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Resilient nations.*

**Project title: “Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information”**

**Country:** Kyrgyzstan

**UNDP ID number:** 5302

**GEF ID number:** 5715

**Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Implementing Partner:** State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry

**Terminal Evaluation from 5 to 31 December 2018**

**Final Report dated 10 February 2019**

**Evaluation conducted by:**  
**Dr. Lamia Mansour, Independent Consultant**

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## List of Acronyms

Aarhus Convention	Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
APR	Annual Progress Report
CCCD	Cross-Cutting Capacity Development
EC	European Commission
EIMMS	Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FinWaterWEI	Programme for Finland's Water Sector Support to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IWG	Inter-Agency Working Group
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MES	Ministry of Emergency Situations
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Processing and Melioration
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPD	National Project Director
NSC	National Statistics Committee
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RTA/PA	Regional Technical Advisor/Project Advisor
SAEPF	State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable development Goals
SMC	Standards and Metrology Center
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TORs	Terms of Reference
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## Executive Summary

### Project Summary Table

Project Title:	Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information			
GEF Project ID:	5715		<i>at endorsement (Million US\$)</i>	<i>at completion (Million US\$)</i>
UNDP Project ID:	PIMS#: 5302 Atlas Output ID: 00095830	GEF financing:	\$950,000	\$950,000
Countries:	Kyrgyzstan	IA/EA own:	\$200,000	\$244,800
Region:	ECIS/Central Asia	Government of Kyrgyzstan:	\$900,000	\$900,000
Focal Area:	Multi-Focal Area – Capacity Development	Other:	\$110,000	\$295,000
FA Objectives, (OP/SP):	CD5. To enhance capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	Total co-financing:	\$1,210,000	\$1,439,800
Executing Agency:	UNDP	Total Project Cost:	\$2,160,000	\$2,389,800
Other Partners involved:	SAEPF, UNEP, UNCCD, Coca Cola	ProDoc Signature (date project began):		14.10.2015
		(Operational) Closing Date:	Proposed: 14.10.2018	Actual: 30.06.2019

### Brief Project Description

The main objective of the **project “Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information”, referred to as Project in this report**, is to strengthen a set of important capacities for Kyrgyzstan to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations. These will focus on the management of data and information to formulate and implement sectoral development plans that better reflect global environmental dimensions. This will be manifested through the strengthening of an Environmental Information Monitoring and Management System (EIMMS) that is constructed by an integration of existing environmental management information systems, building upon much of the capacities currently being developed in this area by other development partners.

Among the key activities of the project is the updating of key technological needs, not only of the government structures such as the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), but also other key stakeholders.

In addition to strengthening the institutional arrangements for data and information management, the project will also test how these arrangements represent a cost-effective approach to creating and applying best practices for managing the global environment. This project pursues a long-term approach to institutionalizing capacities to meet the Rio Multilateral Environmental Agreements’ (MEAs) obligations through a set of learning-by-doing activities that lay the foundation for effective decision-making and policy-making regarding global environmental benefits.

## Summary of Terminal Evaluation Rating for the Project

<b>1. Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<b>Rating at TE</b>	<b>Qualitative summary evaluation of main criteria at TE</b>
M&E design at entry	MU	The M&E system of the project at the project's design and during implementation did not provide a clear set of indicators, with a baseline and target, following SMART indicators' approach, to allow a solid basis for impact and Results-Based monitoring.
M&E Plan	MU	
Implementation	MU	
<b>Overall quality of M&amp;E</b>	<b>MU</b>	
<b>2. Implementation &amp; Execution</b>	<b>Rating at TE</b>	<b>Qualitative summary evaluation of main criteria at TE</b>
Quality of UNDP Implementation	HS	The UNDP Country Office successfully supported the planning, implementation including procurement and human resources services of the project. The main implementing partner (SAEPF) together with the other main project partners have been closely engaged in the planning and implementation of the project's activities and have ensured an effective and sustainable approach of the project's implementation.
Quality of Execution by Executing Agency	HS	
<b>Overall quality of Implementation / Execution</b>	<b>HS</b>	
<b>3. Assessment of Outcomes</b>	<b>Rating at TE</b>	<b>Qualitative summary evaluation of main criteria at TE</b>
Quality of Project Outcomes	HS	The project has constantly exceeded its planned results and impact and its implementation was highly efficient and effective. The in-depth understanding of the project team, including the project manager, the UNDP CO and the Government counterparts have allowed the implementation of a set of activities which proved relevant to all partners.
Relevance	R	
Effectiveness	HS	
Efficiency	HS	
<b>4. Sustainability</b>	<b>Rating at TE</b>	<b>Qualitative summary evaluation of main criteria at TE</b>
Financial resources	L	As for all aspects of project's sustainability, the Financial, Socio-political, Institutional and Environmental sustainability of the Project are clearly planned as part of project design and project implementation through close collaboration with all concerned Governmental institutions. The TE provided clear trends and examples confirming the "Likely" sustainability of the project, with negligible risks.
Socio-political	L	
Institutional	L	
Environmental	L	
<b>Overall likelihood of risks to Sustainability</b>	<b>L</b>	
<b>5. Impact</b>	<b>Rating at TE</b>	<b>Qualitative summary evaluation of main criteria at TE</b>
<b>Overall project impact</b>	<b>S</b>	The significant project's impact is confirmed at the levels of the rating of the Capacity Development Scorecard, the integration of the EIMMS in key national policies, and the impact assessment of training and activities.

<b>Rating scales to be used in the TE</b>		
<b>Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&amp;E, I&amp;E Execution</b>	<b>Sustainability ratings:</b>	<b>Relevance ratings</b>
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)  <b>Impact Ratings:</b> 3. Significant (S) 2. Minimal (M) 1. Negligible (N)
<b>Additional ratings where relevant:</b> Not Applicable (N/A) Unable to Assess (U/A)		

## Summary of conclusions, recommendations and lessons

### Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project

In light of the ambitious scale of the project, and given the political and administrative challenges facing the project in the initiation of some of its activities, and based the “Highly Satisfactory” rating of the TE with regards to the “Projects’ results” as well as its “Effectiveness and Efficiency” in the implementation of the project’s activities, the TE agrees with a 6 months no-cost extension of the project, till June 2019 which was officially approved after the RTA/PA revision.

The purpose of the extension is to address critical risks on the immediate benefits of the project which were identified by the TE and which should include the following:

- Signature of the MoUs between SAEPF and the following institutions: MoA, Kyrgyz Hydromet, NSC, which are expected to take place by end 2018, but could not be confirmed by the TE.
- Finalizing the development of the software part of the proposed EIMMS and its operation as this is only expected to take place in February 2019
- Finalization of the TE report by providing management response of the different partners
- Supporting resource mobilization needed for the printing of the educational modules/training kits developed by the project related to UNCBD and UNCCD.

### Proposals for future directions underlining main objectives

The project has conducted extensive efforts to identify future directions building upon the Project’s results and ensuring the development of a resource mobilization strategy drafted in collaboration with UNDP BioFin Project. The proposed future directions take into account good practices for raising and allocating funds to achieve global environmental targets from national and international resources.

As part of the resource mobilization strategy, activities for the extension of EIMMS was integrated into Funding Proposal for the National Adaptation Planning process submitted by the Government to the Green Climate Fund. Future direction should also build upon the innovative and significant impact of the project, including the visual identify established by the project such as the Kerege and Climate Box logos which constitute a long-term achievement of the project. Other innovative approaches promoted by the project such as the cooperation with “Plan B” movie should also be documented and promoted among the tools to be adopted in future programmes.

### Best practice: Establishment of an EIMMS "Kerege" in the Kyrgyz Republic

Despite the ambitious scope of the project, and despite political and institutional difficulties which faced the project to establish the EIMMS, it is important to flag the consistent approach followed by the project team, the UNDP Country Office and the project partners to ensure the establishment of a national EIMMS.

At all levels, political, institutional and technical, the EIMMS, which has commonly known as “Kerege” in Kyrgyzstan, has been able to reach consensus among all partners for information management and sharing.

The analysis of the development of an institutional and technical framework for the EIMMS “Kerege” in the Kyrgyz Republic which was completed in 2018 has been requests from several development partners and other countries as a good practice based on the Methodological Manual and the analysis report. The project has proceeded with the translation of this analysis into English for exchange of information.

### Worst practice: Challenges in tendering the development of the Software Part of the EIMMS

The tendering process of the development of the Software Part of the EIMMS has proven to be complex and lengthy, due to lack of qualified national service providers which could respond to the UNDP’s specifications. As such, the tendering process could only be completed in July 2018, while the development of the software part of the EIMMS requires a period of 6 months. Despite extensive efforts to address this challenging situation, and given the important role of the project in supporting the hand-over of the software to the SAEPF and its initial operation, the TE has agreed with the extension of the project by at 6 months, to allow smooth operation of the EIMMS. However, such a situation could have been avoided through an earlier tendering process or a modification of the specifications in order to allow a smoother tendering process.



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the evaluation

This report is in accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) of all full and medium-sized UNDP projects financed with GEF's support.

The objectives of the evaluation are to assess the achievement of project results, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

The report is prepared based on the Terms of Reference (TORs) provided by the UNDP-Country Office (UNDP-CO) and which sets out the expectations for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the "Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information" project (attached in Annex 1).

## 1.2. Scope & Methodology

The TE has followed UNDP/GEF approach and method for conducting project terminal evaluations and is based on the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the [UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects](#).

For this purpose, the evaluation is using the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact, following a set of questions covering each of these criteria, in addition to other aspects as requested by the UNDP/GEF guidelines.

As per the ToRs, the TE included a 4-days mission to Kyrgyzstan from 17-20 December 2018, in order for the evaluator to conduct needed interview with key Project's stakeholders. Annex 2 includes the itinerary and list all stakeholders interviewed, the mission agenda included meetings with the following:

- The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF) – GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP);
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (MoA) of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- National Statistical Committee (NSC) of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Members of the Project Board;
- NGOs involved in the Project;
- Public Radio and TV Broadcasting Company;
- UNDP Gender Team;
- UNDP Environment, Climate Change and DRM Programme and its projects;
- UNDP Senior Management.

The evaluator was also able to access and review all relevant sources of information, such as the project document, project reports – including Annual APR/PIR, project budget revisions, progress reports, project files, national strategic and legal documents, and other materials that is useful for this evidence-based assessment. The list of documents reviewed is attached in Annex 3.

Based on the various sources of data collected and the interviews, the methodology which was adopted was based on triangulation, by cross-checking the sources of information among the different project's stakeholders. This was mainly possible through the face to face interviews which were based on the Evaluation Questions in Annex 4.

In order to maximize the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the interviews, an interview template was prepared based on the list of questions, on which the interview will be based. The questions aimed to collect information pertaining to the issues of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. The interview questions were further customized during the interviews to fit the needs of the different stakeholders.



While all relevant data and documentation was collected within the inception period, additional information and clarifications were further requested based on the results of the interviews during the in-country mission and drafting of the TE report.

It should be noted that the main limitations to the evaluation was the language of the main reports which required extensive efforts to translate in order to be able to review and capture needed information.

In line with the UNDP evaluations conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the [UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations'](#), the evaluator is held to the highest ethical standards and has signed an Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System (attached in Annex 5) upon acceptance of the assignment.

Finally, when submitting the final evaluation report, the evaluator provides an “audit trail”, which is annexed as a separate file, detailing how all the comments which were received have (or have not) been addressed in the final evaluation report and will provide an evaluation clearance form from UNDP in Annex 6.

### 1.3. Structure of the evaluation report

As per UNDP/GEF requirements and as per the ToRs of this TE, the Terminal Evaluation Report includes the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Acronyms and Abbreviations
- Introduction
- Project description and development context including the following:
- Findings of the TE (descriptive assessment and all criteria marked with (\*) must be rated<sup>2</sup>) covering the following aspects:
  - Project Design / Formulation
  - Project Implementation
  - Project Results
- Conclusions, Recommendations & Lessons
- Annexes

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<sup>2</sup> Using a six-point rating scale: 6: Highly Satisfactory, 5: Satisfactory, 4: Moderately Satisfactory, 3: Moderately Unsatisfactory, 2: Unsatisfactory and 1: Highly Unsatisfactory, see Guidelines for conducting Terminal evaluations: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1905>.

2. Project description and development context

2.1. Project start and duration

The project’s start and key dates are presented in **Table 1** below and can be summarized as follows:

- The Project was planned over a duration of 36 months (3 years), extending from October 2013 till October 2018.
- The Project’s initiation, including the recruitment of the Project manager and conducting an Inception Mission of the Project were conducted in a timely manner.
- The Project has not been subject to a Mid-Term Evaluation given that it is a GEF Medium-Size Project for which an MTR is not mandatory.
- The Project team requested a no-cost extension till end of 2018 to complete the project activities. The RTA/PA concluded the requested time might not be sufficient and added an additional 6 months to the request to secure all activities are completed and payments liquidated within the official extension period.
- The Project’s TE has been conducted during the extension time, which allows capturing the TE’s recommendations in the Project’s final results.

Table 1. Project’s start and key dates

Milestone	Date	Month of project
Project Document Signature	October 2015	0
Recruitment of Project Manager	October 2015	0
Project Inception Workshop	February 2016	5
Mid-Term Evaluation	Not applicable	
Initially Planned Project Completion	October 2018	36
Terminal Evaluation	December 2018	38
Revised Project Completion	December 2018	44

2.2. Problems that the project sought to address

The project builds upon the experience and developments made in Kyrgyzstan since 2005 as part of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) to identify the priority cross-cutting capacity development needs of the country to meet and sustain obligations under the three Rio Conventions. The main limitations to respond to the obligations of Rio Conventions identified as part of the NCSA included the lack of effective coordination, weak monitoring and enforcement of legislation, insufficient technical training and transfer of technology needs, barriers to access new and best practice knowledge, and inadequate awareness and understanding of the public of the importance of sound environmental management.

With financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Kyrgyzstan undertook a first cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) project to address a subset of NCSA priority recommendations, focusing on environmental fiscal reform. This project, known as Capacity Building for Improved National Financing of Global Environmental Management project, was implemented by UNDP and the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) and completed in 2012. Specifically, the project focused on strengthening institutional arrangements for a more transparent and streamlined approach to mobilizing and accessing funds for wildlife conservation efforts, as well as the creation of stronger incentives for using more environmentally friendly technology and techniques and the adoption of best practices to minimize land degradation and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The outcomes of this included the strengthening of a tax instrument for curtailing industrial pollution, the formulation

and piloting of a strategy for the fiscal management of environmental resources, and strengthened technical capacities for assessing and collecting fines.

Despite the important achievements of the first CCCD project, other NCSA priority recommendations remained unaddressed. The first CCCD project therefore recommended a number of follow-up actions, most notably to formulate a new CCCD project to strengthen the country's environmental governance and the mainstreaming of global environmental issues into national development plans and programmes.

As a follow-up to these recommendations and with the assistance of UNDP, the government formulated a new project concept to meet the priority need to strengthen capacities for improved decision-making. The proposed CCCD project responds to a targeted set of key barriers, such as limited coordination and collaboration, access to technology, and environmental awareness and monitoring, which prevent Kyrgyzstan from achieving and sustaining global environmental outcomes.

A preliminary analysis of the country's capacities identified important gaps and shortcomings for the effective management of environmental information and environmental monitoring, including:

- Poor information (uncertainties, incomplete data), inadequate analysis that is insufficient for effective policy making and implementation on flora and fauna protection, including forests. Lack of possibilities to track decisions.
- Under-developed technical capacity of observation network, processing and transmission of information.
- Reports on the state of environment are not exhaustive, and often fail to meet the requirements of international conventions and treaties. The processed information is often outdated.
- Lack of integrated national system for environmental monitoring.
- Limited availability of publicly accessible environmental information.
- Deficient ownership and poor enforcement of environmental regulations.
- Lack of financial resources available for environmental monitoring, processing and exchange, inefficient use of limited resources for monitoring, duplicated functions between the agencies.
- Weak legal, organizational, economic and social foundations for environmental information.

As a result of Kyrgyzstan's inadequate environmental information monitoring and management system, the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of policy, legislation, and regulation remain weak. At project design, it was identified that despite Kyrgyzstan's significant reforms in environmental policies, legislation and institutions, regulatory reform remained incomplete and inconsistent in a number of areas<sup>3</sup>.

### **2.3. Development objectives and expected results of the project**

The project aims at strengthening capacities to make data and information more accessible for decision-making to meet Rio Convention obligations. The project will strengthen a more cost-effective approach data and information management, and to institutionalize the capacities developed by strengthening key enabling conditions.

The Long-term goal is "To strengthen a set of important capacities for Kyrgyzstan to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations", while the Project objective is "To strengthen targeted national capacities to meet Rio Convention objectives through improved procedures and tools to monitor and manage environmental information".

