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Building Armenia's national transparency framework under Paris agreement UNDP-GEF Project

Inception workshop

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"Building Armenia's national transparency framework
under Paris agreement " UNDP-GEF Project 001.10252

I. Project Objective, Structure and Components

National context: legal and institutional framework

- The Republic of Armenia ratified the UNFCCC in 1993 and Paris Agreement in 2017.
- By the Decree of the Prime Minister **Inter-Agency Council with** its working procedure for UNFCCC commitments implementation was established 2012.
- In 2015 the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions” (INDC) document as the position of the Republic of Armenia under the Paris Agreement, which was updated for the period of 2021-2030 by the [Government Decision # 610-L](#), dated 22.04.2021.
- In 2018 the Republic of Armenia applied and joined NDC Partnership to expand assistance to Armenia.
- The list of measures to fulfill the obligations resulted from the UNFCCC were approved by the [Government Decision #49 from 2016](#), including development of greenhouse gas inventories and Update Reports on biennial basis as well as their submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Project Objective

The immediate objective of the project is to support the Republic of Armenia, as a UNFCCC party country, to build institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, in accordance with the general terms, procedures and guidelines.

Relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- An effective framework for transparency will help identify necessary investments for effective mitigation and adaptation and link them to national policy priorities.
- Effective implementation of the transparency framework will contribute to:
 - collection of relevant indicators on the progress of the SDGs and preparation of reports;
 - increasing the efficiency of processes by reducing overlap and duplication in climate change actions;
 - improving governance by providing decision-makers with data and information to track progress and efficiency,
 - public participation in the implementation of the UNFCCC by providing equal information.

Project General Information

Project Executing Entity	Ministry of Environment
Executing agency	UNDP
Financing (USD)	GEF: 990,000\$ RA Government (in-kind): 400,000\$ UNDP (in-kind): 170,000\$
Project Duration	36 months The project document was signed on 16.12.2020.
Coordination	Inter-Agency Council on Climate Change (after the approval of the new members)

Project Implementation Approaches

- The following were analyzed:
 - The current development priorities of the country and the scope of RA commitments and agreements (EAEU, EU) at present were analyzed in terms of transparency and coordination of collection, evaluation and analysis of climate change related information;
 - Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the Convention and Paris Agreement;
 - Gaps and barriers discovered in the previous national and biennial reports and ways of overcoming.
- It was discussed with the experts and involved institutions.

Project Budget by Components

Outcome /Result	Budget (USD)
1. National institutional arrangements for an enhanced transparency framework	130,000
2. Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) system in support of an Enhanced Transparency Framework	210,000
3. Capacity building to support transparency-related activities over time	522,000
4. Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management	38,000
5. Project management	90,000

Component
1.

National institutional arrangements for an enhanced transparency framework

Output 1.1. Transparency activities in Armenia are governed by clear and formal roles and responsibilities

Output 1.1.1: Institutional arrangements for a national transparency (MRV) framework are designed

Output 1.1.2: Legal and/or regulatory requirements for a national transparency framework are drafted and adopted

Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) system in support of an Enhanced Transparency Framework

Outcome 2.1: Armenia uses an integrated MRV system for continuous data collection and reporting under Article 13

Output 2.1.1: MRV system (hardware and software) with tracking tools designed and launched

Output 2.1.2: On-line portal to provide access to data and information established

Component
3.

Capacity building to support transparency-related activities over time

Outcome 3.1: Armenia is able to manage data for effective transparency reporting on GHG sources and sinks

Output 3.1.1: Sectoral templates and consistency guidelines on data collection and reporting are developed for the GHG inventory

Output 3.1.2: Sectoral emissions estimates are strengthened for selected sectors and sources

Output 3.1.3: Analysis of the GHG inventory is enhanced

Component
3.

Capacity building to support transparency-related activities over time

Outcome 3.2: Armenia is able to collect and process data for the framework for transparency of action and the framework for transparency of support under Article 13

Output 3.2.1: Sectoral templates and guidelines for assessing and reporting on mitigation policies and actions and their effects developed and related training provided

Output 3.2.2: Methodologies for assessing and prioritizing adaptation actions, policies and their effects identified and applied

Output 3.2.3: Methodology for reporting on support received developed and related training provided

Output 3.2.4: Gender issues mainstreamed into transparency activities

Component
3.

