UNDP Programming Principles

UNDAF / CPAP / CPD	The pilot projects individually align with the UNDAF, CPAPs and CPDs for the respective countries. This is further highlighted in the relevance section of the individual pilot project reports in Volume 2 of this evaluation report.
Poverty-Environment Nexus / Sustainable Livelihoods	The Clima East Pilots Project is directly working on issues that fall within the poverty-environment nexus, through the various activities addressing land use and rural development in relation to climate change and other environmental issues. For example, the project in Armenia is working with rural communities to plant orchards, which have both climate mitigation benefits and rural development benefits. All of the pastures projects are working with the local communities to support sustainable livelihoods. One strong example is in the Ukraine project, which has established a farmer cooperative for milk production, to take advantage of improved fodder resources expected to be available as a result of peatland restoration.
Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation	The project specifically targets and addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Crisis Prevention and Recovery	The project is not directly relevant to this issue.
Gender Equality / Mainstreaming	The Clima East Pilots Project appears to have done an adequate job of gender mainstreaming. The various pilot projects have women in key scientific and socio-economic roles, and are engaging women in the targeted communities in addition to men.
Capacity Development	The Clima East Pilots Project is building capacity on various aspects. Capacity development has various forms, but direct specific trainings on a variety of issues have been carried out by many of the pilot projects. For example, in Ukraine, the project team and relevant stakeholders completed a study tour to Belarus to learn about peatland restoration. The project has also carried out trainings for farmers on farm cooperative management and operation.
Rights Aspects, Including Human Rights	Land tenure is a key issue in many of the pilot projects, and the projects are working in a concerted manner to address key issues such as potential conflict over land tenure and land-use rights. Perhaps the most notable example is in Georgia, where traditional pastoralists have historically used summer pastures that have been incorporated into a protected area. The project is working with all involved parties to ensure sustainable use of resources while ensuring the maintenance of nature conservation priorities.

5.7. ANNEX 7: TIMELINE AND STATUS OF CLIMA EAST PILOT PROJECTS

In terms of timing and progress, the Clima East Pilot projects fall into one of four groups, as shown in Table 13 below:

Table 13 Clima East Pilot Project Timing and Progress Status

Category	Countries	Summary Explanation
Projects that initiated activities on-time and are expected to finish as planned by December 2016	Moldova, Ukraine	Moldova: Timely start; project activities expected to be completed as scheduled by December 2016 Ukraine: Timely start; slower than planned implementation (disbursement at 31.3%) but activities expected to be completed as scheduled by December 2016
Projects that initiated activities on-time, but which would benefit from a no-cost extension beyond the originally planned implementation time	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	Armenia: Timely start; slower than planned implementation (disbursement at 17.6%), and results likely to benefit from 12 month no-cost extension for opportunity of one additional field season Azerbaijan: Timely start; slower than planned implementation (disbursement at 36.0%), and results likely to benefit from 12 month no-cost extension for opportunity of one additional field season Georgia: Timely start (disbursement at 44.1%); results likely to benefit from 12 month no-cost extension for opportunity of one additional field season
Projects for which implementation start was delayed, and therefore require a no-cost extension beyond December 2016 to complete the originally scheduled activities	Russia Northern, Russia Southern	Russia Northern: Implementation start delayed 6 months due to national government approvals (disbursement at 36.0%); completion of originally scheduled activities requires 12 month no-cost extension for opportunity of one additional field season Russia Southern: Implementation start delayed significantly (12+ months) due to national government approvals, and slower than planned implementation (disbursement at 11.4%%); completion of originally scheduled activities requires 12 month no-cost extension for opportunity of one additional field season
Projects for which implementation start was delayed, and therefore require a no-cost extension beyond December 2016, but for which originally scheduled activities would extend beyond December 2017	Belarus	Belarus: Significantly delayed implementation start due to national government approvals (12+ months) (disbursement at 7.6%); completion of originally scheduled activities requires 12 month no-cost extension for opportunity of one additional field season; due to start-up delay, originally scheduled activities would extend into 2018

5.8. Annex 8: Clima East Results Progress for Key Results Indicators and Other Planned Results

Green	= Achieved or likely to be achieved by end of project
Yellow	= Achievement uncertain by end of project
Red	= Achievement unlikely by end of project