The expected results of the project are to strengthen national capacities at systemic, institutional and in communication and outreach for monitoring of key environmental data and information in order to meet and sustain global environmental outcomes. As presented in **Figure 1** below, the project is structured along three inter-linked components, which are the following:

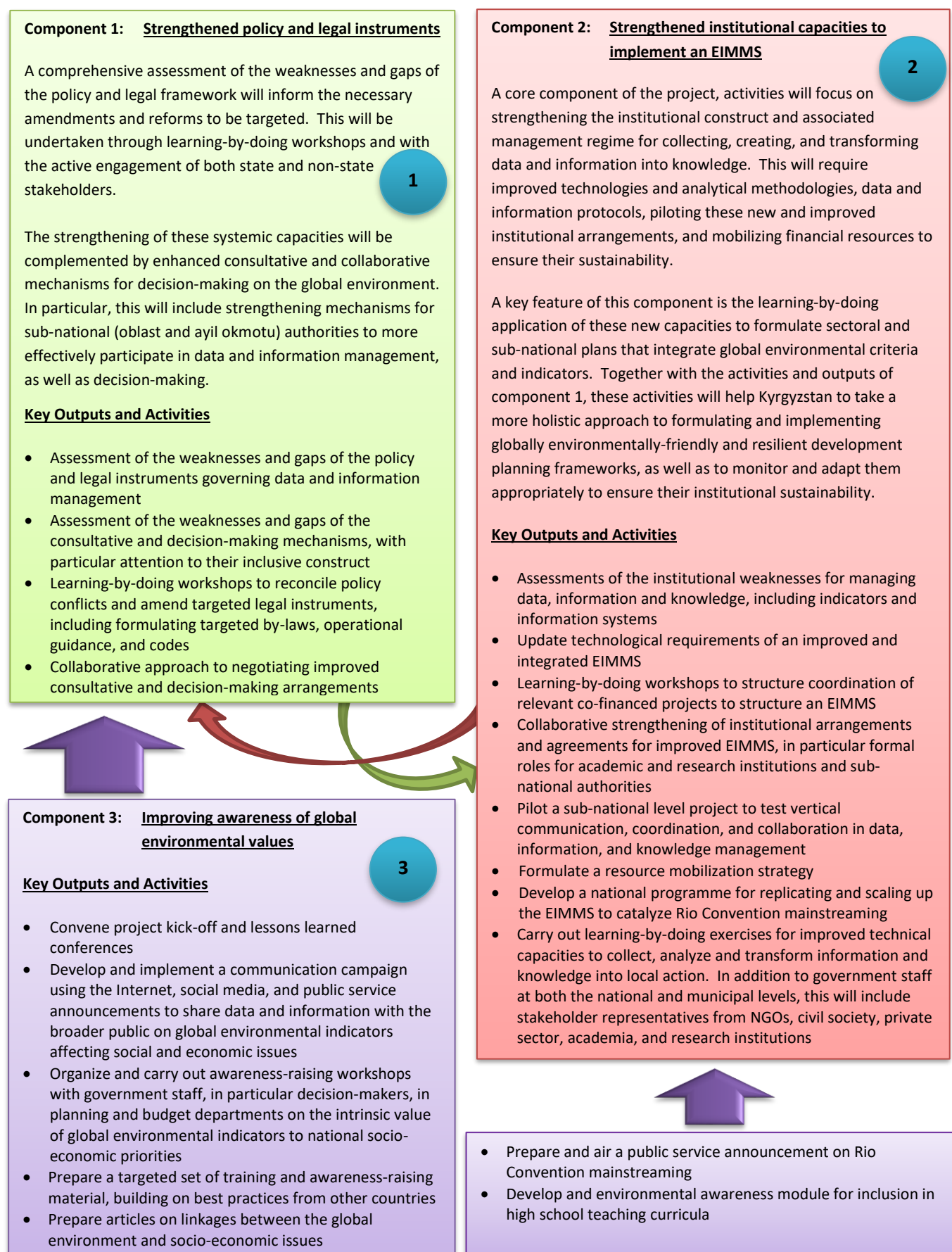
1. Strengthened policy and legal instruments
2. Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS

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<sup>3</sup> Further details on the problem analysis leading to the development of this project can be found in the Project Document.

### 3. Improving awareness of global environmental value

**Figure 1. Project components and their interactions**



## 2.4. Baseline indicators established

Despite a highly detailed Project Results Framework, the project's indicators are not designed with SMART impact indicators at objective's level, nor in a way to enable the adoption of a Results-based monitoring approach at outcomes' level. As such, the M&E system of the project at the design phase did not provide a solid basis for monitoring the project's results and its impact.

At objective level, the impact indicators proposed at project design cannot be considered as SMART indicators as they did not provide specific and measurable indicators with a clear baseline and target which could capture the project's impacts as shown in **Table 2** below.

The lack of impact indicators which allow measuring the changes occurring at the different capacity levels: systemic, institutional and individual is a limitation in the M&E system. A retrofitting exercise to use some of the project results and available data in order to measure the project's impact is thus necessary and is proposed in "Section 3.2. Project Implementation".

**Table 2. Project indicators at objective level with baseline and targets at project design**

Project objective	Objectively verifiable indicators		
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date
To strengthen targeted national capacities to meet Rio Convention objectives through improved procedures and tools to monitor and manage environmental information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthened environmental information management and monitoring system (EIMMS) for improved implementation of the Rio Conventions</li> <li>2. Institutional and technical capacities are strengthened for enhanced to create knowledge and mainstream Rio Conventions within national development frameworks</li> <li>3. Improved Awareness and environmental education on the linkages between Rio Conventions and national sustainable development objectives</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requirements of the Rio Conventions are not adequately incorporated in sectoral development planning</li> <li>2. Kyrgyzstan's environmental information monitoring and management system is inadequate</li> <li>3. There is little inter-ministerial coordination on the implementation of natural resource and environmental policies</li> <li>4. Despite the availability of scientific knowledge the data are not sufficiently used in the formulation of strategies or policy instruments</li> <li>5. Key ministries and agencies do not share a common understanding of how to use the research to inform policies, plans, or strategies</li> <li>6. Kyrgyzstan has adopted a number of key policies and programmes to govern key aspects of environmental and natural resource management, but the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of policy, legislation, and regulation remains weak</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is an increase in the appreciation of the Rio Conventions among the general public</li> <li>2. Rio Convention obligations are being better implemented through an integrated system of data and information managements</li> <li>3. Increased capacity within relevant stakeholder groups to handle data and information relevant to the Rio Convention</li> <li>4. There is an increase in coordination between government groups and other stakeholders</li> </ol>

At Outcomes' level, the project is measured through a set of activity-level process indicators at the level of each output. An extensive number of indicators and targets are provided for each output, moreover, the indicators, baseline values and targets do not correspond with each other, especially that the targets are developed to coincide with major project deliverables at activity level (as shown in **Table 3** below).

The lack of a limited set of Results-based indicators at outcomes level which allow measuring the combined results of the various activities is also a limitation in the M&E system. Similarly to the proposed modifications for the impact indicators, a retrofitting exercise of the outcome indicators is needed in order to use some of the project results and available data to measure the project's results at outcome level and is proposed in "Section 3.2. Project Implementation".

**Table 3. Project indicators at output level with baseline and targets at project design**

Project Outcome	Objectively verifiable indicators		
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date
<b>Output 1.1</b> <b>Targeted policies, legal and regulatory instruments are amended</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment of the current policy and legal framework</li> <li>2. Learning-by-doing training to reconcile the identified weaknesses</li> <li>3. Formulated and approved by-laws and operational guidance to mainstream Rio Conventions</li> <li>4. Secure approval of by-laws and any other policy, legislative, or regulatory instrument amended</li> <li>5. Distribution of updated codes, laws and relevant texts pertaining to environmental protection</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kyrgyzstan has adopted a number of key policies and programmes to govern key aspects of environmental and natural resource management, but the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of policy, legislation, and regulation remains weak</li> <li>2. Institutional structures are in need of clearly defined mandates and operational plans</li> <li>3. Kyrgyzstan's legislation suffers from numerous issues including overlapping and contradictory provisions, and laws that contain sectoral or corporate interests that contradict government policy</li> <li>4. Principles concerning the decentralization of natural resource management and the delegation of some authorities to local government bodies are inadequately regulated</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The three (3) in-depth thematic analyses (CBD, CCD, and FCCC) of Kyrgyzstan's environmental governance are drafted by month 6</li> <li>2. The synthesis report is drafted and endorsed by the technical working groups by month 8</li> <li>3. A compendium of environmental legislation that also explains in simple language the legislations' intent and coverage will be prepared by month 8</li> <li>4. Technical working groups draft policy recommendations for Project Board approval by month 8</li> <li>5. Comprehensive training programme drafted by month 16 and endorsed by the technical working groups by month 17</li> <li>6. By-laws and other appropriate legislative amendments are reviewed and validated by all stakeholders by month 18</li> <li>7. Operational guidelines finalized by month 18</li> <li>8. Guidelines are validated in stakeholder workshop by month 24</li> <li>9. Policy recommendations to legitimize these guidelines, are endorsed by the technical working groups by month 26</li> <li>10. Policy recommendations are approved by month 30</li> <li>11. Up-to-date texts are collected by month 18 and organized into documentation for distribution by month 21</li> </ol>



## **2.5. Main stakeholders**

The main concerned stakeholders and project partners were clearly identified in the project document in view of establishing needed cooperation mechanisms. As such, the project document indicated all key national and local stakeholders to be involved in the project. In terms of Governmental institutions, the role and responsibilities of the following is clearly described in the project:

- State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry
- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Energy and Industry
- Ministry of Emergency Situations
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- State Inspectorate on Ecological and Technical Safety

Other key stakeholders include environmental NGOs, the private sector, the media and academic institutions that are important to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project.

The project also calls upon the engagement of local stakeholders at rayon and municipality levels, including local authorities as well as local NGOs.



## 3. Findings of TE

### 3.1. Project design / Formulation

#### Analysis of LFA/Results Framework (Project logic /strategy)

The project document has provided a solid basis for establishing the project's logic/strategy building upon Kyrgyzstan's demonstrated commitment the three Rio Conventions as well as several other international treaties and protocols that call for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

At project design, a clear fit with the GEF-6 Strategy is made covering the GEF strategy for Cross-Cutting Capacity Development projects, which serves to provide resources for reducing, if not eliminating, the institutional bottlenecks and barriers to the synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions. A clear alignment with the CCCD Programme Framework 5, which calls for countries to enhance capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends, and other requirements of the Rio conventions is made.

Country drivenness is anchored in Kyrgyzstan's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) for the period of 2013 to 2017 which was approved by Presidential Decree No 11 on 21 January 2013, declaring, among others, the establishment of a sustainable system of environmental protection, control and monitoring and natural resources management for informed decision-making as well as other national policies, including being party to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention, Law No 5, 12 January 2001), confirming Kyrgyzstan's commitment to meet international standards to improving policies and procedures to improve transparency and stakeholder engagement in decision-making.

The project's strategy has also taken stock of the Sustainable Development context of the country including the policy, legal as well as institutional context, with an extensive analysis of the background and national context in this regard.

The barriers to achieving Global Environmental Objectives are also clearly spelled out in the project design including conformity with GEF capacity development operational principles and guidance from the Rio Conventions. All of this has allowed to build a highly detailed and clear Project Rationale, Project Goal, Objective, Expected Outcomes, Components, Outputs, and Activities.

#### Assumptions and Risks

The project's risks and association assumptions were analyzed through an in-depth assessment of these risks based on an extensive set of consultations and review of the background documentation and the following risks and assumptions were identified at project design:

- The most important risk to the project is internal resistance to change, however, the basis for this project is that these policies and procedures could be improved and the project's activities were strategically selected and designed to take into account these existing "business-as-usual" approaches, and to facilitate a process by they could be improved incrementally.
- Political commitment to apply institutional reforms is another important risk identified at project's design, most notably to the sustainability of project's results. Given that the expected results are partly driven through external financing and support, key project results are expected to be sufficiently institutionalized if the larger outcomes are to be sustainable.
- Another risk associated with the project, but minimal, is that political elections could result in a change in leadership among the key government bodies, with implications for the loss of institutional memory. However, given that the SAEPF is a body that falls under the Government Apparatus of the President (who was elected in 2014 for a five-year term), the head of the SAEPF is not subject to the high risks that come about through more frequent parliamentary changes.

- A final risk of the project is the lack of a policy or legislation to support certain aspects of the project, in particular procedures to facilitate national consensus of key data and information. For this purpose, the project emphasizes the importance of engaging all stakeholders to agree on policies and measures to mitigate the de-legitimization of government data, information, policies, and plans.

### **Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g., same focal area) incorporated into project design**

The project's strategy builds upon the various Kyrgyzstan's first cross-cutting capacity development project including the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) project implemented with UNDP/GEF support between 2003 and 2005.

The project's design also builds upon the follow-up to the NCSA which was the focused on environmental fiscal reform, which was one of the NCSA's priority recommendations. This project, known as Capacity Building for Improved National Financing of Global Environmental Management project, was implemented by UNDP and the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) and completed in 2012.

### **Planned stakeholder participation**

Coordination and consultative mechanisms with State and Non-State stakeholders were strongly captured as part of project's design. The project formulation included extensive discussions with stakeholders and served to highlight the strategic value of the project to build upon a number of very relevant work that the Government is undertaking with the support of the development partners in Kyrgyzstan. These consultations reaffirmed the validity of the project strategy to work with on-going initiatives and help strengthen the global environmental character, in particular to strengthen the synergies and institutional sustainability of capacities (systemic, institutional, and individual) for more informed and holistic planning and decision-making.

Taking into account the strategic complementarities of the project with other development partners and partner agencies, consultations during the project preparation phase was successful in leveraging significant the possibility of additional co-financing to be leveraged during project implementation.

### **Replication approach**

The replication and extension of project activities at project design is strengthened by the large number of stakeholders that the project envisages engaging. This includes working with NGOs and civil society associations that have a strong presence and extensive reach in local communities and/or are actively supporting related capacity development work. Research and academic institutions also play an important role in identifying new and innovative interpretations and policy responses to improve environmental management and monitoring, further strengthening the value of the EIMMS, and thus strengthening its subsequent application more broadly.

Replication is also supported by raising awareness of the project throughout Kyrgyzstan. This project facilitates this through awareness-raising workshops with key stakeholders from the local and regional government, the private sector, academia, civil society and the media with the purpose of helping them to write articles about the environment. The public service announcements on radio and television also serve the purpose of popularizing the project with the public in order to generate greater support and demand for replication activities.

Finally, the resource mobilization strategy is a key feature of the project's replicability since activities under the project will need continued financing.

## **UNDP comparative advantage**

At project's design, it is confirmed that UNDP's mandate, relationship with government and long-standing engagement in the area of intervention of the project gives it a comparative advantage in facilitating government partnerships, especially with regards to GEF grant financed projects.

As such, the UNDP Environment Protection for Sustainable Development Programme (EPSD) played a critical role in sustainability of interventions of the UNDP/GEF CCCD project on Capacity Building for Improved National Financing of Global Environmental Management in Kyrgyzstan, the UNDP/UNV Rehabilitation of Riparian Forests in Kyrgyzstan, and the UNDP/GEF project on Demonstrating Sustainable Mountain Pasture Management in the Suusamyr Valley.

In addition to these projects, the EPSD also supported the government to secure endorsement of the Concept on Environmental Security of the country enacted through Presidential Decree in the second half of 2007. The EPSD Programme also actively supported the development process of the Third and the Fourth National Reports on Biodiversity Conservation, the Initial National Report on the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Decision-Making and Justice in Environmental Matters and the First and Second National Communications under the UNFCCC.

## **Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector**

Several initiatives were identified at project design with which the project should coordinate, including several GEF-financed projects related to the Rio conventions and others such as the Project on "Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Chu and Talas River Basins" and the Project on "Protect human health and the environment from unintentional releases of persistent organic pollutants and mercury from unsound disposal of healthcare waste".

A number of other non-GEF funded projects are identified at project design with which this project should coordinate such as the UNDP "Poverty and Environment Initiative".

Finally, several regional environmental programmes in Central Asia in which Kyrgyzstan is participating are identified at project design, and in view of strengthening linkages such as Finland's Water Management Programme (FinWaterWEI II), the project for "Building a Knowledge Sharing Tool for Natural Resource Management" (K-link), the GIZ/FAO/GEF project on "Sustainable Management of Mountainous Forest and Land Resources under Climate Change Conditions, and the regional project on "Forest and Biodiversity Governance Including Environmental Monitoring" (FLERMONECA).