Capacity building to support transparency-related activities over time

Outcome 3.3: Armenia is able to track progress against its NDC and share its approaches and results at the national and international level

Output 3.3.1: Progress against the NDC tracked

Output 3.3.2: On-line portal for transparency initiatives maintained and knowledge shared

**Component
4.**

Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management

Output 4.1.1: Project results and outcomes monitored and evaluated

Output 4.1.2: Lessons learned and best practices shared with other Parties through the Global Coordination Platform and other cooperation networks

II. Project Implementation Plan

Preliminary Risk Assessment

#	Description	Probability & Impact	Risk Treatment / Management Measures
1.	Insufficient government support for the establishment of the MRV framework	P = 1 I = 4	The formal arrangements that will be developed and proposed within the project shall be validated by the highest officials.
2.	Critical legislation or regulatory elements supporting the MRV framework will fail to be adopted	P = 2 I = 4	Component 1 of the project will focus on using the model of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which does not require legislation and has worked successfully in gathering data from different providers for the Energy Balance.
3.	Losing the capacity and skills acquired due to staff turnover	P = 3 I = 3	Guidelines, methodologies and and operating procedures will be documented extensively, which will also contribute to retaining institutional memory. Capacity strengthening activities will involve a carefully selected group of relevant experts within the Ministry of Environment and Agency to ensure that capacity can be retained, and succession planning will be discussed as a part of training.
4.	Lack of proper coordination among institutions involved in the implementation of mitigation measures.	P = 3 I = 4	The Climate Change Inter-Agency Council will ensure coordination among government agencies. Tthe introduction of clearly defined reporting obligations and for data providers will ensure the engagement of key players and reduce the risk of overlap.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Organization	Planned Role in Project Implementation
Ministry of Environment	The Ministry will be responsible for coordinating the design and implementation of the transparency framework.
Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	The Ministry, being responsible for the coordination of progress of mitigation activities in the energy and transport sectors, as well as for the coordination of communities signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, will provide information as a member of the MRV Network, and will participate in training and capacity strengthening activities under the project.
Scientific Research Institute of Energy	The Institute will be involved in discussions and consultations, aimed at the selection of the best available way to collect data on energy efficiency measures and at the improvement of the methodologies applied in the calculation of the Energy Balance to ensure the comparability of the data provided in the Energy Balance and in the Energy Sector GHG Inventory.
Ministry of Economy	Experts from this ministry will be key to improving the Agriculture sector GHG emissions estimate and reinforcing adaptation monitoring and reporting.
Statistics Committee	The committee will provide information and participate in training and capacity strengthening activities within the CBIT project. The Committee will be involved in identifying means for overcoming inconsistencies in the activity data that it collects internally and from other sources, such as data on wood removals.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (continued)

Organization	Planned Role in Project Implementation
Committee of the Real Estate Cadaster	The Committee will provide information and participate in training and capacity strengthening activities within the CBIT project.
Committee of Forest of the Ministry of Environment	The Committee will be involved in identifying means for addressing inconsistencies in activity data obtained from the Statistics Committee on wood removals, as well as in identifying an approach to reduce uncertainty in forest data.
International organizations	The project will maintain ongoing, two-way communication, and it will information provided in the data-sharing system and MRV network.
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	The project portal will be designed in order to maximize public access to climate change-related data and information, including information on Armenia’s progress towards meeting its NDCs. An NGO representative will be invited to Inter-Agency Coordinating Council meetings.
Private Sector	<p>The private sector will be involved in the project in two ways: 1) through the provision of activity data in relevant sectors and 2) indirectly - in reporting on mitigation activities when private sector investment results in GHG emission reductions.</p> <p>Individual enterprise-level reporting for key emitting industries, will be developed, in particular in the context of the growing trend of F gas-emissions.</p> <p>The project will involve the banking sector: data on financial flows through commercial banks for climate-related investments will inform the enhanced transparency framework on support received.</p>

