

Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

General Information

Eval ID	715
Evaluation Manager	Myles Hallin
Project Evaluation Title	Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP Project: "Managing Wastewater Through Global Partnership" (PIMS ID 01663)
PIMS #	1663
GEF ID	
UNEP Sub-programme	SP3 – Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
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Project Manager/ Task Manager	Tessa Goverse; Birguy Lamizana, Riccardo Zennaro, a.i..
Office/Division	Ecosystems Division
Branch & Unit	Marine and Freshwater Branch
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Implementation Plan Returned by PM/TM (Date)	21/09/2023
Implementation Plan finalized (if different from the date above)	21/09/2023

Implementation Plan

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
1	The GW2I platform was a huge achievement of the project and is critical to sustaining the project outcomes. For this reason, the GW2I Platform should be strengthened, this could be achieved by appointing a full-time Coordinator.	UNEP should consider providing the GW2I Platform with a full-time coordinator to further support and strengthen the Secretariat services it provides	Critical	Project	UNEP/GPA	6-12 months	Partially Accepted	This is a very important recommendation. The recommendation could be taken on board only partially. The GW2I is currently not in the position to hire a full time coordinator because of funding constraints. However, as of July 2023, the Unit has appointed one of the Staff Members to act as focal point and Coordinator of the Initiative.	No further management actions should be taken at this stage. Shall funding arise, however, the management could foresee the creation of a Coordination

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2	As discussed in various sections of this report, the project increased in raising awareness about wastewater issues and raising the profile of wastewater in the global agenda. However, these gains can only be maintained, if not increased, if there is a sustained effort to continue advocating for and raising awareness about wastewater. The reason for this is simple: although the resources available to tackle global problems are finite, and development assistance being reduced in many cases, the world is facing more and more problems that need urgent attention. Therefore, the resources allocated for wastewater issues have to compete with assignation of resources for other conflicting priorities. An Advocacy and Communication Plan will help continue the advocacy and awareness-raising programs started by the project, and significantly help sustain the project outcomes.	UNEP should develop an Advocacy and Communication Plan for the GW2I to continue the advocacy and awareness-raising activities to maintain wastewater issues in the global agenda through the GPA and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)	Critical	Project	UNEP/GPA and GPML	Open-ended	Partially Accepted	Awareness-raising and advocacy is one of the core pillars of the GWWI. While a full GWWI implementation plan is not in the pipeline at the moment, due to lack of funds and human resources who could attend to this, the GWWI Secretariat is producing advocacy and outreach plans for some of the products launched with the GWWI logo. There should be no role for the GPA and GPML in this regard, apart from supporting the GWWI in this endeavor.	No further management actions should be taken at this stage. One item for consideration: a GWWI Advocacy and Communication Plan could be developed by either one of the staff members, or a consultant. In the meantime, this recommendation has been taken on board as much as possible.
3	As discussed in Section D, the demonstration projects implemented by the project were hugely successful, prompting Egypt, Georgia and PERSGA to request similar demonstrations. However, the project could not implement demonstrations in these countries because of lack of funds. Furthermore, the main goal of a successful pilot project is to bring it to scale to solve a large	UNEP and Partners should mobilize funds to upscale wastewater management demonstration projects to increase the visibility of wastewater issues, and improve wastewater management around the world	Important	Project	UNEP/GPA	Start immediately, and open-ended	Accepted	Fundraising is not new to the team, both the wastewater team and the GPA. Quite a lot of effort has been put starting from January 2023 by the wastewater team to produce and submit project proposals that aim to upscale wastewater management demonstration projects, and overall, to improve wastewater	Management could further enhance coordination with other streams of work internally at UNEP, such as nutrient management, freshwater and marine ecosystems. This could be beneficial, and potentially lead to higher opportunities. This is already an ongoing effort which

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	problem. For these reasons, and the need to upscale project successes, it is imperative that UNEP and its partners mobilize funds to upscale and replicate successful demonstration projects around the world. In this regard, UNEP can, through the GPA, work with donor agencies and countries to mobilize funds to implement demonstration projects and upscale existing interventions.							management worldwide. As of August 2023, four proposals have been submitted to potential donors: two have been declined, two are under consideration, and two more are in the pipeline for submission in September 2023.	should be further strengthened. At the same time, efforts have been already put in place to engage member states to become champions for wastewater management. Engaging with them would
4	The project produced many valuable guidelines, policy briefs, and other communication and outreach tools that can help sustain the project outcomes. These tools will be especially important moving forward in view of the need to continue raising awareness about wastewater issues. In this regard, the materials should also be revised periodically to consider new developments and challenges in wastewater management.	The guidelines on wastewater management developed by the GW2I Project should be used by UNEP and its partners in future training programs policy briefs and other communication and outreach tools	Important	Project	UNEP/GPA	12 – 18 months	Accepted	The guidelines are not the only output. There are many other products that were produced during the project. The recommendation is fully accepted and the team is already using every opportunity to present products such as the guidelines, the Sanitation and Wastewater Atlas of Africa, and others.	No further action is needed. The team is already on track to implement this recommendation successfully. At every event, workshop, or other opportunity, the team will present the tools developed under this project, including the Guidelines on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems, where appropriate.
5	This Terminal Evaluation was conducted four years after the end of the project. This resulted in the loss of significant institutional memory. In addition, no Mid-term Evaluation of the project was conducted, and key project staff were no longer with UNEP. For this reason, it was difficult to get information on the project's implementation.	UNEP and its partners should ensure that Mid-term and Terminal Evaluations of future projects are done, when possible, in a timely manner to avoid the loss of institutional memory and to ensure project documents and information are kept in a systematic and assessable knowledge management system.	Opportunity for improvement	UNEP-wide	UNEP	Open-ended	Accepted	The evaluation started late due to a chain of events which included lack of initial funding allocated to the evaluation, need for cleaning up internal budget lines, and COVID-19. The recommendation made by the evaluation is fully taken on board.	The management is ensuring that the Terminal Review of the current project (Project 522.4) is done in a timely manner. A management Led terminal Review is already in course, in close consultation and under the guidance of the Evaluation Office. No further action is needed at this point.

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6	Although the ProDoc includes a very good stakeholder analysis and referred to gender, human rights, and indigenous peoples' and their needs and views were considered during project implementation, the project budget and logical framework were not disaggregated along those lines, thus lowering the rating of the project with regards these evaluation criteria.	UNEP and its partners should ensure that the design, budgeting, implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of future projects take in account human rights, gender, as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups issues.	Important	Project	UNEP	6 – 12 months	Accepted	The recommendation is taken on board. The project was formulated sticking to a template of 2014, almost ten years ago. The project still took into account human rights, gender and marginalized groups, but the ProDoc was different to the standard of current days, where these matters are fully highlighted in writing in the planning phase.	The management is now writing a new project under which wastewater will fall and this recommendation will be fully taken into account.