## **3.2. Project implementation**

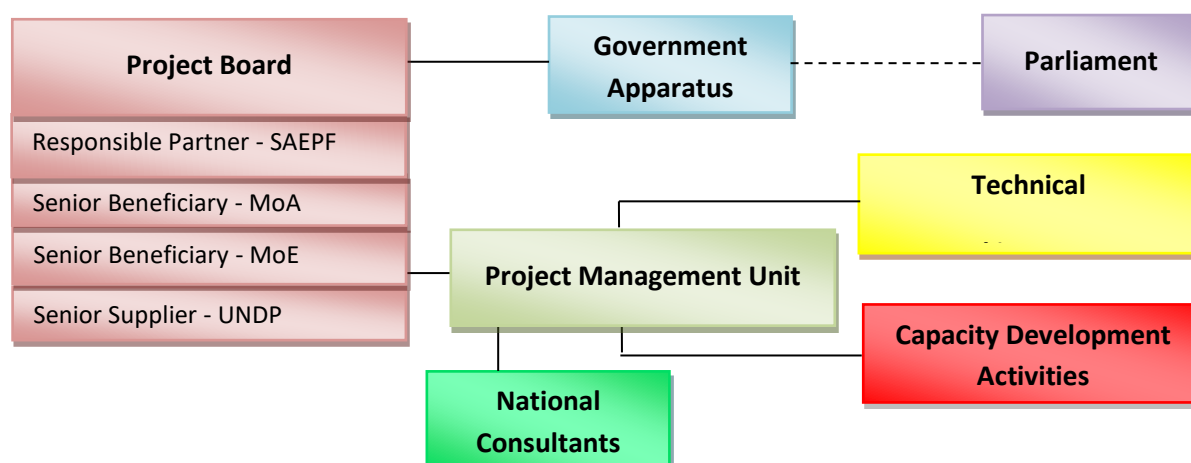
### **3.2.1. Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)**

At project design and in project implementation, an adaptive and collaborative management approach has been adopted in the execution of the project, ensuring that key stakeholders are involved early and throughout project implementation as partners for development. This included the participation of key partners in the Project Board, in order to review of project outputs such as recommendations for amendments to policies, plans, programmes and legislation, as well as participation in monitoring activities.

The Project was implemented through the Direct Implementation Modality by the UNDP Country Office (as the GEF Implementing Agency) within the framework of Environment Protection for Sustainable Development Programme and UNDP's Area-Based Development Offices that are instrumental for local interventions in the field. The Country Office carried out procurement and human resources services.

The implementing partner is the SAEPF (and is Focal Point for the UNCBD, UNFCCC and GEF), and has assigned a Director to chair the Project Board and made available its staff and network of experts to participate in the project's activities. The Focal Point for UNCCD which is the MoA acted as the senior project's beneficiary. At project design, the Ministry of Economy (MoE) was also proposed as the senior

project's beneficiary given its role in promoting economic and social development. **Figure 2** provides an organigramme of the project's management arrangements.



**Figure 2. Organigramme of the project's management arrangements**

The composition of the Project Board was agreed during the Project's Inception workshop at the outset of the Project and ensured close involvement of all concerned partners in the decision-making of Project. During Project's implementation, the membership of the Project Board included the following institutions:

- Chairman: Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF),
- Co-Chairman: UNDP Deputy Resident Representative; and Deputy Minister of MoA;
- Representative of the Agriculture Policy Department of the MoA;
- Head of the International Cooperation Unite of the SAEPF;
- Head of the Environmental Strategy and Policy Department of the SAEPF;
- Representative of the Sustainable Development Policy Department of the Ministry of Economy;
- Head of the Sustainable Development Statistics Department of the NCS;
- Environmental Advisor to the OSCE Center in Bishkek;
- Director of the Aarhus Center in Bishkek;
- Chairman of the SAEPF's Public Consul.

Project Boards meetings were held regularly, with 2 meeting/months and allowed consensus on important directions of the Project, such as in the case of the following Project Board meetings:

- The first Project Board meeting was held back-to-back with the Inception Workshop held on 26 February 2016 and approved the Project's Annual Work Plan.
- In December 2016, the Project Board approved the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as a high value pilot sector development plan
- In July 2018, the Project Board members supported the proposed arrangements for tendering of the development of the software part of the EIMMS.

### 3.2.2. Partnership arrangements (with relevant stakeholders involved in the country/region)

The project was able to establish strong partnerships with a large spectrum of national and international stakeholders which allowed efficient and productive implementation of the project's activities.

In addition to its strong partnership with the SAEPF, the project closely cooperated with the NSC, the MoA and the Ministry on Education and Science, as well with other governmental institutions.

Partnerships with non-governmental stakeholders including NGOs and the private sector were also actively developed and pursued by the project from the outset and throughout the implementation of activities.

Moreover, the project has coordinated actively with various projects ensuring coordination and synergies in the delivery of results and creating opportunities for extension of project's results.

Partnerships have been promoted through various consultative and operational approaches as shown in **Figure 3** below including the following:

- Inter-agency Working Groups
- Technical working group
- Memorandum of Agreement among partner agencies and other stakeholder organizations
- Public stakeholder dialogue workshops
- High Level Conference
- Public awareness campaign
- Training on technical, educational and awareness tools

In addition to the above, the project was able to develop strong partnerships with international partners and made a significant contribution into the development of a modern methodological framework for monitoring Rio Conventions which can be replicated in other regions/countries; the following examples can be indicated:

- Metrological Guideline on Climate Change Statistics and Road-map to improve climate change-related statistics were developed in collaboration with UNECE;
- National Methodology to measure Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and the SDG15.3 indicators were developed and a voluntary target was formulated in collaboration with UNCCD Secretariat;
- In cooperation with the UNDP BioFin Initiative, the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) included a monitoring framework based on EIMMS “Kerege” indicators;
- The Inter-Agency Working Group on the UNCBD was established with the Project's support and played a key role in coordination of all relevant stakeholders during the process of elaborating the updated of the NBSAP;
- As a part of extension of the EIMMS approach to the local level, UNDP-GEF “Western Tian-Shan” project launched the development of electronic managements system on protected areas in two pilot protected areas which will serve as source of reliable data from grassroot level for national EIMMS “Kerege” as well as for NBSAP implementation.







**International Workshop "Environmental Information Systems and Environmental Statistics for Achieving the SDGs", June 11, 2018, Bishkek**



**Round table "Interaction of stakeholders in the field of conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity in preparation of Tunduk interdepartmental interaction system, November 21-22, 2018**



**Session of the Inter-Agency Working Group, December 18, 2018**

**Figure 3. Different forms of the participatory approaches adopted by the project**

### 3.2.3. Project Finance including co-finance

#### 3.2.3.1. Trends related to the Project's GEF resources

By the time of the TE (18/12/2018), as shown in **Table 4** below, 92% of the project budget has been disbursed and the trends of disbursements across the different outcomes are in line with the planned budget. This confirms that the project design was realistic and that the project implementation has followed the initial project design. Only the expenditures allocated to Outcome 1 (Strengthened policy and legal instruments) are slightly below the planned budget, and it is estimated that this is due to the savings made by Project at the level of this Outcome by joint implementation of activities partnerships and resource mobilization (as will be confirmed in the analysis of Section 3.3. Project Results).

**Table 4. Total expenditures of the project compared to initially planned budget**

Project's Outcome	Total Budget (US\$)	Actual as of 18.12.2018 (US\$)	% spent
Outcome 1	91,500	67,391	74
Outcome 2	466,000	468,910	101
Outcome 3	307,000	257,762	84
Project Management	85,500	78,993	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>950,000</b>	<b>873,056</b>	<b>92</b>

With regards to the yearly project expenditures, **Table 5** below have reflected the constraints faced by the project in Year 1 of its implementation for the delivery of an EIMMS system in light of the political constraints which prevented the project from proceeding with smooth implementation of Output 2.

On the other hand, the disbursements at the level of Outcome 1 (Strengthened policy and legal instruments) in Year 1 shows an unusually high expenditure rate of 100% of planned resources, especially in light of standard trends in project management, where low expenditure rates are expected in the first year of a project's life and in light of the complex nature of the Outcome itself. This proves a good understanding of the project itself as well as strong partnerships for the implementation of a policy process.

Expenditure trends of the project also reflect that the project was able to initiate successfully the implementation of the activities planned under Outcome 3 (Improving awareness of global environmental value) with high levels of expenditures in Year 1 (57%) and Year 2 (163%), confirming again a good overall performance of the project's implementation, especially with regards to the implementation of communication and outreach activities which require an important level of coordination and collaboration with various stakeholders.

The expenditure trends show that the delivery of Outcome 2 (Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS) was mainly conducted in Year 3 of the project, which is justified by both political constraints to proceed with the implementation of activities as well as lengthy procurement procedures which significantly delayed the implementation of activities at the level of this Outcome.

While the above trends will be further confirmed in the analysis of the project's results, the overall expenditure trends of the project confirm that the project was able to proceed swiftly with the implementation of the planned project's activities, except for those related to Outcome 2, and which were delayed due to external factors to the project.



**Table 5. Yearly expenditures of the project as of 18 December 2018**

Project's Outputs	Total			Year 1 2016			Year 2 2017			Year 3 2018		
	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	% spent	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	% spent	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	% spent	Planned (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	% spent
Outcome 1	91,500	67,391	74	42,700	46,845	110	28,500	8,195	29	20,300	12,351	61
Outcome 2	466,000	468,910	101	174,800	32,084	18	189,000	104,735	55	106,800	332,091	311
Outcome 3	307,000	257,762	84	127,500	72,752	57	71,000	115,396	163	108,500	69,614	64
Project Management	85,500	78,993	92	20,500	20,335	99	20,500	14,204	69	44,500	44,454	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>950,000</b>	<b>873,056</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>365,500</b>	<b>172,016</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>309,000</b>	<b>242,531</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>280,100</b>	<b>458,511</b>	<b>164</b>

### 3.2.3.2. Trends related to the Project's Co-financing

The total co-financing allocations at project planning phase was equivalent to \$1.21 million; these were allocated from different sources including Government, UNDP and other source as presented in **Table 6** below. At the TE, the total co-financing was fully disbursed, with additional \$229,800 (equivalent to 19% of the total co-financing).

**Table 6. Co-financing sources**

Name of Co-financier	Classification	Type	Amount	
			At project signature (US\$)	At TE (US\$)
State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry	Government	In-Kind	650,000	650,000
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation	Government	In-Kind	250,000	250,000
UNDP	GEF Implementing Agency	Grant	150,000	150,000
		In-Kind	50,000	95,000
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	Multilateral Development Organization	In-Kind	110,000	110,000
Coca Cola “New World” Programme	Private sector	In-Kind		101,000
UNCCD Secretariat-UNDP/LDN	Multilateral Development Organization	In-Kind		30,000
Finland Government	Bilateral Development Organization	In-Kind		39,000
UNEP s	Multilateral Development Organization	In-Kind		15,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>1,210,000</b>	<b>1,440,00</b>

As per **Table 7** below, it is confirmed that the project has not only disbursed fully all the commitments for the co-financing, but has also succeeded to mobilize additional resources from UNDP and from other sources. More specifically, the project has increased by almost 3 times the foreseen resources for the project from other sources, and has accordingly achieved important additional results as it will be noted in the analysis of the project's results, the additional resources which mobilized include the following:

- Coca Cola “New World” Programme: \$101,000
- UNCCD Secretariat- UNDP/LDN: \$30 000
- Finland Government (FinWater WEI): \$39 000
- UNEP: \$15,000

Moreover, a significant part of the co-financing for this project came from an in-kind contribution from the SAEPF and MoA, which allowed the active engagement and time of their staffs in all project activities and participation to various capacity development activities. This was concretely demonstrated through the installation of the technological parts of EIMMS Training Center on environmental data which was created and equipped in SAEPF with co-financing from the Government's budget. The Project has organized over 10 capacity building and coordination activities at the SAEPF in the Training Center every year, supported by different development partners which demonstrates its long-term sustainability.

#### **UNDP co-financing**

UNDP Kyrgyzstan made a significant allocation of \$150,000 cash co-financing to this project, which are reflected in the funds used to top up the GEF contribution. The UNDP co-financing covered the cost of key UNDP staff to the learning-by-doing workshops, internal UNDP monitoring and reporting, and alignment of UNDP's management information systems, among others.

In-kind co-financing from UNDP of \$50,000 was also made available at project design through the UNDP/UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative, which is undertaking a number of activities that are complementary to the capacity development activities under this CCCD project, in particular as they relate to the use of indicators as a set of tools to achieving environmentally friendly and sustainable development.

Moreover, the project also succeeded to mobilize additional UNDP resources during project implementation which supported the implementation of project activities and were provided from the following projects:

- UNDP BioFin: \$28,000
- UNDP Russian TF: \$16,800

**Table 7. Planned and Actual Co-financing of the Project at the TE**

Cofinancing (Type/ Source)	IA own Financing (mil US\$)		Government (mil US\$)		Other (mil US\$)		Total Disbursement (mil US\$)	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Grants	0.150	0.150	-	-			0.150	0.150
Loans/ Concessional (compared to market rate)								
In-kind support	0.050	0.095	0.9	0.9	0.110	0.295	1.01	1.195
Other								
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.245</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.110</b>	<b>0.295</b>	<b>1.210</b>	<b>1.440</b>
<b>% of Total</b>		<b>122%</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>268%</b>		<b>119%</b>

#### 3.2.4. Monitoring and evaluation: design at entry and implementation\*

As indicated in “Section 2.4. Baseline indicators established”, the M&E system of the project at the project's design did not provide a solid basis for Results-Based Management and impact monitoring. The indicators were mainly process indicators which did not offer the project a tool for analyzing and tracking its results.

While it is beyond any doubt that the project has undertaken extensive efforts in implementing its planned activities, the initial M&E system did not provide a solid basis to track and measure its results and should have been strengthened by adopting a Results-Based M&E system as early as the Inception Phase.

While M&E roles and responsibilities were well articulated in project design as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation Section of the project document, the M&E plan did not provide a sufficient budget at Inception Phase to call upon external resources to support the project in establishing a Results-based monitoring system and re-align the project's indicators to ensure that a smaller number of SMART indicators are in place.

The M&E plan at project design has indicated that “A project initiation workshop” should be held at project's outset, and will allow the project, among others, to review the log frame (indicators, means of

verification, assumptions), in order to “provide a detailed overview of UNDP/GEF reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements”.

However, the M&E plan had only allocated an indicative cost of \$5,000 which is limited to call upon an M&E expert to respond to these requirements, and did not allow the project to address this constraint in the project’s design.

Despite the fact that the project has used an extensive number of indicators which don’t reflect the needed M&E requirements, the reporting process was rigorously applied to be aligned with the project design and the PIR ratings are consistent with TE findings.

However, as part of the TE, it was important to formulate a set of impact indicators at Objective level, and Results-based indicators at Outcome level in order to adopt as a basis of the project’s evaluation. The proposed indicators are presented in **Table 8** below and will be further used as part of the evaluation process.

It should be noted that during this retrofitting exercise, some of the existing project’s indicators have been used in order to ensure consistency and coherence with the initial project design, although the baseline and target of these indicators were not defined in a quantitative manner at project design.

**Based on all the above, it can be concluded that the M&E system both at design and at implementation is Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU) and showed significant shortcomings in establishing a clear M&E system for the project and providing a solid basis for reporting on the project’s results and impact.**

**Table 8. Proposed retrofitting of the indicators of the project for impact and results’ monitoring**

<b>Project Objective/Outcome</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target</b>
<b>Objective: To strengthen targeted national capacities to meet Rio Convention objectives through improved procedures and tools to monitor and manage environmental information</b>	Increase in the rating of the Capacity Development Scorecard ( <b>New indicator</b> )	16 (Nov 2014)	Increase in rating measured at TE
	Integration of the EIMMS in key national policies and plans as a monitoring framework ( <b>New indicator</b> )	0	EIMMS integrated in key national policies and plans as a monitoring framework
	Assessment of technical training needs necessary to integrate data, information and knowledge into national planning frameworks in a way that Rio Conventions obligations are being satisfied ( <b>Indicator from Output 2.4</b> )	N/A	Collect feedback evaluations from trainees on course effectiveness, 90% response rate for each course following its implementation
<b>Outcome 1: Strengthened policy and</b>	Formulated and approved by-laws and operational guidance to mainstream Rio Conventions	N/A	By-laws and other appropriate legislative amendments are reviewed and validated

Project Objective/Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	Target
<b>legal instruments</b>	<b>(Indicator from Output 1.1.)</b> Memoranda of agreement on consultative and decision-making processes <b>(Indicator from Output 1.2.)</b>	N/A	Liaison protocols among partner agencies and Memoranda of Agreement with other non-state stakeholder organizations to share of data and information during the project are drafted and signed
<b>Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS</b>	Technological requirements for collecting, storing, and sharing data and information are designed <b>(Indicator from Output 2.1.)</b>	N/A	Appropriate sets of national standards of environmental data and information are identified, as well as regulation necessary for improving coordination and communication at the national level for better reporting system
	Strengthen targeted institutional architectures for sharing data and information <b>(Indicator from Output 2.2.)</b>	N/A	Installation of hardware and software are completed by the end of the project. Databases are linked as part of the proposed EIMMS by the end of the project
<b>Outcome 3: Awareness of global environmental values is improved</b>	Workshops for media professionals to better enable them to report on the environmental information as well as environmental monitoring results from the perspectives of the global environmental issues and their relevance to Kyrgyzstan <b>(Indicator from Output 3.1.)</b>	N/A	Monitoring of impact results in the context of the Rio Convention mainstreaming shows a 10% increase over forecasted trends using baseline data and past trends
	Environmental awareness module for secondary schools <b>(Indicator from Output 3.4.)</b>	N/A	Education module prepared for secondary schools and 20 secondary schools have implemented education module

### 3.2.5. UNDP and Implementing Partner implementation/execution\*

#### Main implementing agencies and their responsibilities

In its capacity as Implementing Agency, the UNDP Country Office has adopted the Direct Implementation Modality through its “Environment and Disaster Risk Management” Unit as well other relevant programmes and units within the UNDP Country Office including technical programmes, procurement

and administration. In the context of its responsibilities, the UNDP Country Office supported the planning, implementation including procurement and human resources services.