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
Component 1: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change, while contributing to the overall mitigation and adaptation effort					
1.1. Belarus peatlands	Shrub, tree and reed harvesting at natural fen peatlands in the border area with Ukraine	1. 3,500 ha of peatlands reduced of overgrowth with shrub/reed/trees 2. 2,500 tons of dry biomass harvested from peatland used per year	*1. The project was slow to start, and required significant procurement, and as such on-the-ground activities have so far been limited. The project has procured a tractor to be used by the administration of the Sporovsky Reserve. There are no major unforeseen risks or challenges to reducing overgrowth in the planned area. The project has tested controlled burning in the Zvanets reserve to reduce overgrowth, and thus has technically covered the hectares target through the testing of the controlled burn. (It had been anticipated that biomass would be harvested from an area of 500 ha x 5 years for a total of 3,500 ha.)* *2. The initial biomass harvesting has not yet started. It is expected that due to financial requirements, biomass harvesting will focus more on woody shrubs and trees than on reeds and grasses. The amount of biomass harvested will need to be monitored to assess progress toward this target. The biomass has not been harvested in the first full year of the project (due to the need to complete procurement first), thus the total biomass harvested during the life of the project may be*	a. Positive ecological effects (e.g. safe breeding habitat of threatened species, maintained ecosystem functions of the peatland such as spring flood control and nutrient recycling) at Zvanets and Sporovo fen peatlands and around them b. Heat value of biomass equivalent to 15,000 GJ/a c. Set-up of producer-user structure for harvesting, processing and use of biomass d. Increased stability of the population of the globally threatened species (Aquatic Warbler)	*a. This impact-level result would be a result of the outcomes to be achieved under indicator 1 and 2, and is dependent on their achievement.* *b. This impact-level result would be a result of the outcomes to be achieved under indicator 1 and 2, and is dependent on their achievement.* *c. The project has supported the establishment of a business partnership between Sporovsky Reserve and the local biomass pellet producer. The viability and sustainability of this arrangement remains to be seen once business operations begin, but prospects are cautiously optimistic.* *d. This impact-level result would be a*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
			less than planned, but if the operation is sustainable, there are no major limitations to the ongoing harvest of biomass annually. Achievement of both target 1 and 2 may not be feasible before the initially scheduled completion of the project in mid-2017.		*result of the outcomes to be achieved under indicator 1 and 2, and is dependent on their achievement.*
1.2. Russia peatlands	Steppe peatland restoration, protection and sustainable management in European South Russia	1. 200 ha steppe peatlands rehabilitated 2. 4,000 ha of steppe peatlands improved in their prot ection status	*1. The project has identified a site in Bashkortostan for restoration that is 267 ha (Berkazhan peatland, in Asylkul Nature Park), and it is agreed with local resource users; however there are potential bureaucratic issues to actually undertaking restoration, in terms of whether it will be required to have an EIA, which would significantly delay the restoration activity and increase the cost.* *2. The target is broken down as 500 ha of new PAs, and improved management of 3,500 ha of peatlands in existing PAs. Based on the initial inventory of 74 sites (approximately 1/3rd of the total anticipated sites) the project has proposed 9 peatland sites in Bashkortostan for inclusion in PAs, with a total area of approximately 1,000 ha. It is anticipated that the Republic of Bashkortostan government will revise its system of protected areas in 2016, and these sites will be included. However, the project is also considering making a proposal for regional legislation that would mandate that peatlands are a type of ecosystem that must remain in their natural state – effectively conserving all peatlands in the Republic of Bashkortostan, whether or not they are formally included in a designated protected area. The project also*	a. GIS database and up-dated inventory on the state of steppe peatlands in Southern Russia b. Integration of sustainable peatland management principles, following IPCC, Wetlands International methodologies, into land-use plans of two subjects of the Russian Federation Voronezh Region and Republic of Bashkorkostan) c. Strengthening of existing (tentatively ca. 3,500 ha) and/or creation of new protected areas (tentatively ca. 500 ha)	*a. A field inventory is being carried out in the Republic of Bashkortostan, which is one of 14 Russian federal entities that contain forest steppe peatlands. In 2014 the field inventory covered 74 sites, an estimated 1/3rd of the total. The field inventory will continue in 2015, with increasingly detailed data collection. A desk-based review inventory is foreseen for the other 13 federal entities that contain forest steppe peatlands, however this activities has been slow to get going, with the TORs drafted in Q2 2015 for contracting the experts to carry out this work in each of the 13 entities.* *b. The project has limited specific activities carried out or planned for this*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
			anticipates supporting training for staff of already-designated PAs that include peatlands on how to better manage the peatlands, and carry out activities such as firefighting in peatlands.		*result. Municipalities are responsible for local-level spatial planning. It is anticipated that if the project produces good quality peatland inventory data, that this will be taken into account in spatial planning, however linkages are not yet established for sharing this data with spatial planners. It is also expected that spatial planners will have to take PAs into consideration. If the project succeeds in proposing and passing republic-level legislation to protect the status of all peatlands in Bashkortostan, then the specific spatial planning target will have reduced importance.* c. *See indicator 2.*
1.3. Ukraine peatlands	Hydrological restoration and sustainable management of agricultural peatlands in border area with Belarus	1. 3,000 ha of degraded former agricultural peatlands restored 2. 16,000 ha of peatlands improved in their protection status	*1. The area ultimately identified and agreed for restoration encompasses approximately 2,800 ha. There are some risks in the contracting process for an entity to carry out the restoration work (limited availability of quality contractors) but the targeted timeframe is for the restoration work to be done in winter 2015-2016, in which case the benefits would begin to*	a. Biomass harvested at 300 ha, producing 300 tons of dry biomass/a per year (equivalent to 5,250 GJ per year) b. At one cooperative of land users demonstration of a mechanism for restoration and sustainable management	*a. The local cooperative has been established, which is going to operate the pellet operation. A site has been identified for the location and operation of the pellet production, including storage of waste*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
			be seen in spring-summer 2016. *2. The exact boundaries of the proposed Regional Landscape Park have not been clearly identified, but the area generally agreed by stakeholders is approximately 9,500-10,000 ha. This is somewhat short of the target value. The rationale for the target value is not clear, though appears to be based on the fact that the areas to be included in the RLP consist of three smaller zakazniks (botanical reserves). There are some potential bureaucratic hurdles at the regional level to the full establishment of the RLP (e.g. recent request by authorities to produce a detailed map of the proposed RLP with exact boundaries indicated), but the concept appears to have general support among stakeholders. While the RLP may be established before the end of the project, it is not likely that the RLP will have established management plans and administration by the end of the project.*	of degraded peatlands	*wood for inputs. The exact area to be used for biomass harvest is not clear, as it appears the cooperative will mainly get inputs of waste wood from nearby sawmills.* b. *The cooperative has been established, involving three villages. The cooperative appears to be well on-track for operationalization, and measures have been considered to support sustainability.*
Component 2: Protection and restoration of forest and peatland permafrost carbon pools in Komi Republic and Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug					
2.1. Strengthening protection of forests and permafrost ecosystems	Strengthening of existing and creation of new protected areas	1. 20,000 ha of new regional protected area created in the Chernorechenskaya area 2. Strengthened protected area management capacities of the largest existing forest-and-permafrost protected area Yugyd Va National park (1.9 million	*1. The project has carried out socio-economic and biodiversity assessments in the area of the proposed protected area. Additional biodiversity surveys are to be completed in 2015. According to the independent mid-term evaluation of this pilot project, establishing the Chernorechenskaya protected area has been included in to the strategic plan of protected area system development for the Komi Republic to 2030, as of May 27, 2014. The project team indicates that the protected should be established in 2016, but much work remains for this*	a. Establishment of a protected area ensures that at 20,000 ha permafrost melt is 5-times slower as it would have been without protection. The new protected area will be equipped with skilled staff, equipment and infrastructure necessary to maintain the optimal ecological regime at this area. b. At the existing protected area (Yugyd Va),	*a. See information under previous indicator 1. Achieving the establishment of a protected area management body with staff, equipment and infrastructure for this protected area will be a challenge before the end of the project, but is still possible.*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
		ha).	*to happen.*	strengthened capacities will translate into more effective prevention and control over illegal fire and logging activities, more efficient patrolling units, integration of climate aspects in management plan, community engagement in forest fire prevention, and better environmental monitoring capacities.	
			2. The project has procured equipment for Yugyd Va National Park, completed management and business planning, and conducted training. The pilot project also provided information and support to specifically develop the management plan for Yugyd Va for the permafrost (northern) areas of the park. Description of the possible impact of climate change on the status of protected areas of the Komi Republic located in the permafrost zone, and the Yugyd Va National Park prepared. Proposals on measures to lessen impact submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic, and will be used by the Protected Areas Centre and the Yugyd Va National Park.		*b. The outcome and impact results to be achieved from strengthened capacities, such as improved fire management, will take some time. Equipment and infrastructure for and performance of fire monitoring and fire prevention has been purchased and is being used by the Yugyd Va National Park. Work is under way to develop a peatland classification and to map and classify the peat bogs on permafrost.*