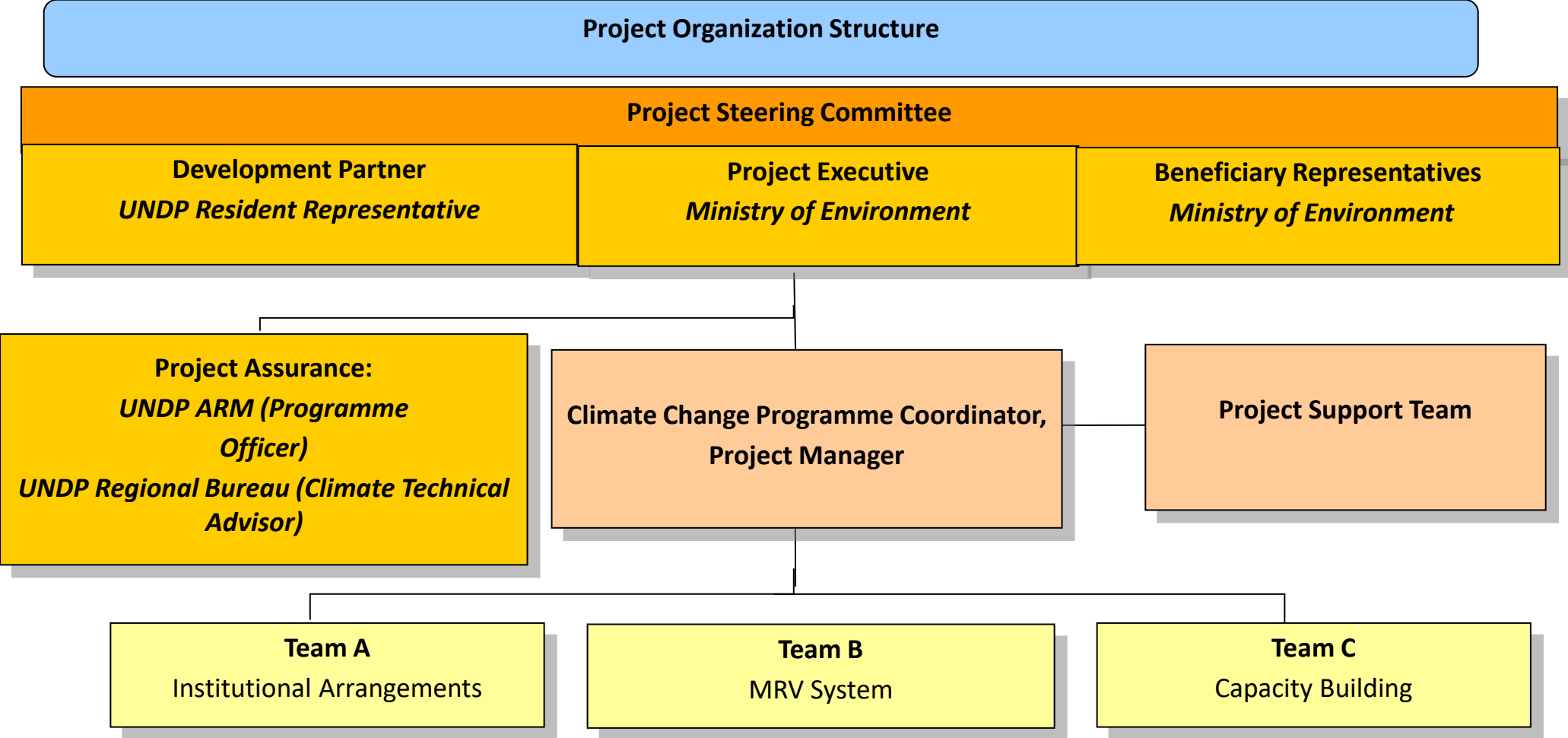
Expected Results

- Institutional arrangements for a national transparency (MRV) framework are designed.
- Legal and/or regulatory requirements for a national transparency framework are drafted and adopted.
- MRV system (hardware and software) with tracking tools designed and launched.
- On-line portal to provide access to disaggregated data and information established.
- Sectoral templates and consistency guidelines on data collection and reporting are developed for the GHG inventory.
- Sectoral emissions estimates are strengthened for selected sectors and sources.
- Analysis of the GHG inventory is enhanced.

Expected Results (continued)

- Sectoral templates and guidelines for assessing and reporting on mitigation policies and actions and their effects developed and related training provided.
- Methodologies for assessing and prioritizing adaptation actions, policies and their effects identified and applied.
- Methodology for reporting on support received developed and related training provided.
- Gender issues mainstreamed into transparency activities.
- Progress against the NDC tracked.
- On-line portal for transparency initiatives maintained and knowledge shared.

Management Format



Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

- Clarification of the detailed project action plan (at the initial stage)
- Approval of the responsibilities of the Steering Committee
- Reports according to the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:
 - Inception
 - Quarterly
 - Annual (to UNDP and GEF)
 - Project Steering Committee
- Lessons learned
- Independent terminal evaluation



THANK YOU

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