The Project Inception was conducted at the outset of the project and allowed the revision of the Annual Work Plans as well as the establishment of the Project Board. However, the Inception meeting did not conduct a review of the project's components as it was agreed do not initiate changes which would reduce ambitions of the project.

In general, it is clear that the implementing agency has fulfilled its responsibilities, given the efficient delivery of project activities which confirm adequate provision of technical and administrative support. As an example, joint tendering with other projects were conducted in order to reduce procurement costs as in the case of the Request for Proposal on "Printing of publications within projects of Sustainable Development Dimension" and which the Project covered on 1 out of 3 deliverables, and which concerned "Printing of materials on Environment Protection (Printing of Laws and Regulations on environment protection)".

The only case where the support of UNDP was not aligned with the project's needs is in the procurement of the services for the development of the EIMMS software and which is further discussed in the Lesson Learned (Section 4.3.2).

### **Main executing partners and their responsibilities**

The main implementing partner (SAEPF) together with the other main project partners have been closely engaged in the planning and implementation of the project's activities and have ensured an effective and sustainable approach of the project's implementation.

Through the Project Board, which was chaired by the SAEPF's Director, the Project was provided with management oversight, continuous review of progress and decisions on programmatic modifications as well as policy recommendations. The nature of the Project Board which comprised all project's partners including MoA, Ministry of Economy, NCS, OSCE, Aarhus Center in addition to UNDP facilitated project's implementation. Moreover, the regular meetings of the Project Board allowed a reliable decision-making process.

It should also be noted that all project's partners have taken an active role and responsibility in the implementation of the project's activities and their follow up as needed and as further detailed in the Project's Results (Section 3.3).

### **Main aspects related to the implementation arrangements**

Building upon the successful role of the implementing agency and its partners, it can be concluded that the project's implementation arrangement was successfully applied to the project's needs and allowed swift and adaptive approach in project implementation. This has allowed the Project's Risks to be addressed in an appropriate way, taking into account national context. As such, the main risk which included the change of Government and could have cause delays and institutional disruption of the project outcomes, was mitigated through needed measures including the adoption of a project's strategy which intervenes on long-term strategic documents and working with middle-level decision-makers to avoid delays in implementation. Moreover, capacity building activities have been scheduled in a way as to cover participants from the newly appointed staff members if necessary.

**Based on the above assessment, the overall quality of Implementation/Execution, including the Quality of UNDP Implementation and the Quality of Execution by Executing Agency are rated as "Highly Satisfactory".**

### 3.3. Project Results

#### 3.3.1. Overall results (attainment of objectives)\*

This section presents the activities and results of the project based on the project’s Results and Resources Framework as provided in the initial project document.

##### 3.3.1.1. Outcome 1. Strengthened policy and legal instruments

Under this component, the project has exceeded its set targets as presented in **Table 9** below. Overall, the project has actively established a needed consultative platform with all national stakeholders and delivered solid policy and guidance documents.

**The only risk arising at the level of this outcome is the lack of the signature of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SAEPF and the following institutions: MoA, Kyrgyz Hydromet, NSC, which are expected to take place by end 2018, however, this cannot be confirmed by the TE.**

**Table 9. Assessment of Outcome 1 indicators at TE level**

Indicator	Target at design	Achieved target
Formulated and approved by-laws and operational guidance to mainstream Rio Conventions (Indicator from Output 1.1.)	By-laws and other appropriate legislative amendments are reviewed and validated (Target from Output 1.1)	Project supported development of two special sections on “Improvement of implementation of International Conventions” and “National environment information management and monitoring system” as part of the “Environmental Code” submitted to the Government for approval in December 2017.  Project supported development of regulatory guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Methodology to measure Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN, SDG15.3) indicators and formulate voluntary target in collaboration with UN CCD Secretariat (approved by the MoA in December 2017).</li> <li>- 7 Operational guidelines on MEA drafted and submitted to SAEPF for approval in September 2018.</li> <li>- Pilot Metrological Guideline on CC Statistics and Road Map on improvement of CC Statistics in collaboration with UNECE and approved by IWG in August 2017</li> </ul>
Memoranda of agreement on consultative and decision-making processes (Indicator from Output 1.2.)	Liaison protocols among partner agencies and MoUs with other non-state stakeholder organizations to share of data and info during the project are drafted and signed	MoUs to share data and information during the project implementation agreed during official process of IWG creation and secured by the IWG’s regulations drafted in June 2016. This agreement was signed by all state and non-state stakeholder’s organization IWG’s members in August 2016 and were updated to reflect Kerege in April 2018.  MoUs are awaiting signature between SAEPF and the following institutions: MoA, Kyrgyz Hydromet, NSC by end 2018.



In addition to the achieved targets at the level of the set indicators, the overall achievements at the level of each output under this outcome can be summarized as follows:

**Under “Output 1.1. Targeted policies, legal and regulatory instruments are amended”, the following was achieved:**

- Conducted **three in-depth thematic assessment of the Rio Conventions** (CBD, CCD, and FCCC) of Kyrgyzstan in October 2016. The assessment report was endorsed by the IWGs in December 2016
- Compiled a **compendium of environmental legislation** in collaboration with OSCE and which was endorsed by SAEPF in December 2016. Up-to-date texts of the environmental legislation were collected by Project in joint collaboration with Aarhus Center (OSCE), published in January 2017 and distributed in March 2017. In December 2018 collection of legislation developed by the project was updated and re-published by Aarhus Center (OSCE)
- Supported the development of two special sections as part of the **comprehensive legislation document “Environmental Code”**, as indicated in **Table 9** above
- **Operational guidelines** development of including as indicated in **Table 9** above.
- **Policy and strategic recommendations.** Supported the development of special sections on environment, improvement decision making process based on reliable environmental data, management of environmental data for 5 strategic documents as indicated in **Table 12** below.

**Under “Output 1.2: Strengthened consultative and decision-making processes”, the following was achieved:**

- **Assessment of information and knowledge needs of social actors and other stakeholders** that can play a role in catalyzing Rio Convention implementation developed in by July 2016 and endorsed by the IWG meeting in August 2016
- **Assessment report on gender issues** describing the extent to which gender issues are relevant to information and knowledge for meeting and sustaining global environmental objectives developed, reviewed by UNDP Gender Specialist and presented at IWG meeting in September 2018
- **Working groups negotiate best consultative and decision-making processes** to help local self-government authorities to integrate Rio Convention criteria and indicators into the operationalization of local sustainable development strategies.
  1. First meeting of IWG held in August 2016. On the meeting initial introduction on institutional assessment was presented and discussed.
  2. Second meeting of IWG held in September 2016. On the meeting the preliminary findings of the institutional assessments were reviewed, discussed and provided input to finalize the assessment
  3. Third meeting of IWG held in December 2016. On the meeting overall findings were discussed and pilot of high value sector development plan was agreed and recommended for approval by the Project Board
  4. Fourth meeting of IWG held in June 2017. On the meeting overall findings were discussed and ToR for activities in pilot of high value sector development plan was agreed
- **MoUs to share data and information among institutions** agreed upon in the IWGs process as indicated in Table 7 above. Although the MoUs were updated during official process of the IWG on EIMMS “Kerege” creation and signed by all state and non-state stakeholders in April 2018, they are still awaiting signature between SAEPF and the following institutions: MoA, Kyrgyz Hydromet, NSC by end 2018.

### 3.3.1.2. Outcome 2. Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS

Under this component, the project has exceeded its the set targets as presented in **Table 10** below. Overall, the project has actively implemented needed institutional development activities with all national stakeholders and delivered needed institutional strengthening and infrastructure.

**The only risk arising at the level of this outcome is the fact that the database developed with the project's support is currently linked as part of the proposed EIMMS on the SAEPF's web site and the Software part of EIMMS was started in September 2018 and is expected to be launched in February 2019, however, this cannot be confirmed by the TE.**

**Table 10. Assessment of Outcome 2 indicators at TE level**

Indicator	Target at design	Achieved target
Technological requirements for collecting, storing, and sharing data and information are designed (Indicator from Output 2.1.)	Appropriate sets of national standards of environmental data and information are identified, as well as regulation necessary for improving coordination and communication at the national level for better reporting system	Review of national standards on environmental data and information conducted by June 2018 and a set of appropriate standards described and approved by IWG in August 2018.  A Set of National Most Representative Environmental Indicators "Kerege" consisting of 54 indicators divided into 11 groups and taking into account Rio Conventions monitoring framework, SDGs targets, Green Growth and State of the Environment Report's Indicators with developed relevant metadata/descriptions.
Strengthen targeted institutional architectures for sharing data and information (Indicator from Output 2.2.)	Installation of hardware and software are completed by the end of the project  Databases are linked as part of the proposed EIMMS by the end of the project	Hardware component of the EIMMS was installed in December 2017 and initiated for data and information exchange by May 2018 considering capacity of each partner through the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in SAEPF, a Training center on environmental data was created and equipped, 2 Database Servers were procured. Finland Programme FinWater WEI will use servers purchased by the project for placing their data modules and providing additional technical support for its functioning.</li> <li>- in NSC, communication system connected to the statistical training centers in Bishkek and Osh</li> <li>- Databases linked as part of the proposed EIMMS on the SAEPF's web site in September 2018</li> <li>- Development of Software part of EIMMS started in September 2018 and initial version will be launched in February 2019</li> </ul>

In addition to the achieved targets at the level of the set indicators, the overall achievements at the level of each output under this outcome can be summarized as follows:

**Under “Output 2.1: Institutional mapping and analysis of an optimal information and monitoring system”, the following was achieved:**

- **Analysis of the institutional requirements to use best available and innovation data to implement the Rio Conventions and through mainstreamed sectoral development plans** drafted and presented at the inception workshop in February 2016.
- **Technical working group on localization of environmental SDGs** was created by SAEPF in March 2017 as part of future EIMMS development process. Then Interdepartmental working group on environmental information management and monitoring system “Kerege” was officially created by SAEPF in April 2018.
  - Technical working group on SDGs localization met three times in 2017 and one in 2018.
  - IWG on EIMMS “Kerege” met three times by the September 2018
- **Review of national standards on environmental data and information** was conducted by June 2018 and set of appropriate standards described and approved by IWG in August 2018. A Set of National Most Representative Environmental Indicators “Kerege” was introduced, it consisted from 54 indicators divided into 11 groups and took into account Rio Conventions monitoring framework, SDGs targets, Green Growth and State of the Environment Report’s Indicators with developed relevant metadata/descriptions.
- **Construction of an institutional architecture for storage and transformation of data and information** started in August 2017, the project supported the Government in promoting a nation-wide Concept of digital transformation “Taza-Koom” (Smart Nation), which contained a special section related to environment protection and implementation of the EIMMS “Kerege”. This was followed up in December 2017, as part of development national electronic interaction of state bodies system “Tunduc” which will be completed by the end of the project.
- **A tracking mechanism to monitor the use of EIMMS** was integrated into a high-value pilot sector development plan which is the NBSAP and will be extended through the development of the software.

**Under “Output 2.2: Targeted institutional reforms for improved access to data and information”, the following was achieved:**

- **Three technical working groups (CBD, CCD, and FCCC) created:**
  1. IWG on UN FCCC created by SAEPF chaired by UN FCCC Focal Point in 2012. Creation of UN CBD and UN CCD Interagency Working Groups (IWG) were initiated in June 2016 and officially created in August 2016. IWG on UN CCD met three times in 2016, two times in 2017 and two times in 2018.
  2. IWG on UN CCD by Ministry of Agriculture chaired by UN CCD Focal Point (Order #219); IWG on UN FCCC met two times in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
  3. IWG on UN CBD by State Agency on Environment chaired by UN CBD Focal Point (Order #01-9/238). IWG on UN CBD met three times in 2016, two times in 2017 and three times in 2018.
- **Sustainability of technical working groups functioning secured and at least one meeting each of group supported from other than project sources.** Two meetings of the IWG on UN CCD in 2017 were supported by GIZ, one meeting in 2018 was supported by UN CCD Secretariat and one initiated and covered by the Ministry of Agriculture from own funds. Two meetings of the IWG on UN CBD in 2018 were supported jointly with UNDP BioFin and one initiated and covered by State Agency on Environment from own funds
- **The technical working groups submit technical and policy recommendations to the relevant**

**ministries and agencies.** On each meeting of the IWGs technical and policy recommendations for relevant ministries were presented and discussed. On the second (December 2016) meeting of the IWG on UN CCD recommendation on development of methodology on SDG 15.3 monitoring (LDN) was issued to the Government and implemented in 2017. On the third meeting in December 2016 – monitoring framework for Strategic Programme Agriculture Development was agreed and submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture for approval to the Government of KR in January 2017.

- **Convene expert working group and stakeholder meetings to agree on recommendations of institutional reforms.** Special workshop on collaboration of Government bodies with the National Academy of Science was organized in October 2016. Two meetings of the IWG on environmental SDGs were supported in 2017 and recommendation on improvements of data flow was agreed by the Government with NSC leadership. Creation of special IWG on environmental information management and monitoring system “Kerege” was endorsed by SAEPF in April 2018 as part of improvement institutional reform process (Order #01-9/98 as of 17.04.18).
- **Memorandum of Agreement among partner agencies and other stakeholder organizations.** MoUs among partner agencies drafted within the Government process on creation of the EIMMS “Kerege” in September 2018 and expected to be signed by the end of the project as indicated in **Table 10** above
- **Installation of hardware and software.** Hardware component of the EIMMS was installed in December 2017 and operationalized for data and information exchange by May 2018 considering capacity of each partners as indicated in **Table 10** above

**Under “Output 2.3: Selected updating of technologies for information monitoring and management”, the following was achieved:**

- **In-depth baseline assessment of current management information system** was completed in September 2017 and updated in February 2018
- **Feasibility study on the design and operation of the EIMMS based on Targeted study of best practice web-based tools for environmental data and metadata sharing and storage management** was completed in March 2018
- **Convened public stakeholder dialogue workshops on improving EIMMS.** In total - six public stakeholder dialogue workshops on improving EIMMS were held, including two in 2017 and four in 2018

**Under “Output 2.4: Training on improved methodologies and analytical skills”, the following was achieved:**

- **Training needs assessment report** to manage data and information drafted in September 2016 and updated in February 2018. Training programme and curriculum that includes best practices for the sharing, collection and use of environmental data and information drafted and agreed on the IWGs meeting in September 2016 and updated in April 2018
- **Training workshops and related exercises.** In total five training workshops were organized in environmental data management and analytical skills with support of international trainers and participation of 137 representatives from state and non-state bodies:
  - one organized with SAEPF and NSC on visualization of environmental statistics in October 2016. Based on received knowledge’s first user-friendly environmental statistic’s compilation was developed by NSC and published in December 2016 in Russian, Kyrgyz and English. Updated version of user-friendly environmental statistic’s compilation was developed by NSC in November 2018
  - one in collaboration with UNCCD Secretariat in June 2017 on LDN calculation;
  - three in collaboration with UNECE, ESCAP and UNEP in June 2018, including one on SEEA Forest Accounts, one on SEEA Energy Accounts, and one on Developing a Protected Areas Information System and products

- **Impact assessment of training and awareness activities**, which covered 137 participants (around 95% of trainees provided a response), showed an increase of the capacity to handle data and information relevant to the Rio Convention and environmental SDGs (as indicated in Table 10 below).
- According to independent impact assessment, **women constituted 57,4% of participants trained** within the project's capacity building programme on improvement of usage/analyses of environmental data and information

**Under “Output 2.5: Improved EIMMS tested”, the following was achieved:**

- **Pilot a high value pilot sector development plan.** The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was approved as high value pilot sector development plan in December 2016 by the Project Board. Updated the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was agreed with SAEPF and sent for approval by state bodies in October 2018
- **Stakeholder workshops to reconcile mandates among local and regional authorities for streamlined environmental information management** in the context of Rio Convention implementation in the selected pilot sector development. Five workshops and public discussion were organized during the process of development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan with participation of more than 17 experts on each event by September 2018
- **Report with recommended revisions to institutional mandates** completed in May 2018, endorsed by IWG and findings integrated into draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan by September 2018
- **Operational manual with technical interpretation of EIMMS “Kerege” indicators with metadata** was developed in May 2018, piloted by July 2018 and approved by IWG in August 2018
- **Regular dialogues targeted to senior policy-makers convened as needed.** Two events for senior policy-makers organized in September 2016 (with target on promotion of Paris Agreement to UNFCCC), and in July 2018 (with target on promotion Updated the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan)
- **Lessons learned report prepared on targeted Rio Convention mainstreaming activities.** Lessons learned report on targeted Rio Convention mainstreaming activities prepared and completed in August 2018

**Under “Output 2.6: Resource mobilization strategy”, the following was achieved:**

- **Feasibility study of monitoring and enforcement of environmental legislation** was drafted, and peer reviewed by July 2018 as part of the development of the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- **Resource mobilization strategy drafted in collaboration with UNDP BioFin taking into account good practices for raising and allocating funds to achieve global environmental targets.** As part of implementation resource mobilization strategy activities on extension of EIMMS was integrated into Funding Proposal on support National Adaptation Planning process submitted by the Government to the Green Climate Fund in June 2018
- **Main stakeholder constituencies actively consulted on the draft Resource mobilization strategy**, which covered 56 representatives from the main stakeholder (state and non-state) participated in the consultation meeting and consulted on the draft of updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
- **Stakeholder consultations conclude with a validation workshop.** Validation workshop held in September 2018 and draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was agreed with stakeholders and SAEPF. The final draft was sent for approval by state bodies in October 2018.

