

## Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

### General Information

Eval ID	696
Evaluation Manager	Janet Wildish
Project Evaluation Title	Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/GEF project "Enabling South Africa to Prepare its Third National Communication (TNC) and Biennial Update Report (BUR3) to the UNFCCC" GEF Id 5237
PIMS #	
GEF ID	5237
UNEP Sub-programme	SP1 – Climate Change
GEF Focal Area	Climate Change Mitigation
Project Manager/ Task Manager	Suzanne Lekoyiet
Office/Division	Economy Division
Branch & Unit	
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Total # of Recommendations as per Report	4
Implementation Plan Sent to PM/TM (Date)	10-02-22
Implementation Plan Returned by PM/TM (Date)	15-02-22
Implementation Plan finalized ( <i>if different from the date above</i> )	14-03-22

### 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	<p>Unrealistic resources mobilization strategy where the either the project outcomes are not ambitious enough to fully utilize the allocated budget, or the costing of project work is not accurate.</p> <p>The project spent 52 percent of the allocated budget, even after delivering all the programmed outputs and two additional BURs. It was extended by one year, from</p>	Match resource mobilization strategy with the ambition of the project.	Opportunity for improvement	Partners	UNEP to convey to Partners	Immediate uptake in the process of supporting countries to formulate Enabling Activity (EA) projects.	Accepted	N/A	This was the only proposal that had been prepared as a full size project (FSP) of US\$4,006,650. Based on the lessons learnt and inability to utilize all the funds, despite the project having achieved its set objectives and expected output, the follow up proposal for South Africa (NC4/BUR5) was

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	<p>an original closure date of September 2018 to December 2019. However, since all the programmed outputs had been delivered by the programmed project end of December 2018, the extension seems to have been necessitated by availability of surplus project funds. A request for a third cost-neutral extension to produce BUR-4 was declined, forcing the project to refund the balance of funds totaling US\$ 2,071,040.77 (48 percent of the approved budget). This suggests that either the resource mobilization strategy was over generous or the project outcomes were not ambitious enough for the allocated budget, or both. It is important to match the cost of project implementation to the requested budget to avoid similar situations.</p>								<p>submitted and approved as an enabling activity at a cost of US\$ 852,000. A detailed budget breakdown including the timelines for the implementation of the different activities was also prepared and approved by the GEF and UNEP. The approved budget of US\$ 852,000 is sufficient for the government of South Africa to prepare and submit the NC4 and BUR5 to the UNFCCC Secretariat by 30 April 2024.</p>
2	<p>Weak project design that does not identify higher level results and simplistic monitoring systems that fail to capture the use of project outputs and therefore fail to monitor achievement of results and impacts.</p> <p>UNEP has developed a new template for designing EA projects that depart from the use of the chapters of the National Communication and BUR as project components. However, it is recommended that the</p>	Use TOC in the design of EA projects, even when the budget is below one million US dollars.	Important	UNEP-wide	UNEP	Immediate uptake in the process of supporting countries to formulate EA projects.	Accepted	N/A	<p>We are currently including ToC for umbrella/combined proposals, and not the single country proposals. We will start including this recommendation in the upcoming proposals to the GEF, including those that we'll submit to the GEF in April, 2022 based on the recommendation raised.</p>

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	design of these projects be informed by a more robust TOC analysis. This will enable these projects to identify outcomes, impacts, drivers and assumptions, and set up systems to monitor potential results at the higher level. As demonstrated by this TE, these investments can, and are having, transformative changes on the ground that may not be formally captured or communicated, due to the way the project design is articulated and its implementation monitored.								
3	<p>Inadequate capture and dissemination/sharing of impacts of EA projects.</p> <p>UNEP has been the Implementing Agency for many EA globally, most of them being Small Size, with a budget of under one million US dollars. Until recently, these projects utilized the same template as the TNC project, focused on outputs, and were not subjected to terminal evaluations. As demonstrated by this TE, results can be traced. UNEP should commission an assessment of several EA projects to capture impacts and lessons, to inform further EA programming.</p>	Commission an impact assessment of the many EA projects being implemented under this category, to fully capture the impacts and lessons learnt (Note that this might not be an impact assessment but should consider the unique features and performance assessment needs of Enabling Activity projects, JW 14.02.22)	Important	UNEP-wide	UNEP	To be determined by UNEP, depending on availability of funds and staff time.	Accepted	N/A	To develop a simplified & customized terminal review/closure template for EAs
4	Inadequate integration of gender and human rights, social and environmental safeguard issues into the project design,	Include human rights, gender, social and environmental safeguard in EA project design	Important	UNEP-wide	UNEP	Immediate uptake in the process of supporting countries to	Accepted	N/A	We do acknowledge that this was missing in this earlier proposal which was drafted in Yr. 2013/14. Having

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	<p>implementation and monitoring.</p> <p>Impacts of climate change have gender and human rights aspects. Climate change and natural disasters affect the poor, marginalized, women and men differently. Despite the vulnerabilities experienced by women and girls, they are often unable to voice their specific needs. The exclusion of these voices also means that their extensive knowledge of the environment and adaptation/coping mechanisms is untapped.</p> <p>Without subjecting any project to social and environmental safeguards screening, there is no basis for concluding that the project would not cause such negative impacts.</p>					formulate EA projects.			<p>said that, we would like to indicated that gender considerations and social, environmental safeguards are included in ALL recent enabling activities as a UNEP and GEF requirement. For instance, the approved NC4/BUR5 project (GEF 10509) implemented from Feb 2022 to Dec 2024 has taken into consideration these aspects. Gender analysis during the project's proposal development noted that women were equitably represented at least at 40%. Several activities will be undertaken to ensure gender equality is adequately addressed during the implementation of the project that include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- o A Sociologist with gender expertise shall be included in project to include gender equality considerations during the project inception phase, and participation in the project activities.</li> <li>- o Gender Training will be undertaken on differentiation and equality in climate adaptation, mitigation, GHG, project reporting</li> </ul>

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									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o All project stakeholders will be sensitized regarding the implications of gender-related legislation in South Africa.</li> <li>o Impacts measurement to include an aspect to measure gender equality (in ownership, needs, access to resources).</li> <li>o Procurement process will be equally open in terms of gender</li> <li>o Template for data and information submission to include requests for gender differentiated data</li> <li>o Including descriptive examples of gender differentiation in energy use and activity emissions</li> <li>o Design practical exercises that sensitize participants to data bias and gender impacts of mitigation.</li> </ul> <p>The NC4/BUR5 project was subjected to social and environmental safeguards screening and it was concluded that the project was a low risk. The project would not cause negative impacts. Key economic sectors such as agriculture,</p>

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									<p>water, biodiversity, health, marine fisheries, disaster risk reduction, tourism are identified as the most vulnerable and threatened under the current climate change scenarios and projections. The safeguard standard triggered by the project include; - Biodiversity, natural habitat and Sustainable Management of Living Resources; Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes; Safety of Dams; Involuntary resettlement; Indigenous peoples; Labour and working conditions; Cultural Heritage; Gender equity and Economic Sustainability</p>