2.2. Piloting restoration of peat permafrost ecosystems	Hydrological restoration, assisted re-vegetation	1. 180 ha of abandoned permafrost peatland ecosystem restored 2. 60 ha of permafrost peatland under ongoing industrial exploitation – agreements reached with companies on biodiversity and climate-friendly restoration after completion of their activity, in order to	*1. Environment rehabilitation design and documentation for the Shapkina, Kumzha and Upper Kolva sites prepared. Preliminary (provisional) methodological recommendations were prepared in May 2014 and implemented for the basic evaluation of model sites, which will be updated after actual testing on model sites. A roundtable on environmental restoration in the Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug was held on 17 October 2014 in the context of the EcoPechora 2014 international research and practice conference which included a review of the existing environmental restoration experience in the Arctic.*	a. Re-installed peatland permafrost ecosystem functions (permafrost protection, water-flow and micro-climate regulation) at 180 ha targeted by restoration activities. b. The agreements with companies at 60 ha will help to prevent the otherwise highly probable risk of permafrost degradation and loss of its ecosystem functions, which would ultimately lead to speeding up of permafrost melt.	a. *The site for the rewetting and restoration (the Berkazhan-Kamish peatland – an area of approximately 600 ha) has been selected. Restoration will only commence in 2015, leaving little time to monitor the success (or otherwise) of the restoration work. This site is three times the size of the targeted area, but, as with the permafrost project, the restoration work*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
		avoid permafrost melt		c. Internationally important innovation/experimenting with permafrost ecosystem piloted resulting in advanced knowledge of possibilities and technologies to slow down permafrost melt, e.g. through restoration and conservation of the upper soil and vegetation layer of permafrost peatlands d. High national and international visibility	*will have to commence as soon as possible if this will yield meaningful results from the monitoring that will be necessary to determine the success (or otherwise).* *b. No information available.* *c. The project is making progress toward innovation and experimenting with permafrost ecosystems, but results first need to be achieved before they can be documented and disseminated at the national and international level.* *d. See point c. above.*
			2. No information available regarding potential agreement with companies industrially exploiting peatlands.		
2.3. Monitoring and research	Exchanges between leading permafrost scientists, publication of results	1. 1 method for restoring permafrost ecosystem demonstrated resulting in slowing down of permafrost thaw 2. 3 articles in leading international journals on the subject of permafrost ecosystems relationship with climate change	*1. Annual temperature trends at various permafrost and seasonal thaw depths identified in the project areas in the Inta district. According to the observation results, submontane peatlands turned out to be "warmer" than plain peatlands. Swampy hollows are the main sources of methane and carbon dioxided emissions. A digital vegetation map (30 m in one pixel) is being prepared using LandSat images (Inta district), to be used subsequently for preparing a map of organic carbon stock. The contractor drilled two 10 m deep wells in the Usinsk district (the Kolva river basin), on a virgin peatbog*	a. Data delivered to IPCC for incorporation into the Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories b. Linkage with other leading research and applied research initiatives.	*a. Steps to provide data to external parties and experts not yet taken.* b. *See above.*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
			and on a human-damaged peatbog, to carry out long-term temperature monitoring with a view to estimating human-induced technical impact. Thermistor chains made from HoboU-12 loggers installed. Preparations completed for the field trip to do monitoring of the snow cover on the test sites in the Vorkuta and Inta districts. Data obtained on the seasonal movement of permafrost temperature and emission flows on the Chernorechensky site. Data on the diversity of plant communities and soils, and on the phytomass of large hummock peatlands and wooded areas near the Chernorechensky site collected. The project also analyzed data on peatland temperatures and GHG emissions, including data from the 2014 field season. Analysis of the chemical composition for carbon content in the plants and soil is underway, including radiochemical analysis of peat samples to determine the carbon stocks in the ecosystems of cryolithic zone peatlands.		
			2. *No academic publications yet produced. Articles for publication in the magazines "Kriosphera Zemli" (Earth Cryosphere), "Sibirski Ekologicheski Zhurnal" (Contemporary Problems of Ecology) and "Teoreticheskaya e prikladnaya ekologia" (Journal of Theoretical and Applied Ecology) prepared and submitted.*		
Component 3: Sustainable management of pastures in the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities					
3.1. Armenia pastures	Restoration of pastures and forests, and	1. 2,000 ha of degraded pastures restored and 60 ha	*1. The project, despite a late launch and some implementation delays, is on track to achieve the indicators. At the time of the*	a. New set of policies and standards on sustainable pasture management	*a. This is expected to be achieved by end 2015/early 2016 as part of*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
	putting them under sustainable management in Gegharkunik region	of degraded forests restored	*evaluation (April 2015) actual forestry activities were ongoing and including community forestry and windbreak planting in two communities and two sites managed by Sevan NP (total 33.2 ha.). Community authority owned and managed forestry is a new innovation in Armenia. In addition natural oak forest restoration activities were ongoing on at 2 sites (25.8 ha.) managed by Sevan NP. Pasture Rehabilitation Concept Design in target communities for 2,000 ha of pilots was already developed and comprehensive pasture management plans are aimed to be finalized and approved by community councils by end of 2015 – beginning of 2016. This only leaves one season to test. Sustainability of both pasture and forestry activities is considered at this stage moderately likely. However, they will only have possibility to test for one season.*	approved at the local level (by local authorities in the target districts) b. Increased quality of fodder production at target sites resulting in higher productivity and higher income from cattle products for local population c. Reduced grazing pressure on degraded areas	*the comprehensive pasture plan approval by community councils.* *b. This impact level result is considered moderately likely – with renewed use of summer pasture the overall productivity of all pastures should improve.* *b. This impact level result is expected as renewed access to summer pasture will allow reduced year round pressure on pastures closer to settlements.*
3.2. Azerbaijan pastures	Restoration and sustainable management of pastures in Ismayilli and Shamakhi regions	1. 3,000 ha of degraded pastures restored	*1. The project, as a sub-component of the larger GEF / UNDP SFLM project, officially started in March 2013 but did not complete its inception phase until August when PM was recruited. Indicator has had to be adjusted from 3000 ha to 2446 ha Shamakhi region was removed (very little summer pasture).* *The project has efficiently achieved its planned activities including inventory works, carbon assessment, and some initial pasture restoration activities, including fencing and planting of identified erosion hotspots (approx. 5 ha to date and 20 ha. planned in*	a. Increased quality of fodder production at target sites resulting in higher productivity and higher income from cattle products for local population b. Reduced grazing pressure on degraded areas	*a. This impact level result is currently considered unlikely as it depends on the successful adoption and application of summer pasture leaseholders of pasture management recommendations that would be socio-economically very difficult in the short term.* *b. Ditto above*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
			total). The main approach intended to restore the 2446 ha of pasture relate to the development and application of pasture management plans by 15 summer pasture leaseholders. At the time of the mid-term evaluation the likelihood of achieving this indicator was considered unlikely unless greater efforts are made to involve leaseholders in PMP development and adequate socio-economic incentives are put place.	c. Advanced knowledge on the carbon storage and carbon flow capacities of the Azerbaijani grasslands (before and after restoration)	*c. This impact level result should be achieved (though if restoration of pasture is unsuccessful it will be only partially achieved). The project has undertaken for the first time baseline carbon storage capacity assessments for Azerbaijan summer pastures (using IPCC 2006 tier 2 methodologies) and trained 15 national specialists on relevant issues.*
3.3. Georgia pastures	Restoration and sustainable management of pastures in a close vicinity of the Vashlovani protected areas	1. 4, 064 ha of degraded pastures restored 2. Methods for migratory route rehabilitation applied in 300 ha area	*1. The project faced some initial delays and difficulties due to issues with project design but also a very complex legal and jurisdiction situation in the target pasture areas, plus very dry year in 2014. The means by which restoration of the 4,064 ha will be achieved is the application of pasture management plan by VNP and leasers. This plan will be ready by June/July and tested in winter season 2015/16. There is strong commitment from all sides to changing the situation and the likely sustainability is considered moderate. There would be major benefits in being able to support a 2nd season application of the PMP* *2. This result is already partially achieved as water supply infrastructure now provides supplies to 8 shepherd units (flocks previously had to travel 16km every 2 or 3 days to a water supply). A further co-financed water infrastructure initiative should achieve the result fully by supplying a further 6 farms. Likely sustainability of this*	a. Improved status of protected areas (35,053 ha) b. A model of involvement of local communities in protected area management	*a. This impact level result is already being felt in the NP as a result of increased commitment and understanding of different parties re. VNP pasture use. If the PMP can be successfully applied it will greatly impact sustainability of both livelihoods and conservation (and maintain carbon stored in grasslands)* *b. This impact level result is already being achieved. The project is helping APA to approach the issue of traditional use zone management in a new way that acknowledges the land users as crucial partners in the NPs*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
			activity is considered moderately likely as it is in both the VNP and shepherds interests to maintain and they show readiness to self-fund.	c. Sustainable livelihood opportunities explored for local people (wool production, milk products).	*management. This has significant ramifications across the national protected areas system.* *c. This aspect of the project has not as yet been implemented.*
Component 4: Sustainable management of pastures and community forests in Moldova's first National Park Orhei to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities					
4.1. Moldova pastures	Restoration of pastures and community forests within the territory of the Orhei National Park	1. 500 ha of pasture land restored 2. 150 ha of degraded lands afforested	*1. Project will restore 28 ha less than target as only 470 ha was allocated by LPAs – of this planting is complete on 291 ha and remaining planned to be completed in 2015. Restoration works delayed due to poor weather conditions in autumn and spring 2014. 10 out of 12 LPAs carried out works so far.* *2. Planting initiated in spring 2014. Some planting delayed due to poor weather in autumn 2014. By 1st May 2015 a total of 158.88 ha was completed.*	a. Development of pasture management plans and community forest plans for 18 communities (5,890.92 ha) and 1,392 ha, respectively in a participatory manner b. Improved management of pastures and community forests to reduce pressures from grazing and unsustainable use c. A robust system for monitoring of the carbon dividends and ecological integrity of pastures and forest ecosystem in place to ensure ability of park administration to respond to trends of pressures on natural resources in the area	*a. 18 community pasture use plans covering 5890 ha developed, discussed and adopted by LPAs. Same LPAs have adopted community forest management plans covering territory of 1,392 ha.* *b. This impact level result should result from building capacity of LPA's both through training and establishment of inter – communal management structure/s. This is planned and considered moderately likely to be successful.* *c. Computer data base system established, baseline data for afforestation and pasture sites collected and entered*