### 3.3.1.3. Outcome 3. Awareness of global environmental values is improved

Under this component, the project has exceeded its set targets as presented in **Table 11** below. Overall, the project has actively implemented awareness raising campaigns in close coordination with all national stakeholders and delivered solid results.

**The only additional benefit remaining to be achieved at the level of this outcome is the printing of the educational modules/training kits developed by the project for secondary education related to “Introduction into biodiversity on UNCBD”, and “Desertification and land management on UNCCD”, which could not be funded under the project due to lack of resources. The TE estimates that the project can support in resource mobilization needed for the printing.**

**Table 11. Assessment of Outcome 3 indicators at TE level**

Indicator	Target at design	Achieved target
Workshops for media professionals to better enable them to report on the environmental information from the perspectives of the global environment  (Indicator from Output 3.1.)	Monitoring of impact results in the context of the Rio Convention mainstreaming shows a 10% increase over forecasted trends using baseline data and past trends	According to the Media Training Center under State National Broadcasting Company, the usage of analytical and reliable environmental data among mass media representatives increased by 40% in the period from June 2017-June 2018 compared to the period from June 2014-June 2015, which coincides with the capacity development activities implemented for the media by the project
Environmental awareness module for secondary schools  (Indicator from Output 3.4.)	Education module prepared for secondary schools and 20 secondary schools have implemented education module	<p>Three educational modules/training kits for secondary education developed and approved by the Ministry of Education covering the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Localized version of the “Climate Box” toolkit on UN FCCC,</li> <li>- “Introduction into biodiversity” on UN CBD,</li> <li>- “Desertification and land management” on UN CCD).</li> </ul> <p>Three education kits integrated into 20 secondary schools by November 2017.</p> <p>Localized version of the “Climate Box” with support from UNDP-Coca Cola “New World” Programme and UNDP RTFD was integrated into educational process in 1502 secondary schools by January 2018, thus covering fully 4 Oblasts out of the 7 Oblasts in the country.</p>



In addition to the achieved targets at the level of the set indicators, the overall achievements at the level of each output under this outcome can be summarized as follows:

**Under “Output 3.1: Stakeholder dialogues on the value of Rio Conventions”, the following was achieved:**

- **One-day High Level Conference on improvement adequate understanding of global environmental issues.** High Level Conference “From Paris to Bishkek: on the way of climate-resilient sustainable development of Kyrgyzstan” was organized in September 2016 in collaboration with Finland Government and participation of 127 participants, of which 47% are women
- **Public awareness campaign** was developed in cooperation with other UNDP projects and other partner development agencies in February 2016, launched in June 2016 and summed-up in June 2017 during the WED celebration and included the following:
  - Facebook page on Rio Conventions in Kyrgyzstan created in April 2016, by the September 2018 this page has 600 followers, 187 posts published with around 4600 likes
  - Awareness-raising module on Rio Conventions developed by December 2016 in collaboration with State National Broadcasting Company
  - 2 national workshops on Rio conventions topics organized by June 2017 with about 30 participants from which at least 50% were women
  - 5 national events dedicated to celebrations of UNCCD, UN CBD and World Environment Days were organized by June 2017 with up to 3200 (creation and opening Environmental touristic route within the framework of UNCBD in the National Botany Garden) participants from different regions
  - 1 panel discussion, with at least 30 private sector representatives organized in May 2016. Special information campaign on Rio Conventions with private sector was implemented with 2 events held in, in December 2017 (Bishkek) and in March 2018 (in Osh city).
  - 6 media awareness workshops organized with at least 20 participants from mass-media. First in June 2016 on EIMMS and introduction of Rio Conventions, second in collaboration with OSCE in November 2016 “Media School on Environmental Data and Rio Conventions” with practical study tour, third in collaboration with Internes in July 2017 on verification and visualization environmental data, fourth and fifth organized in innovative format – “Media lunch” (in March 2017) and “Media pilaf” (in April 2017 in Osh City), and six was organized in April 2018 on the topic “Private sector and Rio Conventions”. In total around 140 mass media representatives participated on the events
- **The usage of analytical and reliable environmental data among mass media representatives increased by 40%,** according to the Media Training Centre under State National Broadcasting Company, as indicated in **Table 11** above.

**Under “Output 3.2: Brochures and articles on the Rio Conventions”, the following was achieved:**

- **Brochures and articles on the Rio Conventions that highlight the importance of the Rio Conventions were developed as follows:**
  - Project initiated in September 2016 special media contest “Coverage of Environment Issues and Ecological Problems”. Categories of the competition included components of three Rio Conventions. Journalists throughout the country covered these issues and over 100 works (articles and TV) were submitted to take part in the competition. The competition jury consisted of representatives of the government, international organizations and Media selected 18 winners from them.
  - All materials were copied and distributed during celebration of WED 2017 (June 2017) among at least 200 participants and IWG meetings



**Under “Output 3.3: Public service announcement on environmentally friendly behaviour”, the following was achieved:**

- **Public Service Announcement airings on television and radio that promote Rio Conventions.** The following was achieved:
  - Project supported UNFCCC product placement into film “Plan B” which was broadcasted on cinema (with auditorium up to 1 mln) and in YouTube with coverage up 700 views by the September 2016.
  - In collaboration with State National Broadcasting Company 6 TV and 3 radio PSA were developed by December 2016. These were broadcasted on national TV channel within January-March 2017 with 7 airings for each.
  - 5 animations on Rio Convention were developed in Russian, Kyrgyz and English (in total 15) by May 2017 and broadcasted on the national TV channel during the period of June - September 2017 with at least 25 airings per each.
  - 21 PSA on radio was supported and broadcasted 2 times each.

**Under “Output 3.4: Improved educational curricula”, the following was achieved:**

- **Education module prepared and implemented for civil servants.** Three educational modules/ training kits for secondary education developed and approved by the Ministry of Education as indicated in **Table 11** above and widely adopted as follows:
  - 127 civil servants and local teachers officially completed educational module by April 2017. Additionally, 310 teachers from 120 secondary schools were trained on integration of “Climate Box” toolkit into educational process by the September 2018
  - Three education kits integrated into 20 secondary schools by November 2017. Localized version of the “Climate Box” with support from UNDP- Coca Cola “New World” Programme and UNDP RTFD was integrated into educational process in 1502 secondary schools among the country by January 2018
- **Public institutes and regional branches mainstream concepts and principles of Rio Conventions.** Arabaev’s Kyrgyz State University at the national level and its four branches in the regions mainstreamed concepts and principles of Rio Conventions for better environmental information management by February 2017 and implemented educational module by April 2017

### 3.3.1.4. Overall assessment of project's results

At the overall objective level, which is “To strengthen targeted national capacities to meet Rio Convention objectives through improved procedures and tools to monitor and manage environmental information”, the project has also exceeded its targets as summarized in **Table 12** below.

**Based on the above assessment of the project's outcomes and the overall assessment of the project's results, the project's results are rated as “Highly Satisfactory”, there are no shortcomings in the project's outcomes and the project has constantly exceeded its planned results and impact.**

**Table 12. Assessment of Objective's indicators at TE level**

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Target Achieved at TE
Increase in the rating of the Capacity Development Scorecard (New indicator)	16 (Nov 2014)	No target for the increase in rating was set at project formulation	The TE has established a scoring for the Capacity Development Scorecard as provided in Annex 7.  The results confirm an increase in the rating across all functions and indicators set as part of the exercise. The overall increase of around 30% is noted
Integration of the EIMMS in key national policies and plans as a monitoring framework (New indicator)	0	No target for this indicator was set at project formulation	EIMMS integrated in 5 national policies and plans: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Programme of the Kyrgyz Government "Jany Doorgo - Kyrk Kadam" ("Forty Steps to a New Era") for 2018-2023 approved by in August 2017</li> <li>2. New strategy: Unity, Trust &amp; Creation approved in April 2018</li> <li>3. National Concept on digital transformation of the Kyrgyz Republic "Taza Koom" (Smart Nation) submitted for approval in September 2018</li> <li>4. Annual Government Plans for 2017 and 2018</li> <li>5. National Sustainable Development Strategy till 2040 endorsed by the National Sustainable Development Consul in August 2018 and approved by the President of KR in October 2018</li> </ol>
Assessment of technical training needs necessary to integrate data, information and knowledge into national planning frameworks in a way that Rio	N/A	Collect feedback evaluations from trainees on course effectiveness, 90% response rate for each course	Impact assessment of training and awareness activities, which covered 137 participants (around 95% of trainees provided a response), showed an increase of the capacity to handle data and information relevant to the Rio Convention and environmental SDGs  The results of the independent impact assessment were implemented through three broad-based surveys carried out in September 2016, and November 2017 and August 2018.  The impact assessment report on awareness rising and

Conventions obligations are being satisfied  
(Indicator from Output 2.4)

following its implementation

capacity building activities was drafted in August 2018 and finalized in November 2018  
  
According to the impact assessment, up to 300 unique stakeholders participated in awareness-raising workshops by August 2018

### 3.3.2. Relevance\*

It is clear that the consultative approach and in-depth assessment of the national needs at project design has enabled the project to proceed with the implementation of relevant activities which confirmed the design assumption.

It should also be noted that the in-depth understanding of the project team, including the project manager, the UNDP CO and the Government counterparts have allowed the implementation of a set of activities which proved relevant to all partners, and not only to the implementing partner (SAEPF), some examples are presented in this section and in **Figure 4** below.

At the legal level, compendium of environmental legislation in collaboration with OSCE and which was endorsed by SAEPF and published in January 2017, was updated and re-published by Aarhus Center (OSCE) in December 2018, which proves the relevance of this collection of legislation.

At the technical level, the NSC published the “Environment in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2011-2015” in 2016, which laid the ground for the establishment of the set of national Environmental Indicators under the EIMMS “Kerege” consisting of 54 indicators and taking into account the Rio Conventions monitoring framework, SDGs targets, Green Growth and State of the Environment Report’s Indicators with developed relevant metadata/descriptions.

At awareness raising level, three educational modules/training kits for secondary education were developed and approved by the Ministry of Education covering the following:

- Localized version of the “Climate Box” toolkit on UN FCCC,
- “Introduction into biodiversity” on UN CBD,
- “Desertification and land management” on UN CCD).

Moreover, a localized version of the “Climate Box” was prepared with particular emphasis on the relevance of the developed materials to the country. While earlier school textbooks from Soviet times contained minimum information on Kyrgyzstan, the modified tools and materials proved relevant to the country. In this respect, it was possible to ensure that the project is providing relevant knowledge of the national context, thus making it possible to address local environmental issues in the long-term through a good understanding and conservation of the ecosystem and environmental heritage.

Finally, the project is also relevant to UNDP country programming and GEF programming. As indicated in “Section 3.1. Project design/Formulation”, the project’s design has taken into account UNDP’s mandate, relationship with government and long-standing engagement in the area of intervention of the project gives it a comparative advantage in facilitating government partnerships, especially with regards to GEF grant financed projects. Specific details regarding past and on-going initiatives are provided in the report.

Moreover, the project also succeeded to establish new partnerships and coordination with recent UNDP and GEF funded projects under implementation and have even succeeded in mobilizing additional co-financing through these projects such as the UNDP/BioFin and the UNDP/Russian TF, thus confirming the relevance of the project to UNDP and GEF on-going activities.

**Based on the above assessment, the project is rated as “Relevant”.**



**Figure 4. Examples of relevant results: Compendium of environmental legislation, Environment in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2011-2015, Climate Box.**

### 3.3.3. Effectiveness and Efficiency\*

Based on the finding of the TE in “Section 3.3.1. Overall results (attainment of objectives)”, it has been demonstrated based on the detailed description of the achievement of the project’s activities as well as on the measurement of the Results-based indicators, that the project has achieved all expected outcomes and objectives and, in several cases, it exceeded its set targets.

At the level of all outcomes, the project has been able to establish an operation basis for the implementation of project activities and has succeeded in implementing joint activities with several partner projects and institutions, allowing it meet the set project outcomes and objective, despite the complex nature of the project in adopting a policy reform and engaging partners in capacity building activities.

The effectiveness of the project is also confirmed through the financial disbursement of the project’s budget as confirmed in “Section 3.2.2 Project Finance”, and which indicated 92% of the project budget has been disbursed by the time of the TE and the trends of disbursements across the different outcomes are in line with the planned budget.

In terms of efficiency, it is also clear that the project was implemented efficiently by the implementing agency (UNDP) and its implementing partner (SAEPF) in-line with international and national norms and standards.

This is confirmed by 2 key examples constraints, which were efficiently addressed by the project:

- The delay in the tendering of an EIMMS system is due to rigorous procurement system which was requested by the UNDP office, in line with international standards, despite the lack of national service providers qualified to deliver needed services at the required conditions;
- The reluctance of the national implementing agency to call upon international experts in view of optimizing project’s resources has been addressed through the mobilization of international expertise through co-funding resources (such as FinWater WEI Programme, among others).

As such, the expenditure trends of the project presented in “Section 3.2.2 Project Finance” reflect that the project was able to initiate successfully the implementation of the activities planned under Outcomes 1 and

3 starting Year 1 of the project, with high levels of expenditures rates in Year 1 for Outcome 1 (Strengthened policy and legal instruments) equivalent to 100% of the planned budget, and high levels of expenditures rates for Outcome 3 (Awareness of global environmental values is improved) in Year 1 equivalent to 57% for and Year 2 equivalent to 163%.

This confirms efficient performance of the project's implementation, especially with regards to the implementation of a policy process as well as communication and outreach activities, all of which require an important level of coordination and collaboration with various stakeholders.

It should also be noted that the efficient delivery of the project in its Year 1 reflects an unusual trend in project management, where low expenditure rates are expected in the first year of a project's life, and which proves a good understanding of the project itself and implementation modalities.

Only the expenditure trends in the delivery of Outcome 2 (Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS) has reflected a delay in the first 2 years of the project and this due to both political constraints to proceed with the implementation of activities as well as lengthy procurement procedures which significantly delayed the implementation of activities at the level of this Outcome.

**Based on the above assessment, the TE rating for the project's Effectiveness and Efficiency is considered as "Highly Satisfactory".**

#### 3.3.4. Country ownership

The country ownership of the Project is an integral part of the project's implementation modalities and its results. Several examples can be given to confirm this dimension, including the fact that the Project has supported the development of two special sections on "Improvement of implementation of International Conventions" and "National environment information management and monitoring system" as part of the "Environmental Code" submitted to the Government for approval in December 2017.

Moreover, the adoption of the following regulatory guidelines which were development with the support of the Project is also a clear indication of the country's ownership:

- National Methodology to measure Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN, SDG15.3) indicators and formulate voluntary target in collaboration with UN CCD Secretariat (approved by the MoA in December 2017).
- 7 Operational guidelines on MEA drafted and submitted to SAEPF for approval in September 2018.
- Pilot Metrological Guideline on CC Statistics and Road Map on improvement of CC Statistics in collaboration with UNECE and approved by IWG in August 2017

#### 3.3.5. Mainstreaming

The Project's activities have been designed and implemented in a way to ensure mainstreaming of the project's activities within the national policy and planning process.

In this context, the development of MoUs between SAEPF and the different institutions including MoA, Kyrgyz Hydromet and NSC in view of sharing data and information were supported during the project implementation and agreed upon during the official process of Inter-Agency Working Groups; they were also confirmed in their minutes of meeting in June 2016 and were updated to reflect the EIMMS of "Kerege" in April 2018.

Although the MoUs are still awaiting signature between SAEPF and the concerned institutions, national willingness to proceed with the EIMMS were confirmed during the last Inter-Agency Working Groups held in December 2018.



### **Mainstreaming of UNDP priorities**

It is also noted that the project has ensured mainstreaming of UNDP priorities (including poverty alleviation, disaster risk prevention and gender equality) which were taken into account during project design and implementation.

The project document has aligned its strategy with UNDP's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan which calls for projects implemented by UNDP to meet high standards to meeting gender equality criteria as well as with UNDP's guidance on the policy on Gender Equality, notably the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 and Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability.

The project has accordingly cooperated continuously with the UNDP office "Gender Specialist" to construct needed action plan to address potential barriers that could marginalize women. As such, with the support of the UNDP-Office Gender Specialist, implementation of all project's activities were regularly screened to ensure a solid basis for including joint development and implementation of the Annual Project's Gender mainstreaming plan.

As an example, the composition of Project Board in December 2018 Project Board consisted of more than 50% of women (6 members out of 11 in total were women).

