

Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

General Information

Eval ID	719
Evaluation Manager	Myles Hallin
Project Evaluation Title	Terminal Desk-Based Study of the UNEP/GEF Project "Developing Core Capacity for Decentralized MEA Implementation and Natural Resources Management in Afghanistan, GEF ID #: 5017" (2014-2020)
PIMS #	
GEF ID	5017
UNEP Sub-programme	SP7 – Environment Under Review
GEF Focal Area	Capacity Development
Project Manager/ Task Manager	Francesco Gaetani; Jochem Zoetelief
Office/Division	Early Warning and Assessment Division (Formerly Science Division)
Branch & Unit	
Final PDF Report distributed by Evaluation Office (Date)	05/05/2023
Total # of Recommendations as per Report	2
Implementation Plan Sent to PM/TM (Date)	16/06/2023
Implementation Plan Returned by PM/TM (Date)	27/06/2023
Implementation Plan finalized (if different from the date above)	

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>With the disruption caused by the Taliban takeover, there is little scope for engaging in MEA-related support in Afghanistan or ensure the sustainability of the project.</p> <p>However, the environmental challenges and climate vulnerability facing poor Afghans remain and are further exacerbated by the deepening poverty and food insecurity since the withdrawal of the international community. Without an in-country</p>	Assess, whether there are opportunities for UNEP to reengage in environmental action in cooperation with UN agencies with a current in-country presence in Afghanistan (One UN), for example supporting civil society actors and communities.	Critical	Project	UNEP	2023-2024	Not Accepted	We recognize the significance of assessing opportunities regarding UNEP's potential re-engagement in environmental action in Afghanistan, in cooperation with UN agencies that have a current in-country presence. However, we	No actions to be taken.

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	<p>presence, it would not be feasible for UNEP to engage directly, nor can UNEP directly work with the Taliban regime, as it is not internationally recognized as the government of Afghanistan. Nonetheless, there could be scope for UNEP to contribute with knowledge and expertise to other UN efforts in the country, e.g. vis-à-vis integrating climate resilience and land management in humanitarian and food security efforts.</p>							<p>would like to clarify that this specific recommendation falls outside the purview of the Early Warning and Assessment Division (EWAD) . Perhaps the Conflict and Disasters Branch in Ecosystems, is better placed to advise on the matter, including on the UN-wide position on engaging with the Taliban regime (which would be required for operations in Afghanistan at this moment). As the Early Warning and Assessment Division, we are unable to take responsibility for a corporate or UN-wide policy decision.</p>	