Pilot Project	Activity	Indicator	MTE Assessment	Other measures/effects	MTE Assessment
Global component on technical knowledge generation and sharing, evaluation and awareness raising					
G.1. Technical knowledge	Promotion of technical exchanges among pilots	1. Technical knowledge generated on pilots-level shared regularly. 2. Technical experience from carbon measurements and monitoring in pilots gathered and scientific review prepared	*1. There have been at least two study tours completed by pilot projects, and one multi-pilot project regional meeting in 2014. In 2015 at least two additional multi-pilot project meetings are being organized to share and exchange information. This evaluation recommends that a quarterly intra-pilot project update be introduced. This indicator could be more specific, and have a more concrete target.*	a. By end of project, technical knowledge in region on carbon potential in protected areas of peatlands and pastures/forests increased. b. Cooperation among researchers in region facilitated.	*a. The pilot projects will undoubtedly increase technical knowledge in the region on these issues. This expected result would be improved with a more concrete target.*
			2. The pilot projects are implementing a variety of carbon measurement and monitoring techniques and gathering a wide range of data. Consolidating and analyzing this data, and publishing it, are additional steps. Some analysis has been conducted by a few of the projects already, but much data is still being collected. Thus it is likely that only at the end of the project will this be published in scientific reviews. It would be helpful if this indicator were more specific and had a more concrete target in order to assess success at the end of the project.		*b. Substantial cooperation between researchers from different countries is as yet limited, and it is not clear that this will be achieved in a concrete manner. There is some information sharing between researchers, but this could still be taken further.*
G.2. Eco-system based approach to climate issues	Knowledge and awareness of eco-system based approach to climate issues raised	1. Experiences in eco-system based approach to climate change shared at regional level through: - at least 4 sub-regional and regional workshops; - study tours among countries in the region (at least 3) - common scientific reviews - through the Clima East Project website	*1. There has already been some progress on these points:* *- one sub-regional workshop held in 2014, one more planned in 2015, and one full regional workshop planned for 2015.* *- Completed: Study tour between Belarus-Ukraine, and between [Armenia? Azerbaijan?] to Germany* *- Unclear exactly what is expected, but as yet there have not been activities that would be considered "common scientific reviews"* *- Some information provided on the website thus far, but additional data and updating required.*	a. Knowledge and awareness of linkages between biodiversity and climate change increase in the region	*a. The pilot projects will undoubtedly contribute to increased knowledge and awareness of the linkages between biodiversity and climate change in the region.*