Moreover, gender representation of participants within the framework of information and capacity building campaigns reflected a high proportion of women as follows:

- Secondary and Higher education – 95% were women;
- Private sector – 40% were women;
- Strengthening capacity of government officials to analyze and work with environmental data, information and information systems – 51,4% were women.

In addition to gender issues, the project also aligned its strategy at design with main UNDP priorities, this included aligning the project with Kyrgyzstan's United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) covering the period 2012-2016, setting out a strategic plan for the United Nations Country Team to support the country's effort to meet national development objectives, in particular poverty alleviation, as well as global development objectives as outlined in the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals.

During project implementation, the project was implemented by the UNDP "Environment and Disaster Risk Management" which allowed clear linkages with on-going initiatives related to disaster risks management, and linkages to poverty alleviation were specifically possible through the co-financing provided from the Poverty and Environment Initiative.

### **3.3.6. Sustainability\***

#### **Financial sustainability**

As for all aspects of project's sustainability, the financial sustainability of the is clearly planned as part of project design and project implementation through close collaboration with all concerned Governmental institutions.

Moreover, several additional efforts were made to identify financial resources to follow up on the project's activities and the project team engaged in in several exercises during project implementation to identify new funding opportunities in the development context. Among others, the project included an extension of the EIMMS into a Funding Proposal for supporting the National Adaptation Planning process submitted by the Government to the Green Climate Fund.

### **Institutional sustainability**

Institutional sustainability of the project is also planned as part of project design and project implementation through close collaboration with all concerned Governmental institutions.

In this respect, several steps can be noted to strengthen project's institutional sustainability including the following:

- Convening experts' working groups and stakeholder meetings to agree on recommendations of institutional reforms. A special workshop with the collaboration of Government bodies together with the National Academy of Science was organized in October 2016. Two meetings of the Inter-Agency Working Groups on environmental SDGs were supported in 2017 and recommendation on improvements of data flow was agreed by the Government with NSC leadership. Creation of special Inter-Agency Working Groups on environmental information management and monitoring system "Kerege" was endorsed by SAEPF in April 2018 as part of improvement institutional reform process (Order #01-9/98 as of 17.04.18).
- MoUs among partner agencies and other concerned stakeholders were drafted as part of the Government process on creation of the EIMMS "Kerege" in September 2018 and are expected to be signed by the end of the project as indicated in Table 8 above

### **Socio-political sustainability**

Socio-political sustainability is confirmed through the integration of the EIMMS within 5 national policies and plans, which include the following:

- The Programme of the Kyrgyz Government "Jany Doorgo - Kyrk Kadam" ("Forty Steps to a New Era") for 2018-2023 approved by in August 2017
- New strategy: Unity, Trust & Creation approved in April 2018
- National Concept on digital transformation of the Kyrgyz Republic "Taza Koom" (Smart Nation) submitted for approval in September 2018
- Annual Government Plans for 2017 and 2018
- National Sustainable Development Strategy till 2040 endorsed by the National Sustainable Development Consul in August 2018 and approved by the President of KR in October 2018

### **Environmental sustainability**

Environmental sustainability is also clearly planned as part of project design and project implementation through close collaboration with all concerned Governmental institutions. Examples of environmental sustainability of the project include the following:

- The review of national standards on environmental data and information conducted throughout the duration of the project leading to the adoption of a set of appropriate standards and procedures described and approved by Inter-Agency Working Group in August 2018.
- A Set of National Environmental Indicators constituting the EIMMS "Kerege" and consisting of 54 indicators divided into 11 groups, taking into account Rio Conventions monitoring framework, SDGs targets, Green Growth and State of the Environment Report's Indicators with developed relevant metadata/descriptions.

**Based on the above assessment, the TE rating for the project's sustainability is considered as "Likely" with negligible risks to sustainability.**

### 3.3.7. Impact\*

The TE has confirmed the project's impact based on the impact indicators adopted as part of the TE exercise (refer to **Table 12** above).

As such, project's impact can be confirmed at 3 levels:

- Increase in the rating of the Capacity Development Scorecard
- Integration of the EIMMS in key national policies and plans as a monitoring framework
- Impact assessment of training and awareness necessary to integrate data, information and knowledge into national planning frameworks in a way that Rio Conventions obligations

**With regards to the increase in the rating of the Capacity Development Scorecard**, the TE has completed the rating for the Capacity Development Scorecard as summarized in **Table 13** below and provided in **Annex 7**, and which is based on the Scorecard established at project's formulation. The results confirm an increase of around 30% in the rating across all functions and indicators set as part of the exercise. This important increase in capacity functions related to the project is noted across all functions, for the exception of the "Capacities to monitor and evaluate" which is limited to 20% due to the lack of installation and testing of the EIMMS.

**Table 13. Rating of the Capacity Development Scorecard at project formulation and at TE**

Function	Maximum scores	Score at formulation	Score at TE	% increase
CR 1: Capacities for engagement	15	3	8	33
CR 2: Capacities to generate, access and use information and knowledge	25	5	12	28
CR 3: Capacities for strategy, policy and legislation development	15	4	8	27
CR 4: Capacities for management and implementation	10	2	5	30
CR 5: Capacities to monitor and evaluate	10	2	4	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>

**With regards to Integration of the EIMMS in key national policies and plans as a monitoring framework**, it can be confirmed that the EIMMS integrated in 5 national policies and plans:

1. The Programme of the Kyrgyz Government "Jany Doorgo - Kyrk Kadam" ("Forty Steps to a New Era") for 2018-2023 approved by in August 2017
2. New strategy: Unity, Trust & Creation approved in April 2018
3. National Concept on digital transformation of the Kyrgyz Republic "Taza Koom" (Smart Nation) submitted for approval in September 2018
4. Annual Government Plans for 2017 and 2018
5. National Sustainable Development Strategy till 2040 as presented in **Figure 5** below.



Figure 5. Reference to the EIMMS in the National Development Strategy 2018-2040

With regards to the impact assessment of training and awareness needs necessary to integrate data, information and knowledge into national planning frameworks in a way that Rio Conventions obligations are being satisfied, the impact assessment of training and awareness activities, which covered 137 participants (around 95% of trainees provided a response), showed an increase of the capacity to handle data and information relevant to the Rio Convention and environmental SDGs. These results are based on the independent impact assessment implemented through three broad-based surveys carried out in September 2016, and November 2017 and August 2018.

Moreover, according to the Media Training Center under State National Broadcasting Company, the usage of analytical and reliable environmental data among mass media representatives increased by 40% in the period from June 2017-June 2018 compared to the period from June 2014-June 2015, which coincides with the capacity development activities implemented for the media by the project.

Finally, it should be noted that a considerable impact of the project was made at the national level with regards to environmental education in schools. More specifically, the localized version of the “Climate Box” was integrated into the educational process at the level of 1,502 secondary schools by January 2018, thus covering fully 4 Oblasts out of the 7 Oblasts in the country. Figures 6 and 7 below showcase the scale of the awareness activities of media and schools.

Based on the above assessment, the TE rating for the project’s Impact is considered as “Significant”.



Figure 6. Capacity building to Kyrgyzstan’s mass media representatives on Rio conventions



**Figure 7. At least 1507 schools and more than 700 teachers were training on the “Climate Box”**

## 4. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

### 4.1. Recommendation 1: Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits during the extension phase of the project

In light of the ambitious scale of the project, and given the political and administrative challenges facing the project in the initiation of some of its activities, and based on the “Highly Satisfactory” rating of the TE with regards to the “Projects’ results” (refer to Section 3.3.1.) as well as its “Effectiveness and Efficiency” (refer to Section 3.3.3.) in the implementation of the project’s activities, the TE agrees with a no-cost extension of the project for 6 months, from January to June 2019.

The purpose of the extension is to address critical risks on the immediate benefits of the project which were identified by the TE and which should include the following:

- **the lack of the signature of the MoUs between SAEPF and the following institutions: MoA, Kyrgyz Hydromet, NSC, which are expected to take place by end 2018, however, this cannot be confirmed by the TE.** The MoUs constitute an important legal and institutional basis for the transfer of information and the operation of the EIMMS. In light of the extensive efforts made by the project to prepare the MoUs and ensure adherence of all concerned stakeholders on the MoUs, it is imperative that the MoUs are signed by the different institutions as a guarantee of sustainability of the EIMMS.
- **the database developed with the project’s support was linked as part of the proposed EIMMS on the SAEPF’s web site in September 2018. The EIMMS is expected to be launched in February 2019, however, this cannot be confirmed by the TE.** The transfer of the EIMMS on the SAEPF portal and its connection to the national information system “Tunduk” is still pending at the level of the service provider. Although its delivery is expected in February 2019, several critical steps for its proper operation and sustainability are still pending and include the following: testing a demo version, provision of needed training, operating the final version and linking it to the Tunduk system.

Other benefits for the project which could also be achieved during the extension phase of the project and can be facilitated by the project manager include the following:

- finalization of the TE report by providing management response of the different partners including UNDP and the implementing partners to the draft TE report and ensuring best use of the TE report
- supporting in resource mobilization needed for the printing of the educational modules/training kits developed by the project for secondary education related to “Introduction into biodiversity on UNCBD”, and “Desertification and land management on UNCCD”, which could not be funded under the project due to lack of resources. This will ensure sustainability of the important efforts deployed by the project and the project’s partners in the preparation of these 2 educational modules/training kits and which could trigger important awareness results at the level of schools similarly to that obtained from the printing of the “Climate Box”.



4.2. Recommendation 2: Proposals for future directions underlining the main objectives of the project

The project has conducted extensive efforts to identify future directions building upon the Project’s results and ensuring the development of a resource mobilization strategy drafted in collaboration with UNDP BioFin Project.

The proposed future directions take into account good practices for raising and allocating funds to achieve global environmental targets from national and international resources. As part of the resource mobilization strategy, activities for the extension of EIMMS was integrated into Funding Proposal for the National Adaptation Planning process submitted by the Government to the Green Climate Fund in June 2018.

As indicated in **Box 1** below, the project identified the following target groups for future follow up :

- **Follow up with the public sector on environmental data related to the Rio Conventions.** The implementation of unified systems for environmental data and their use require a long-term programme, as work in this sector is an interconnection between the state, legislation and people.
- **Follow up with the private sector for the Rio Conventions.** A long-term effect to encourage the private sector in greening its business requires the delivery of information in a structured and consistent approach to promote the Rio Conventions.
- **Follow up with the secondary education system for the Rio Conventions.** It is important to continue the training of school teachers on the Rio conventions among schools of Kyrgyzstan.

Any future direction should also build upon the innovative and significant impact of the project, including the visual identity established by the project such as the Kerege and Climate Box logos which can constitute a long-term achievement of the project (refer to **Figure 8** below). Moreover, innovative approaches promoted by the project such as the cooperation with “Plan B” movie (refer to **Figure 8**) should also be documented and promoted among the tools to be adopted in future programmes.



Kerege logo

Climate box logo

Figure 8. A visual identity for awareness raising, communication and outreach



**Figure 9. An innovative approach for the implementation of the Rio conventions’ obligations**

**Box 1. Lessons learned report on targeted Rio Convention mainstreaming activities: Conclusions and recommendations on the implemented activities of the Rio conventions. 2018**

As one of the project's deliverable, this report has identified key findings and recommendations of the project's interventions and can be used as an important basis to continue the project's efforts raise awareness and understanding of environmental Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD).

The report has provided recommendations at the level of 3 target groups extensively involved in the project which are summarized below.

**1. Follow up with the private sector for the Rio Conventions**

Greening the production of goods and services is the most important condition for the implementation of the commitments of Kyrgyzstan under the Rio Conventions. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to involve representatives of the private sector in general and business structures in particular in this process.

The surveys conducted during the project implementation show that representatives of the private sector are often not sufficiently aware of the possibilities of introducing environmental benchmarks in business. In this regard, an information campaign was conducted on the Rio Conventions and opportunities for implementing environmental policies for business.

In general, the knowledge gained at the round table serves only as an introduction to this topic and gives general information to the private sector. The business began to think about the consequences of its activities for the environment, look to the future and look for new technologies to preserve the environment. However, to have a long-term effect and encourage the private sector in greening its business, it is important to deliver information structurally and consistently work to promote the Rio Conventions in the long-term.

**2. Follow up with the secondary education system for the Rio Conventions**

The majority of respondents highlighted the high relevance of information activities to improve the skills of teachers on issues affecting both general environmental issues in general and the Rio Convention in particular; teachers praised the interactive methodologies (for example, those included in the resource manuals on CC, biodiversity and desertification), and noted them as the most effective for integrating new content on the Rio Conventions into the school educational process;

Most teachers indicated that the project raised awareness and understanding of the Rio Conventions which can be replicated in other schools. This aspect was also noted by representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the need to institutionalize the process of dissemination of information Rio Conventions. It is also important to certify individual trainers to disseminate knowledge of the Rio conventions among schools of Kyrgyzstan.

**3. Follow up with the public sector on environmental data related to the Rio Conventions**

The majority of respondents highlighted a clear and precise understanding of the purpose of the activities carried out, including seminars and trainings on improving the skills of civil servants on issues affecting general environmental issues; and noted that they are trying to follow the provisions of the Rio Conventions in their work

It was suggested to include representatives of state structures from the regions in future since all regions can be included in the data accounting system;

In general, the project had an effective impact on the members of state structures, questions were raised on working with environmental data, many participants noted that the information was new for them and allows for a review of approaches to solving environmental problems in the context of their work. However, for the full implementation of unified systems for accounting for environmental data and their use, a long-term programme is needed, since the work in this sector is a chain of interconnection of the state, legislation, people.

### 4.3. Best and worst practices in addressing issues relating to relevance and performance

#### 4.3.1. Best practice identified under the project: Establishment of an EIMMS "Kerege" in the Kyrgyz Republic

Despite the ambitious scope of the project, and despite political and institutional difficulties which faced the project to establish the EIMMS, it is important to flag the consistent approach followed by the project team, the UNDP Country Office and the project partners to reach a national system.

At all levels, political, institutional and technical, the EIMMS is which has commonly known as “Kerege” in Kyrgyzstan, has been able to reach consensus among all partners for information management and sharing.

The analysis report on the development of an institutional and technical framework for the EIMMS “Kerege” in the Kyrgyz Republic was completed in 2018; and the Project has received several requests from development partners and other countries to share the Methodological Manual and the analysis report, which is being translated into English for exchange of information.

Through the project, a comprehensive system is in place, including the following:

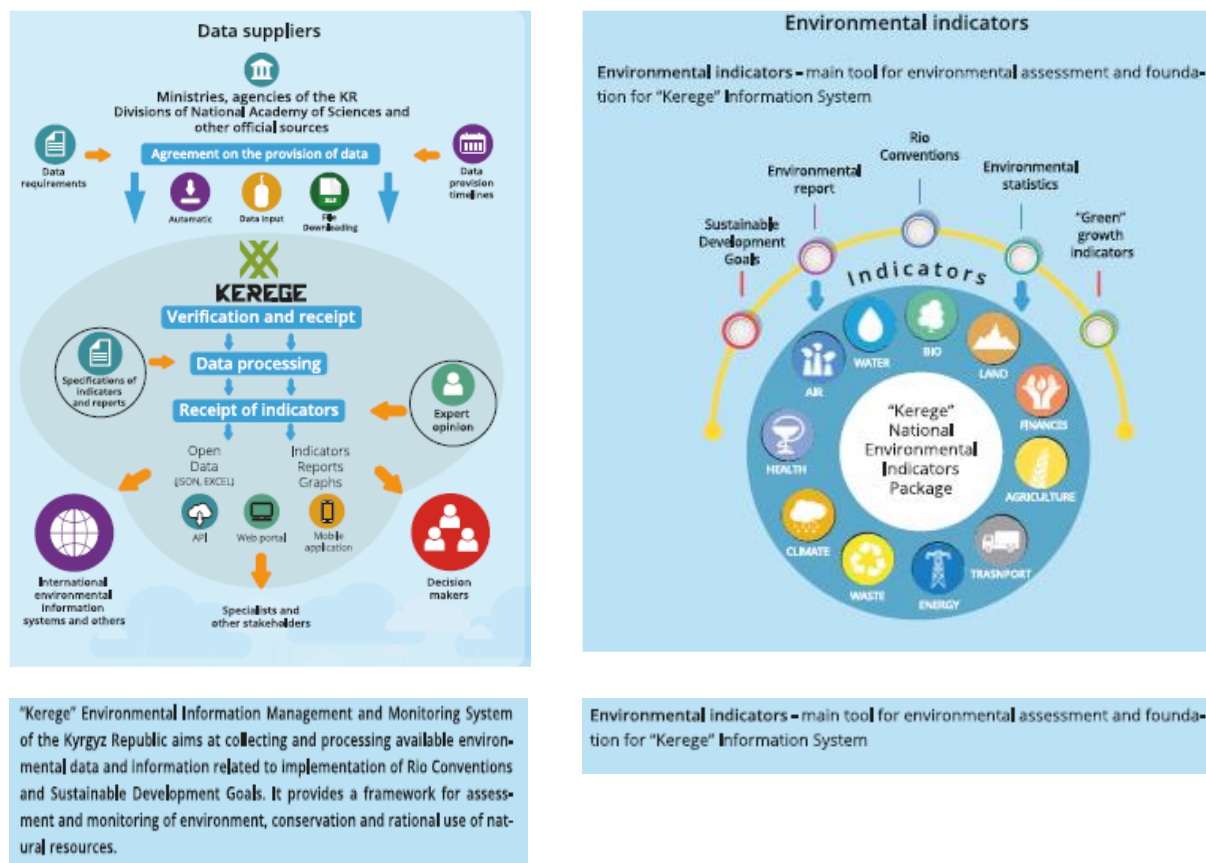
- Analysis of the situation on the international and national obligations of the Kyrgyz Republic on environmental data
- Prerequisites for the development of an integrated information system in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Principles of creation of information system of collection, management and monitoring of ecological data
- Formation of a representative set of environmental indicators
- Procedure for data collection and processing
- Dissemination and use of data
- Existing sets of environmental indicators
- Structure of a set of environmental indicators of the information system "Kerege"

The set of 57 indicators are consolidated according to 11 categories which include the following:

- K1. Atmospheric air pollution and ozone layer depletion;
- K2. Climate change;
- K3. Water resources;
- K4. Biodiversity
- K5. land resources;
- K6. Agriculture;
- K7. Energy
- K8. Transport
- K9. Waste
- K10. Environmental financing;
- K11. Health of the population.