5.9. Annex 9: Draft Proposed Clima East Pilots Project Overall Results Framework Indicators, and Identified Outcomes and Impacts for Key Results Areas to Strengthen the Clima East Results-based Approach

Note: The two tables in this annex are provided as a potential initial draft basis for strengthening the results-based approach and results reporting of the Clima East Pilots Project. Further consultation with the individual pilot projects is required to further develop, finalize, and operationalize these tables, if such an approach were accepted by the Clima East Pilots Project.

5.9.1. Draft Proposed Clima East Pilots Project Overall Results Framework Indicators and Targets

Results Area	Indicator	Target	Status
Climate Change Mitigation	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided over 20 year period after project completion	**Total:** 3.40 million tons over 20 year period after project completion Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
	CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring	**Total:** [XX] ha of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle measurements may be estimated Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: [80,000] ha Ukraine:	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
Climate Change Adaptation	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: 7,000 ha Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: 200 ha Ukraine: 3,000 ha	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
	CCA 2: Number of	**Total:**	**Total:**

Results Area	Indicator	Target	Status
	people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts	Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:	Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
Biodiversity Conservation	BD 1: Number of ha of key ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: 3,500 ha Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine: 3,000 ha	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
	BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: 1 Red List species (Aquatic warbler) Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
	BD 3: Number of ha of protected areas established	**Total:** Armenia: N/A Azerbaijan: N/A Belarus: N/A Georgia: N/A Moldova: N/A Russia Northern: 20,000 ha (1 PA) Russia Southern: 500 ha (number of PAs not specified) Ukraine: 16,000 ha (1 PA)	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: 20,000 ha proposed (1 PA) Russia Southern: 1,000 ha proposed (9 PAs) Ukraine: 10,000 ha proposed (1 PA)
	BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management	**Total:** Armenia: 24,800 ha (1 PA - land area of Lake Sevan National Park) Azerbaijan: N/A Belarus: 33,000 ha (2 PAs – Zvanec and Sporovo Special Protected Areas) Georgia: 35,053 ha (5 PAs –	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern:

Results Area	Indicator	Target	Status
		Vashlovani Strict Nature Reserve and National Park, and associated natural monuments) Moldova: 33,792 ha (1 PA – Orhei National Park) Russia Northern: 1,900,000 (1 PA – Yugyd Va National Park) Russia Southern: 3,500 ha (various PAs in Republic of Bashkortostan that include peatland ecosystems) Ukraine: N/A	Ukraine:
Sustainable Land Management	SLM 1: Number of ha of rangeland / pasture with improved management	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: 7,282.92 ha (18 communities – 5,890.92 ha pasture management, 1,392 ha community forest management) Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
	SLM 2: Number of ha of land with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
Rural Development	RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit)	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
	RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: 15 summer pasture leaseholders Belarus:	**Total:** Armenia: Azerbaijan: Belarus: Georgia:

Results Area	Indicator	Target	Status
		Georgia: Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:	Moldova: Russia Northern: Russia Southern: Ukraine:
All – General	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services	**Total:** 17,014 ha Armenia: 2,060 ha (2,000 ha pastures, 60 ha forests) Azerbaijan: 3,000 ha Belarus: 3,500 ha Georgia: 4,364 ha (4,064 ha pasture restored, 300 ha migratory route rehabilitation) Moldova: 650 ha (500 ha pasture, 150 ha forest) Russia Northern: 240 ha (180 ha abandoned, 60 ha exploited) Russia Southern: 200 ha Ukraine: 3,000 ha	**Total:** 7,223 ha completed, additional 16,476 ha planned Armenia: 2,000 ha pasture planned, 59 ha forest ongoing Azerbaijan: 2,446 ha pasture expected, 5 ha pasture completed, 20 ha planned Belarus: 7,000 ha already achieved through demonstration of controlled burning, another 3,500 ha expected through biomass clearing Georgia: 4,364 ha planned Moldova: 470 ha pasture planned, 158.9 ha forest completed Russia Northern: 600 ha planned Russia Southern: 267 ha planned Ukraine: 2,800 ha planned

5.9.2. Draft Mid-term Evaluation Proposed Identified Outcomes and Impacts by Results Area for Each Pilot Project

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
Armenia	Climate Change Mitigation	Net GHG negative pasture management approaches implemented National framework for carbon stock inventory and monitoring established and piloted allowing hard data on impacts of different land use Methodology for carbon accounting put in place and implemented in pilot areas Carbon monitoring programme designed and approved by national authorities	An increase in carbon storage in soil (SOC) as a result of the grassland rehabilitation is assessed as 14,250 tCO_2. An increase in carbon storage in vegetation (CVEG) achieved will amount 9,200 tCO_2, (considering default IPCC value for CVEG 9.2t/ha with 50% increase in three years). [XX] ha of pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring
	Climate Change Adaptation	Rural communities and Sevan National Park in Vardenis sub-region of Gegharkunik Marz have reduced vulnerability to climate change impacts	7 rural communities and Sevan National Park in Vardenis sub-region of Gegharkunik Marz have reduced vulnerability to climate change impacts through establishment of windbreaks, sustainable pasture use practices, natural oak woodland practices, etc. 7 rural communities and Sevan National Park in	CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
			Vardenis sub-region of Gegharkunik Marz have increased knowledge and capacity to adapt to climate change impacts	
	Biodiversity Conservation	Increased area of diverse grassland habitats Natural high altitude oak woodland conserved and restored Increased diversity of forest habitats around Lake Sevan (within Lake Sevan National Park)	Sustainable management of 2000 ha of grasslands that maintains diversity of species Management of 25.8 ha of natural oak woodlands Creation of 15 ha multi-species woodland habitat on shores of Lake Sevan	BD 1: Number of ha of key ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management
	Sustainable Land Management	Sustainability of pasture use increased Diversification of sustainable land use through productive tree planting Desertification process averted and local environmental conditions improved via afforestation	2000 ha of pasture under sustainable use. [X] ha of cultivated land and orchard protected by wind breaks. [X] ha marginal land around villages afforested	SLM 1: Number of ha of rangeland / pasture with improved management SLM 2: Number of ha of land with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Multiple	Improvement and adaption of land use to creeping impacts of climate change maintains ecosystems function and provision of ecosystem services	2000 ha watershed pasture degradation reversed or avoided 150 ha protected from degradation and have ameliorated micro climates due to tree planting	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural Development	Increased sustainable incomes from pasture use Increased sustainable incomes from wind protected fields	[XX] people with increased sustainable productivity of 2000 ha of pasture	RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit)

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
		and orchards	[XX] people with increased productivity from [X] ha of cultivated land and orchards from shelterbelts and fruit trees	RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)
Azerbaijan	Climate Change Mitigation	CO_2 emissions as a result of vegetation loss and soil degradation avoided due to improved sustainable management of summer pastures Increase carbon storage potential in the target zone achieved by end of the project in comparison to the baseline.	[XX] t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring
	Climate Change Adaptation	Summer pasture users have examples and experience of how to adapt land use to changing conditions.	[XX] ha of most severely degraded and strategic areas rehabilitated through at least three tested bio-engineering methods [XX] people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts due to climate-resilient pasture management and other measures	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts
	Biodiversity Conservation	High altitude grasslands ecosystems restored or maintained and habitat conserved	3000 ha of high altitude grassland conserved [XX] key high altitude grassland species with reduced threats or improved status	BD 1: Number of ha of ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status
	Sustainable	Practical lessons and experience regarding rehabilitation and	At least 16 pasture leasers	SLM 1: Number of ha of