To ensure a regular process for the collection and analysis of environmental data and indicators, a handbook on the use of a set of environmental indicators of the Kerege information System in the Kyrgyz Republic has been developed. The manual is intended for employees of State bodies and other interested parties involved in creation of integrated information system of management and monitoring of ecological information. For each indicator, a passport is developed, which provides information about the purpose of the indicator, its presentation forms, the order of collection and processing of primary data, ways of dissemination of data and other characteristics.

Interaction on data exchange for filling of the EIMMS "Kerege" is planned on the basis of bilateral agreements between the state bodies, developed according to the resolution the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic of July 9, 2013 № 404 "On approval of the Model rules of interaction of state executive authorities on the implementation of related functions". **Figure 10** below provides a summary of the basis for the EIMMS “Kerege” developed through the project.



**Figure 10. Basis for the EIMMS "Kerege" developed through the project**

#### 4.3.2. Worst practice identified under the project: Challenges in tendering the development of the Software Part of the EIMMS

The tendering process of the development of the Software Part of the EIMMS has proven to be complex and lengthy, due to lack of qualified national service providers which could respond to the UNDP's specifications. As such, the tendering process could only be completed in July 2018, i.e. 3 months prior to the official closure of the project, while the development of the software part of the EIMMS requires a period of 6 months.

To address the situation, several efforts were made:

- the selected has confirmed that it will be able to complete the requested services within a 4-month period
- this arrangement has been supported by the Project Board meeting members held in July 2018
- a project extension until December 2018 was submitted and duly approved in September 2018.

Despite the above efforts, the EIMMS software is only expected to be launched in February 2019, which is beyond the planned duration of the project, due to be closed in December 2018. The transfer of the EIMMS on the SAEPP portal and its connection to the national information system "Tunduk" is still pending at the level of the service provider.

Although its delivery is expected in February 2019, several critical steps for its proper operation and sustainability are still pending and include the following: testing a demo version, provision of needed training, operating the final version and linking it to the Tunduk system.

Given the important role of the project in supporting the hand-over of the software to the SAEPP and its initial operation, the TE has agreed with the extension of the project of 6 months which was approved by the UNDP RTA/PA, to allow smooth operation of the EIMMS. However, such a situation could have been

avoided through an earlier tendering process or a modification of the specifications in order to allow a smoother tendering process.



## Annex 1. Terms of Reference for TERMINAL Evaluation: PIMS# 5302

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>“Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information”</b>
<b>Functional Title:</b>	International Consultant for Terminal Evaluation
<b>Duration:</b>	22 effective person days during December 2018, including a field mission to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
<b>Terms of Payment:</b>	Lump sum payable upon satisfactory completion and approval by UNDP of all deliverables, including the Evaluation Report
<b>Duty station:</b>	Home based with 4 business days mission to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full and medium-sized UNDP support GEF financed projects are required to undergo a terminal evaluation upon completion of implementation. These terms of reference (TOR) sets out the expectations for a Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the “Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information” project.

The essentials of the project to be evaluated are as follows:

### PROJECT SUMMARY TABLE

Project Title:	Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information			
GEF Project ID:	5715		<i>at endorsement (Million US\$)</i>	<i>at completion (Million US\$)</i>
UNDP Project ID:	PIMS#: 5302 Atlas Output ID: 00095830	GEF financing:	\$950,000	\$950,000
Countries:	Kyrgyzstan	IA/EA own:	\$200,000	\$244,800
Region:	ECIS/Central Asia	Government of Kyrgyzstan:	\$900,000	\$900,000
Focal Area:	Multi-Focal Area	Other:	\$110,000	\$295,000
FA Objectives, (OP/SP):	CD5 To enhance capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	Total co-financing:	\$1,210,000	\$1,439,800

Executing Agency:	UNDP	Total Project Cost:	\$2,160,000	\$2,389,800
Other Partners involved:	UNEP, UNCCD, Coca Cola	ProDoc Signature (date project began):		14.10.2015
		(Operational) Closing Date:	Proposed: 14.10.2018	Actual: 31.12.2018

## OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

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The project was designed to:

To strengthen a set of important capacities for Kyrgyzstan to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations. These will focus on the management of data and information to formulate and implement sectoral development plans that better reflect global environmental dimensions. This will be manifest through the strengthening of an Environmental Information Monitoring and Management System that is constructed by an integration of existing environmental management information systems, building upon much of the capacities currently being developed in this area by other development partners. Among the key activities of the project is the updating of key technological needs, not only of the government structures such as the SAEPP, but also other key stakeholders. In addition to strengthening the institutional arrangements for data and information management, the project will also test how these arrangements represent a cost-effective approach to creating and applying best practices for managing the global environment. This project pursues a long-term approach to institutionalizing capacities to meet Rio MEA obligations through a set of learning-by-doing activities that lay the foundation for effective decision-making and policy-making regarding global environmental benefits.

The project includes the following components:

- ✓ **Component 1:** Strengthened policy and legal instruments
- ✓ **Component 2:** Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS
- ✓ **Component 3:** Improving awareness of global environmental values

### Component 1: Strengthened policy and legal instruments

The activities under this component will address the key policy and legislative barriers to implementing the Rio Conventions within the framework of sectoral development and planning frameworks. This output will involve expert stakeholders to validate the barriers and collectively agree on how best to reconcile the overlaps and fill the gaps. This will be undertaken through expert and learning-by-doing workshops. These will help planners and decision-makers to identify potential adjustments of the existing policy and legislative frameworks, including the formulation of appropriate by-laws. Activities under this output will be coordinated with other similar activities currently being undertaken by other projects, to create synergies across the set of multiple policies and legislation, as well as to reinforce the collaboration among stakeholder institutions to share data and information. The strengthening of these systemic capacities will be complemented by enhanced consultative and collaborative mechanisms for decision-making on the global environment. In particular, this will include strengthening mechanisms for at the level of local self-government authorities (ayil okmotu) to more effectively participate in data and information management, as well as decision-making.

### **Output 1.1: Targeted policies, legal and regulatory instruments are amended**

An assessment of the current policy and legal framework will lead to learning-by-doing training to reconcile the identified weaknesses. This will lead to formulation of by-laws and operational guidance which will be distributed. Technical working groups made up of experts on the three Rio Conventions will be established under the project, comprising individuals for within government and non-state actors.

### **Output 1.2: Strengthened consultative and decision-making processes**

This output will take an objective approach to assessing and strengthening the most appropriate and sustainable consultative and decision-making processes. Consultative processes serve as important opportunities to create cost-effective synergies for sharing data, information, and knowledge. In collaboration with the related programmes and projects currently underway (See Section E.1), this output will facilitate a more comprehensive approach to structuring and streamlining the consultative and decision-making processes with a view to lowering the transaction costs to high quality data, information and knowledge. This output will also seek to remove barriers for the access of high quality data, information and knowledge, which is large due to cost, technology, and sharing policies. This output is also important to invigorating the most appropriate mechanism to legitimize and therefore sustain strengthened capacities to formulate and implement best practice resilient development and territorial plans that catalyze achievement of both sustainable development and Rio Convention goals.

## **Component 2: Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS**

Activities under this component will focus on strengthening the institutional construct and associated management regime for collecting, creating, and transforming data and information into knowledge. This will require improved technologies and analytical methodologies, data and information protocols, piloting these new and improved institutional arrangements, and mobilizing financial resources to ensure their sustainability. A key feature of this component is the learning-by-doing application of these new capacities to formulate sectoral and sub-national plans that integrate global environmental criteria and indicators. Together with the activities and outputs of component 1, these activities will help Kyrgyzstan to take a more holistic approach to formulating and implementing globally environmentally-friendly and resilient development planning frameworks, as well as to monitor and adapt them appropriately to ensure their institutional sustainability.

### **Output 2.1 Institutional mapping and analysis of an optimal information and monitoring system**

This output focuses on reducing the transaction costs of data management and reducing duplication in order that data is reliable, valid, timely, and relevant. The distinction between the national and global environment is not clear-cut, with much of the data and information needed for managing the local environment being the same data and information needed for managing the environment for the global community. While all data collected at the national level is national environmental data, information on environmental conditions may reflect both national and global trends. For example, changes in indicator species populations may indicate a change in ecosystem health. This information may be needed to inform better agricultural

practices if the ecosystem in question influences, for example, pollination of nearby agricultural crops. The very same information has global environmental value if the change in ecosystem health implicates a threat to endangered endemic species, thereby necessitating alternative and/or innovative species protection management regimes. This output will be serve to help fill gaps and bring together existing work in Kyrgyzstan on indicators, such as the Green Growth Indicators and good practice international guidance such as that from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2011; OECD, 2014).

#### **Output 2.2 Targeted institutional reforms for improved access to data and information**

Activities under this output will focus on strengthening targeted institutional arrangements for collecting and sharing data. This includes activities to increase cooperation and sharing of data between different actors.

#### **Output 2.3 Selected updating of technologies for information monitoring and management**

This activity includes a review of the current information management system, with a focus on identifying areas that can be improved. After the assessment an EIMMS will be designed, reviewed for feasibility, and peer reviewed. Once this process is complete, new technology and infrastructure will be installed.

#### **Output 2.4 Training on improved methodologies and analytical skills**

The training under this output focuses on two technical aspects of the EIMMS. The first focuses on the technical skills for managing data and information, whereas the second focuses on strengthening expertise needed to create knowledge. Activities 2.4.1 to 2.4.4 focus on the first set of training, whereas activities 2.4.5 to 2.4.7 focus on training for knowledge creation. In all cases, training will be carried out through learning-by-doing workshops and related exercises. The learned skills in all training are to be designed and implemented in a way that legitimizes data, information and knowledge.

#### **Output 2.5 Improved EIMMS tested**

This output focuses on testing the improved EIMMS developed under 2.3 and training under 2.4 through a pilot project. A collaborative consultation process will be used to select a plan for mainstreaming. An accompanying manual and implementation plan will be created. Stakeholder workshops will reconcile mandates among local and regional authorities.

#### **Output 2.6 Resource mobilization strategy**

This output is designed to support the financial sustainability of the EIMMS. Activities will incorporate innovative financial and economic analyses of the project that incorporate environmental and social impacts. The Resource Mobilization Strategy will be presented at the one-day Project Results Conference (3.1.1).

### **Component 3: Improving awareness of global environmental values**

A third component of the project focuses on a set of activities designed to strengthen awareness and understanding of the wider population of the project. This component is critical to addressing the institutional sustainability of project outputs by raising an overall understanding and greater value of how addressing global environmental obligations under the Rio Convention contribute to addressing important and immediate socio-economic development priorities.

### **Output 3.1 Stakeholder dialogues on the value of Rio Conventions**

This output focuses on increasing awareness of the value of the environment as well as the Rio Conventions. As well as targeting the public at large, this output also targets key categories of stakeholders, namely the private sector, planners and decision-makers, the media, and expert practitioners working in the field such as NGOs, academics and graduate students. To begin this project, there will be a conference to introduce it to a diverse set of stakeholders in order to promote the objectives addressing Rio Convention obligations. Near the end of the project, the results and lessons learned will be presented in a second conference with two key goals. The first goal is to emphasize the positive impacts of the project strategy and its successes; this will encourage long-term institutionalization of Rio Convention commitments beyond this project. The second goal is to spur on-going commitment to replicating and institutionalizing best practices and successful innovative approaches tested under the project. Both conferences will be convened over a one-day period, and shall include presentations and panel discussions. During these conferences, a survey will be conducted to assess the stakeholders' awareness and value of the project issues at both the beginning and end of the project. Also included in this output are public awareness campaigns, dialogues and workshops.

### **Output 3.2 Brochures and articles on the Rio Conventions**

This output focuses on the development of brochures and articles on the Rio Conventions. These are intended to highlight the importance of the Rio Conventions and help individuals understand how their daily lives are impacted by the global environment.

### **Output 3.3 Public service announcement on environmentally friendly behavior**

This output includes several activities to develop and air public service announcements on provincial television. These are intended to highlight the value of the environment and the Rio Conventions and help individuals understand how their daily lives are impacted by the global environment.

### **Output 3.4 Improved educational curricula**

This output will develop educational curricula for civil servants and secondary schools that promote better environmental information management and emphasize global environmental values and best practice approaches developed and under implementation.

***The TE will be conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the [UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects](#).***

***The objectives of the evaluation are to assess the achievement of project results, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.***

## **EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHOD**

An overall approach and method for conducting project terminal evaluations of UNDP supported GEF financed projects have been 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. A set of questions covering each of these criteria have been drafted and are included with this TOR (see 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 counterparts, in particular the GEF Operational Focal Point, UNDP Country Office, Project Team, UNDP GEF Regional Technical Adviser based in the region and key stakeholders. Interviews will be held with the following organizations and individuals at a minimum:

### **Key stakeholders:**

- The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF) – GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP);
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- UNDP Environment, Climate Change and DRM Programme and its projects;
- NGOs;
- Members of the Project Board;
- Public Radio and TV Broadcasting Company (OTRK);
- UNDP Gender Team;
- UNDP Senior Management;
- UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.

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, GEF focal area tracking tools, 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 Project Logical Framework/Results Framework (see [Annex A](#)), which provides 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:			
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:	
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	

## PROJECT FINANCE / COFINANCE

The Evaluation will assess the key financial aspects of the project, including the extent of co-financing planned and realized. 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 Office (CO) and Project Team to obtain financial data in order to complete the co-financing table below, which will be included in the terminal evaluation report.

Co-financing (type/source)	UNDP own financing (mill. US\$)		Government (mill. US\$)		Partner Agency (mill. US\$)		Total (mill. US\$)	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Grants	150,000	150,000			110,000	295,000	260,000	445,000
Loans/Concessions	0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00
• In-kind support	50,000	50,000	900,000	900,000			950,000	950,000
• Other	0.00	44,800					0.00	44,800
Totals	200,000	244,800	900,000	900,000	110,000	295,000	1,210,000	1,439,800

## MAINSTREAMING

UNDP supported GEF financed projects are key components in UNDP country programming, as well as regional and global programmes. 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.

## 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.<sup>4</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS

The evaluation report ([Annex F](#)) must include a chapter providing a set of **conclusions**, **recommendations** and **lessons**. Conclusions should build on findings and be based in evidence. Recommendations should be prioritized, specific, relevant, and targeted, with suggested implementers of the recommendations. Lessons should have wider applicability to other initiatives across the region, the area of intervention, and for the future.

## IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation resides with the UNDP CO in **Kyrgyzstan**. The UNDP CO will contract the evaluators and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country for the evaluation team. The Project Team 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 22 effective person days according to the following indicative plan:

Activity	Timing (indicative)	Completion Date (indicative)
<b>Preparation (desk review)</b>	5 days (3-7 December 2018)	6 December 2018
<b>Evaluation Mission (in-country field visits, interviews and presentation of preliminary findings)</b>	4 days (11-14 December 2018)	14 December 2018
<b>Draft Evaluation Report</b>	8 days (15-22 December 2018)	22 December 2018
<b>Final Report</b>	5 days (25-31 December 2018)	31 December 2018

<sup>4</sup> 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](#)

## EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

The evaluation team is expected to deliver the following:

Deliverable	Content	Timing	Responsibilities
<b>Inception Report</b>	Evaluator provides clarifications on timing and method	No later than 1 week before the evaluation mission. (Monday, 7 December 2018)	Evaluator submits to UNDP CO and Project
<b>Presentation</b>	Initial Findings	Last day of the field mission (Friday, 14 December 2018)	Project Team, UNDP CO and key stakeholders, members of the Project Board
<b>Draft Final Report</b>	Draft evaluation report, (per annexed template) with annexes	Within one-week time after the field mission (by 22 December 2018)	Project team, CO, IRH RTA, GEF OFP
<b>Final Report*</b>	Final report addressing and integrating feedback and comments	Within a week time after receiving comments on the draft (by 31 December 2018)	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. See [Annexes G and H](#) for an evaluation clearance form and an audit trail template.