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
	Land Management	sustainable management of summer pastures in Azerbaijan available for national and regional stakeholders Pasture land under sustainable land management measures	applying new pasture sustainable management plans in 3,000 ha of high altitude grassland	rangeland / pasture with improved management
	Multiple	High mountain ecosystems within areas important as water catchments maintained	[XX] ha of high mountain ecosystems with maintained ecosystem services	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural Development	Long term economic livelihoods of pastoralists secured through maintenance of summer pastures	16 summer pasture leasers have economic incentive to manage pasture sustainably	RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit) RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)
Belarus Peatlands	Climate Change Mitigation	Reduced CO_2 equivalent emissions relative to business as usual, due to increased carbon sequestration through i.) Regular management of peatland vegetation; ii.) Avoided catastrophic peatland fires; iii.) Avoided fossil fuel emissions due to use of biomass fuel instead of fossil fuel for heat and energy Improved understanding about carbon cycling and sequestration in managed and restored peatlands	[XX?] t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided Improved understanding of peatland carbon cycle applicable to [XX] ha of peatlands	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring
	Climate Change Adaptation	Sporovsky and Zvanets SPAs have reduced vulnerability to increasing risk of catastrophic fire due to climate change-induced increased temperature and variable rainfall Communities near Sporovsky and Zvanets SPAs have reduced risk of poor air quality due to catastrophic peat fires	7,000 ha of peatlands with reduced risk of catastrophic fire [XX?] number of people with reduced health risks from negative climate change impacts	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts
	Biodiversity Conservation	Integrity of Sporovsky and Zvanets peatlands is maintained, through reduced excess biomass and reduced woody shrub encroachment	3,500 ha of peatlands with improved status Globally threatened	BD 1: Number of ha of ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
		Threats to key species are reduced, and quality of habitat is improved Improved management of Sporovsky and Zvanets SPAs	species (Aquatic Warbler) with reduced threats or improved status 33,000 ha of protected areas with improved management	BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status BD 3: Number of ha of protected areas established BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management
	Sustainable Land Management	N/A	N/A	SLM 1: Number of ha of rangeland / pasture with improved management SLM 2: Number of ha of land with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Multiple	Sporovsky and Zvanets SPAs peatland ecosystem services maintained or enhanced through ecosystem management approaches (controlled burning, biomass harvesting)	XX ha of peatlands with maintained or enhanced ecosystem services	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural Development	SPAs partner with private sector biomass fuel producer to generate revenue for SPAs		RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit) RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)
Georgia	Climate Change Mitigation	CO_2 emissions as a result of vegetation loss and soil degradation avoided due to improved sustainable management of summer pastures Carbon release and sequestration monitoring established and conducted	[XX] t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided Improved understanding of pasture carbon cycle applicable to [XX] ha of pasture in Georgia	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
				field monitoring
	Climate Change Adaptation	Traditional pastoralists have secure tenure and increased support and information that enables them to apply long term adaptive management	Sustainable pasture management plan developed and implemented on 4,064 ha of winter pasture 300 ha migratory routes rehabilitation	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts
	Biodiversity Conservation	Grassland ecosystem of the traditional use zone of Vashlovani National Park is maintained via continued application of 900 year old management practices Vashlovani National Park generates sustainable incomes from pasture use fees that support long term sustainable management Key biodiversity species in Vashlovani National Park have reduced threats or improved status	300 ha of severely degraded area of the National Park is rehabilitated [XX] key species have reduced threats or improved status 4,064 ha of traditional use zone of Vashlovani National Park is managed sustainably	BD 1: Number of ha of ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management
	Sustainable Land Management	Traditional pasture use practices are maintained on winter pastures Capacity of traditional users to adapt to new political, socio-economic and environmental (climate change related) conditions enhanced. Local pastoralists knowledge in sustainable land management practices increased and SLM practices applied Capacity of Association of sheep-breeders is improved to coordinate the activities Inter-ministerial policy debate on pastures management issues initiated on national level	4,064 ha of traditional use zone winter pasture of Vashlovani National Park is managed sustainably	SLM 1: Number of ha of rangeland / pasture with improved management SLM 2: Number of ha of land with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
		Key priority actions agreed		
	Multiple	Conservation of arid grassland ecosystem and maintenance of ecosystem services (watershed, climate amelioration, erosion control).	4,064 ha of grassland habitat conserved 300 ha of severely eroded land rehabilitated	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural Development	Pasture use issues are discussed and addressed for 1st time at high policy making level in Georgia Tusheti pastoralists have more secure livelihoods as a result of secured winter pastures and can continue traditional practices	[X] number of pastoralist households have increased security of livelihoods due to secure access to winter pastures and improved infrastructure [X] % increase in incomes of pastoralists in Vashlovani National Park	RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit) RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)
Moldova	Climate Change Mitigation	Increased national and local level capacity to monitor carbon and land use, with robust pasture and forest monitoring system in place. Increased afforestation of land by communities and improved pasture use increases CO_2 sequestration	[XX] t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided Improved understanding of pasture carbon cycle applicable to [XX] ha of pasture in Moldova	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring
	Climate Change Adaptation	Viable approaches for addressing land degradation and restoring damaged land tested and	500 ha of pasture land restored 150 ha of degraded lands afforested Increased level of understanding at local, regional and national level about sustainable grassland and forest	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
			management [XXX] local resource users have increased climate resilience due to improved management of forest and pasture resources	
	Biodiversity Conservation	Native species forest habitats created in Orhei National Park Pasture degradation and species loss avoided through improved management of pastures	New forest habitat of diverse (multi species) afforestation of 150 ha [XX] key forest or pasture dependent species in Orhei National Park with reduced threats or improved status [XXX] ha of Orhei National Park with improved management	BD 1: Number of ha of ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management
	Sustainable Land Management	Increased afforestation via establishment of community forestry on degraded community land Reduced degradation or increased productivity of community pastures though better regulation and management. Increased level of understanding at local, regional and national level about sustainable grassland, forest management and climate change risks.	5,890.92 ha of pastures (18 communities) managed according to pasture management plans 1,392 ha of community forests managed according to forest management plans	SLM 1: Number of ha of rangeland / pasture with improved management SLM 2: Number of ha of land with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Multiple	Forests provide multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits including ecosystem services and livelihood benefits. Sustained use of pasture provides variety of ecosystem services (erosion control, improved rain water retention etc.) and socio-economic benefits	2,042 ha (1,392 ha of managed forestry, 150 ha afforested, 500 ha of sustainably used pasture)	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural	Increased incomes for local communities and LPAs from	18 LPAs ([XX] people) have	RD 1: Number of people with

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
	Development	more productive and sustainable use of pastures Increased employment opportunities in community managed forestry and income generation through carbon credits for LPAs	economic benefits from previously unproductive pasture and degraded lands [XXX] people with diverse economic benefits (employment, fuel word/biomass energy, NTFPs, carbon credits) from 1,392 ha of community forests	improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit) RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)
Russia Northern Peatlands	Climate Change Mitigation	Reduced CO_2 equivalent emissions relative to business as usual, due to increased carbon sequestration through i.) avoided permafrost peatland degradation from anthropogenic exploitation activities (due to establishment of new PAs covering permafrost territory); ii.) restoration of previously damaged permafrost peatland; iii.) reduced and avoided forest and peat fires in taiga ecosystem Improved understanding about carbon cycling, carbon sequestration, and climate change induced GHG emissions in arctic peatlands and permafrost soils	Restoration - 72,000 t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided (Prodoc: Site 1 = (180 ha * 10 t/CO_2 eq/ha/year * 20 years) + (180 ha * 100 t/CO_2 eq/ha) = 54,000 t/CO_2 eq Site 2 = (60 ha * 10 t/CO_2 eq/ha/year * 20 years) + (60 ha * 100 t/CO_2 eq/ha) = 18,000 t/CO_2 eq Permafrost peatland protection – [XXX] Forest fire response and prevention – [XXX] [XXXX] ha (out of a Russian/global? total of [XXXX] ha) of arctic peatlands for which there is improved understanding of carbon cycling, carbon	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
			sequestration, and climate change induced GHG emissions in arctic peatlands and permafrost soils	
	Climate Change Adaptation	Arctic peatlands with reduced and avoided permafrost melt due to climate change Reduced and avoided forest fires in taiga ecosystem Local resource users are able to continue drawing on arctic peatland resources for livelihoods despite increasing negative climate change impacts	[XX] ha of arctic permafrost peatlands with improved climate change resilience [XX] ha of taiga forest with level of fire risk below business-as-usual [XX] local resource users with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts
	Biodiversity Conservation	Arctic permafrost peatlands have reduced anthropogenic threats, avoiding potential degradation of permafrost and peatland layers Key arctic peatland species, or species that depend on arctic peatlands (i.e. migratory birds), have reduced threats or improved status around Shapkina restoration sites, Chernorechenskaya PA, and Yugyd Va National Park. New protected areas established to conserve biodiversity and permafrost peatlands Improved climate change-related protected area management measures addressing permafrost peatlands and taiga forest carbon pools in Yugyd Va National Park	[20,240??? More? Others?] ha of permafrost peatlands with reduced threats or improved status [XX] key species with improved status 20,000 ha of new protected areas established [XXX] ha of permafrost peatlands and taiga forest under improved climate change-related management in Yugyd Va National Park	BD 1: Number of ha of ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status BD 3: Number of ha of protected areas established BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management
	Sustainable	Arctic tundra peatland with enhanced ecosystem services	[240] ha of restored	SLM 2: Number of ha of land

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
	Land Management	due to restoration	tundra peatlands	with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Multiple	Komi Republic and Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug peatland and taiga forest ecosystem services maintained or enhanced through restoration, strengthened conservation status, and improved management	[240 restored + 20,000 new PA + relevant area of Yugyd Va national park + any other areas addressed outside of PAs?] ha of peatlands and taiga forest with maintained or enhanced ecosystem services	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural Development	Increased area for reindeer herding resulting from peatland vegetation restoration	[XX] reindeer herders with additional forage area on restored peatlands	RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit)
Russia Southern Peatlands	Climate Change Mitigation	Reduced CO_2 equivalent emissions relative to business as usual, due to increased carbon sequestration through i.) Restoration of peatlands (raised water table) (avoided drained peatland mineralization); ii.) Avoided catastrophic peatland fires Improved understanding about carbon cycling and sequestration in managed and restored peatlands	[(200 tCO_2/ha * 4,000 ha) + (5 tCO_2/ha/year * 267 ha * 20 years)?] t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided Improved understanding of peatland carbon cycle applicable to [XX] ha of forest steppe peatlands	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring
	Climate Change Adaptation	Republic of Bashkortostan peatlands have reduced vulnerability to increasing risk of catastrophic fire due to climate change-induced increased temperature and variable rainfall Communities near peatlands in Republic of Bashkortostan have reduced risk of poor air quality due to catastrophic peat fires	[1,267? Restored area + peatlands in protected areas with improved peatland management to minimize fire] ha of peatlands with reduced risk of catastrophic fire [XX?] number of people with reduced health risks from negative climate change impacts	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts
	Biodiversity	Improved status of Berkazhan peatlands in [XX] district	[1,267] ha of peatlands	BD 1: Number of ha of

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
	Conservation	through restoration activities leading to raised water table Threats to key species are reduced, and quality of habitat is improved through restoration of Berkazhan peatland, and improved management of peatlands in protected areas of Republic of Bashkortostan (particularly with respect to fire management for peatlands) New protected areas established to conserve and maintain quality peatland habitats	with improved status [XX] of significant peatland or peatland-dependent species with reduced threats or improved status (pelican, XX, XX) [1,000] ha of peatland ecosystems included in newly established protected areas [XXXX] ha of protected areas that include peatlands with improved management	ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status BD 3: Number of ha of protected areas established BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management
	Sustainable Land Management	Pastureland in and around Berkazhan peatland improved as a result of restored peatland	[XX] ha of pastureland improved	SLM 1: Number of ha of rangeland / pasture with improved management SLM 2: Number of ha of land with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Multiple	Republic of Bashkortostan peatland ecosystem services maintained or enhanced through strengthened conservation status and improved management	[XXXX] ha of peatlands with maintained or enhanced ecosystem services	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural Development	Local resource users around Berkazhan peatland have improved pasture opportunities	[XX] local community members have improved and increased pasturing opportunities	RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit) RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)
Ukraine Peatlands	Climate Change Mitigation	Reduced CO_2 equivalent emissions relative to business as usual, due to increased carbon sequestration through i.)	[XX?] t/CO_2 equivalent emissions sequestered or	CCM 1: Number of t/CO_2 equivalent emissions

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
		Restoration of peatlands (raised water table) (avoided drained peatland mineralization); ii.) Avoided catastrophic peatland fires; iii.) Avoided fossil fuel emissions due to use of biomass fuel instead of fossil fuel for heat and energy Improved understanding about carbon cycling and sequestration in managed and restored peatlands	avoided Improved understanding of peatland carbon cycle applicable to [XX] ha of peatlands	sequestered or avoided CCM 2: Number of hectares of peatland or pasture ecosystems for which improved carbon cycle estimates can be developed, based on data from pilot project field monitoring
	Climate Change Adaptation	Nizhyn district peatlands have reduced vulnerability to increasing risk of catastrophic fire due to climate change-induced increased temperature and variable rainfall Communities in Nizhyn district have reduced risk of poor air quality due to catastrophic peat fires	2,800 ha of peatlands with reduced risk of catastrophic fire [XX?] number of people with reduced health risks from negative climate change impacts	CCA 1: Number ha of vulnerable ecosystems with improved resilience to the effects of climate change CCA 2: Number of people with reduced vulnerability to negative climate change impacts
	Biodiversity Conservation	Improved status of Smolianka peatlands in Nizyhn district through restoration activities leading to raised water table Threats to key species are reduced, and quality of habitat is improved through restoration of Smolianka peatland, and establishment of Nizhynsky Regional Landscape Park Establishment of Nizhynsky Regional Landscape Park, and initiation of management activities	3,500 ha of peatlands with improved status Key species ([names?]) with reduced threats or improved status 16,000 ha of important ecosystems with improved conservation status	BD 1: Number of ha of ecosystems with reduced threats or improved status BD 2: Number of key species with reduced threats or improved status BD 3: Number of ha of protected areas established BD 4: Number of ha of protected areas with improved management
	Sustainable Land Management	Pastureland in and around Smolianka peatland improved as a result of restored peatland	1,600 ha of pastureland improved	SLM 1: Number of ha of rangeland / pasture with improved management SLM 2: Number of ha of land with sustained or enhanced land and water ecosystem services

Project	Results Area	Outcomes and Impacts	Pilot Project Indicators	Linked Program Indicators
	Multiple	Smolianka peatland in Nizhyn district ecosystem services maintained or enhanced through restoration of water table	2,800 ha of peatlands with maintained or enhanced ecosystem services	M 1: Number of ha with restored, secured, or enhanced land and water ecosystem services
	Rural Development	Improved market information and access for dairy producers in Nizyhn district resulting from establishment and ongoing operation of local cooperative Heat generated in schools from biomass energy use (instead of fossil fuel)	9 households with direct economic benefit as initial members of cooperative 150 households with indirect benefits based on work of cooperative in three villages [XX?] school children with improved school conditions resulting from use of biomass energy	RD 1: Number of people with improved livelihoods (direct economic benefit) RD 2: Number of people with social benefits (benefits other than economic benefits)