## TEAM COMPOSITION

The evaluation team will be composed of **1 International Consultant**. *The consultant shall have prior experience in evaluating similar projects.* The international Consultant has responsibility over submission of a final report. The evaluator selected should not have participated in the project preparation and/or implementation and should not have conflict of interest with project related activities. The project will provide an interpreter to accompany the international consultant during the mission to Kyrgyzstan.

### **The International Consultant must present the following qualifications:**

- A Master's degree in natural resource management / environmental management / business / public administration or other related disciplines;
- Minimum of 5 years of work experience in the field of environmental management;
- At least two GEF funded project evaluation experiences;
- At least one experience in development / evaluation of multi-focal area capacity development project, e.g. on the three thematic areas of the three Rio conventions namely Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Land Degradation;
- Knowledge of UNDP and GEF monitoring and evaluation policies;
- Previous experience with results-based monitoring and evaluation methodologies;
- Experience in working in Central Asian or CIS countries will be an asset;
- Fluency in English.

**EVALUATOR ETHICS**

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Evaluation consultants 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**

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The service provider will be responsible for all personal administrative and travel expenses associated with undertaking this assignment including office accommodation, printing, stationary, telephone and electronic communications, and report copies incurred in this assignment. For this reason, the contract is prepared as a lump sum contract.

The remuneration of work performed will be conducted as follows: lump sum payable in 1 installment, upon satisfactory completion and approval by UNDP of all deliverables, including the Final Evaluation Report.

%	Milestone
100%	Following submission and approval (UNDP CO and UNDP IRH RTA) of the final terminal evaluation report

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

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Candidates meeting the minimum ToR requirements will be sourced from the [UNDP IRH vetted roster of experts](#) and will be invited to submit their applications together with their CV and a financial offer indicating the total cost of the assignment (including daily fee, per diem and travel costs). The application should contain a current and complete CV in English with indication of the e-mail and phone contact.

UNDP applies a fair and transparent selection process that will take into account the competencies/skills of the applicants as well as their financial proposals. Qualified women and members of social minorities are encouraged to apply.

## ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
Long-term goal: To strengthen a set of important capacities for Kyrgyzstan to make better decisions to meet and sustain global environmental obligations					
<b>Project objective:</b>  To strengthen targeted national capacities to meet Rio Convention objectives through improved procedures and tools to monitor and manage environmental information	<b>Outcome indicators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strengthened environmental information management and monitoring system (EIMMS) for improved implementation of the Rio Conventions</li><li>Institutional and technical capacities are strengthened for enhanced to create knowledge and mainstream Rio Conventions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Requirements of the Rio Conventions are not adequately incorporated in sectoral development planning</li><li>Kyrgyzstan’s environmental information monitoring and management system is inadequate</li><li>There is little inter-ministerial coordination on the implementation of natural resource and environmental policies</li><li>Despite the availability of scientific knowledge the data are not sufficiently used in the formulation of strategies or policy instruments</li><li>Key ministries and agencies do</li></ul>	<b>By the end of the project:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There is an increase in the appreciation of the Rio Conventions among the general public</li><li>Rio Convention obligations are being better implemented through an integrated system of data and information managements</li><li>Increased capacity within relevant stakeholder groups to handle data and information relevant to the Rio Convention</li><li>There is an increase in coordination between government groups and other</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Meeting Minutes<sup>5</sup></li><li>Working Group meeting reports</li><li>UNDP quarterly progress reports</li><li>Independent final evaluation reports</li><li>Rio Convention national reports and communications</li><li>GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Scorecard</li><li>Statistical analyses of surveys carried out under activity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Internal resistance to change</li><li>Political commitment to apply institutional reforms</li><li>Lack of a policy or legislation to facilitate national consensus of key data and information</li><li>The project will be executed in a transparent, holistic, adaptive, and collaborative manner</li><li>Government staff and non-state stakeholder representatives are actively engaged in</li></ul>

<sup>5</sup> Meeting minutes includes records of key meetings such as local, regional and national consultations regarding inputs on the design and implementation of the relevant output and associated activities. Meetings may be individual or group meetings, with government officials or non-state stakeholders.

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	within national development frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved Awareness and environmental education on the linkages between Rio Conventions and national sustainable development objectives</li> </ul>	not share a common understanding of how to use the research to inform policies, plans, or strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kyrgyzstan has adopted a number of key policies and programmes to govern key aspects of environmental and natural resource management, but the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of policy, legislation, and regulation remains weak</li> </ul>	stakeholders	2.4.3	the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy and institutional reforms and modifications recommended by the project and the EIMMS programme are politically, technically, and financially feasible and approved by the Project Board</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 1: Strengthened policy and legal instruments</b>					
<b>Output 1.1</b> <b>Targeted policies, legal and regulatory instruments are amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of the current policy and legal framework</li> <li>Learning-by-doing training to reconcile the identified weaknesses</li> <li>Formulated and approved by-laws and operational guidance to mainstream Rio Conventions</li> <li>Secure approval of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kyrgyzstan has adopted a number of key policies and programmes to govern key aspects of environmental and natural resource management, but the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of policy, legislation, and regulation remains weak</li> <li>Institutional structures are in need of clearly defined mandates and operational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The three (3) in-depth thematic analyses (CBD, CCD, and FCCC) of Kyrgyzstan's environmental governance are drafted by month 6</li> <li>The synthesis report is drafted and endorsed by the technical working groups by month 8</li> <li>A compendium of environmental legislation that also explains in simple language the legislations' intent and coverage will be prepared by month 8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The three in-depth thematic analyses</li> <li>Synthesis report</li> <li>Training programme</li> <li>Policy recommendation</li> <li>Workshop materials and attendance lists</li> <li>Updated texts</li> <li>Meeting minutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutions and working groups are open to change</li> <li>Members of the technical committees will be comprised of proactive experts and project champions</li> <li>Analyses are deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions</li> <li>The approval process</li> </ul>



Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	by-laws and any other policy, legislative, or regulatory instrument amended  ■ Distribution of updated codes, laws and relevant texts pertaining to environmental protection	plans  ■ Kyrgyzstan's legislation suffers from numerous issues including overlapping and contradictory provisions, and laws that contain sectoral or corporate interests that contradict government policy  ■ Principles concerning the decentralization of natural resource management and the delegation of some authorities to local government bodies are inadequately regulated	■ Technical working groups draft policy recommendations for Project Board approval by month 8  ■ Comprehensive training programme drafted by month 16 and endorsed by the technical working groups by month 17  ■ By-laws and other appropriate legislative amendments are reviewed and validated by all stakeholders by month 18  ■ Operational guidelines finalized by month 18  ■ Guidelines are validated in stakeholder workshop by month 24  ■ Policy recommendations to legitimize these guidelines, are endorsed by the technical working groups by month 26  ■ Policy recommendations are approved by month 30  ■ Up-to-date texts are collected by month 18 and organized into documentation for	■ Endorsement letters	is transparent and deemed valid by all stakeholders

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			distribution by month 21		
<b>Output 1.2: Strengthened consultative and decision-making processes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of information and knowledge needs of social actors and other stakeholders that can play a role in catalyzing Rio Convention implementation</li> <li>Working groups negotiate best consultative and decision-making processes to help local self-government authorities to integrate Rio Convention criteria and indicators into the operationalization of local sustainable development strategies</li> <li>Memoranda of agreement on consultative and decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are a number of cooperation agreements and “rules of inter-action” between and among the SAEPF, MALR, and other government ministries and inspectorates, yet similar agreements with non-state actors do not exist</li> <li>There is an institutionalized culture of competition among agencies rather than cooperation or collaboration</li> <li>Cooperation between government groups remains uneven, with important gaps of coverage</li> <li>Institutional collaboration among government entities with non-governmental stakeholders is generally very low</li> <li>To a limited extent, experts representing the academic community and NGOs are involved in the decision-making process, but there are instances when key stakeholders are not adequately informed or invited to participate on key issues for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs assessment report drafted by month 6, endorsed by stakeholders at a validation workshop by month 8, and finalized and subsequently approved by Project Board by month 10</li> <li>Needs assessment report describes the extent to which gender issues are relevant to information and knowledge to meeting and sustaining global environmental objectives</li> <li>The first meeting of the working group will review and discuss the preliminary findings of the institutional assessments, provide input to finalize the assessment, as well as the formulation of pilot project by month 5</li> <li>The second meeting of the working group will review the final reports and provide policy recommendations by month 9</li> <li>The third working group meeting will convene by month 18 to facilitate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes</li> <li>Tracking and progress reports</li> <li>Needs discussion report</li> <li>Memoranda of Agreement</li> <li>Workshop materials and attendance lists</li> <li>Endorsement letters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutions and workings groups are open to proposed coordination agreements and there is no active institutional resistance</li> <li>Agreement to cooperate on modifying existing mandates and authorities on legislative oversight is realistic</li> <li>Analysis is deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions</li> <li>The right representation from the various government ministries, departments, and agencies participate</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	processes	<p>which they have expertise or comparative advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The participation of the general public in consultation processes is limited to public debate</li> </ul>	<p>consultative and decision-making on the pilot sub-national project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The fourth working group meeting will convene by month 28 to review project findings and endorse recommendations for approval by the Project Board</li> <li>▪ Liaison protocols among partner agencies and Memoranda of Agreement with other non-state stakeholder organizations to share of data and information during the project are drafted by month 10, signed by month 13</li> <li>▪ Liaison protocols are updated and signed among partner agencies and Memoranda of Agreement with other non-state other stakeholder organizations are signed, by month 32</li> </ul>		in project activities
<b>Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacities to implement an integrated EIMMS</b>					
<b>Output 2.1: Institutional mapping and</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analysis of the institutional requirements to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmental information in Kyrgyzstan is collected by many institutions in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment report is drafted, and peer reviewed by month 5, endorsed by stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting minutes</li> <li>▪ Tracking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment is deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
<b>analysis of an optimal information and monitoring system</b>	<p>use best available and innovation data to implement the Rio Conventions and through mainstreamed sectoral development plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene technical working group to select best appropriate indicators for measuring global environmental trends</li> <li>Technological requirements for collecting, storing, and sharing data and information are designed</li> <li>Tracking mechanism to monitor the usage of EIMMS</li> </ul>	<p>different forms and formats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bureaucratic procedures hinder the exchange of data and information</li> <li>Different agencies and stakeholders find it easier to create and manage their own data, which includes using different methodologies and metrics</li> <li>The linkage between environmental policy and their associated regulatory frameworks do not adequately reflect criteria and indicators to monitor, measure, or validate the extent to which the Rio Conventions are adequately being implemented at the national level</li> </ul>	<p>at a validation workshop by month 7, and finalized and subsequently approved by Project Board finalized by month 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical working group composition agreed by the Project Board in its first meeting by month 4</li> <li>Technical working group meets every three (3) months for the first 12 months, and every quarter for the rest of the project</li> <li>Appropriate sets of national standards of environmental data and information are identified, as well as regulation necessary for improving coordination and communication at the national level for better reporting system by month 23</li> <li>Construct an institutional architecture for the storage and transformation of data and information by month 10</li> <li>Tracking mechanism to monitor the use EIMMS is</li> </ul>	<p>mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment report</li> <li>Endorsement letters</li> </ul>	<p>among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert peer reviewers follow through with quality reviews</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			developed by month 10		
<b>Output 2.2: Targeted institutional reforms for improved access to data and information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institutional arrangements for collecting and sharing data</li> <li>▪ Expert workshops on data and information management arrangements</li> <li>▪ Networking cooperative agreements on data and information management with key institutions to facilitate and secure improved communication, coordination and collaboration amongst stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Strengthen targeted institutional architectures for sharing data and information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are government databases and websites which serve to make available official data and information, but their validity and accuracy is challenged by a number of non-state stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Institutional collaboration among government entities with non-governmental stakeholders is generally very low</li> <li>▪ Different agencies and stakeholders find it easier to create and manage their own data, which includes using different methodologies and metrics</li> <li>▪ Despite the availability of scientific knowledge the data are not sufficiently used in the formulation of strategies or policy instruments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertake an institutional analysis of the challenges and best practices for managing environmental data and information, completed by month 5</li> <li>▪ Three (3) technical working groups (CBD, CCD, and FCCC) are created by month 6 and will meet at least three (3) times per year</li> <li>▪ The technical working groups submit technical and policy recommendations to the relevant ministries and agencies at least twice (2) a year, the first by month 8</li> <li>▪ Prepare brief to recommend and approve, as appropriate, institutional reforms by month 14</li> <li>▪ Ministerial representatives discuss brief and approve appropriate decision by month 18</li> <li>▪ Institutional reforms are initiated by target institutions by month 20, over 67% of institutional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting minutes</li> <li>▪ Tracking and progress reports</li> <li>▪ Policy recommendations</li> <li>▪ Workshop materials</li> <li>▪ Memorandum of Agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analysis is deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions</li> <li>▪ The various government authorities maintain commitment to the project and are open to change</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			<p>reforms are completed by month 32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Convene expert working group and stakeholder meetings to agree on recommendations of institutional reforms, a consensus agreement is presented by month 12</li> <li>▪ Convene working group meetings of the National Council for Sustainable Development beginning no later than month 7 to discuss recommendations for data and information collection and management as well as the associated training programmes before month 9</li> <li>▪ Council meets twice (2) per year to update and revise cooperative agreements and associated training or awareness programmes</li> <li>▪ Memorandum of Agreement among partner agencies and other stakeholder organizations is signed by month 8</li> <li>▪ Installation of hardware and software are completed by</li> </ul>		



Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			month 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Databases are linked as part of the proposed EIMMS by month 12</li> </ul>		
<b>Output 2.3:</b> <b>Selected updating of technologies for information monitoring and management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of baseline information management system</li> <li>Feasibility study on the design and operation of the EIMMS based on best practices and successes from other systems to meet global environmental information needs</li> <li>Independent peer review of EIMMS</li> <li>Technological components of the EIMMS have been installed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kyrgyzstan environmental information monitoring and management system is inadequate</li> <li>Kyrgyzstan's technology is outdated by 20 years</li> <li>There are insufficient technical trainings and transfer of technology needs, barriers to access new and best practice knowledge, and inadequate awareness and understanding of the public of the importance of sound environmental management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth baseline assessment of current management information system is completed by month 4 of the project</li> <li>Undertake a targeted study of best practice web-based tools for environmental data and metadata sharing and storage management completed by month 8</li> <li>Convene four public stakeholder dialogue workshops on improving EIMMS</li> <li>Each constituent public dialogue is attended by at least 50 key representatives from stakeholder constituencies</li> <li>Feasibility study to set up a proposed EIMMS is completed by month 8</li> <li>Feasibility study on the EIMMS is peer reviewed by independent experts by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes</li> <li>Feasibility study</li> <li>Peer reviewer comments</li> <li>Baseline assessment</li> <li>Official letter of approval</li> <li>Lessons learned report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment is deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions</li> <li>Expert peer reviewers follow through with quality reviews</li> <li>Best practices and lessons learned from other countries are appropriately used</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			<p>month 10, approved by focal points of the Rio Conventions by month 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of the relevant EIMMS technology begins by month 12 and is completed by month 18</li> </ul>		
<b>Output 2.4:</b> <b>Training on improved methodologies and analytical skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of training needs to manage data and information</li> <li>Training programme and curriculum that includes best practices for the sharing, collection and use of environmental data and information</li> <li>Training workshops on data and information management</li> <li>Long-term training programme on data and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full set of necessary technical skills may not be available in Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>There is the weak institutional coordination and collaboration that would foster the sharing of comparative advantages and technological know-how</li> <li>There are trainings directed to specific technical skills, but they do not include Rio Convention mainstreaming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training needs assessment report drafted by month 6, reviewed and endorsed by stakeholders at a validation workshop by month 8, and finalized and approved by Project Board by month 9</li> <li>Comprehensive training programme drafted by month 12 and endorsed by the technical working groups by month 13</li> <li>Four (4) training workshops and related exercises begin by month 13</li> <li>The average test score of all attendees will be no lower than 80%</li> <li>Learn-by-doing training workshops, the first held no earlier than month 14 and the final workshop held no later than month 19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes</li> <li>Tracking and progress reports</li> <li>Needs reports</li> <li>Implementation plan</li> <li>Stakeholder comments</li> <li>Endorsement letters</li> <li>Training programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses are deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions</li> <li>Programmes developed by the project are politically, technically, and financially feasible</li> <li>Lead agencies will allow their staff to attend all trainings</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	<p>information management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of technical training needs necessary to integrate data, information and knowledge into national planning frameworks in a way that Rio Conventions obligations are also being satisfied</li> <li>Training programme and curriculum on technical training needs necessary to integrate data, information and knowledge into national planning frameworks</li> <li>Training workshops on Rio Convention-resilient planning frameworks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals responsible for developing development plans possess weak technical capacities and skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect feedback evaluations from trainees on course effectiveness, 90% response rate for each course following its implementation, results analyzed by month 23</li> <li>At least 250 officials drawn from national, provincial and district level offices of the 16 key technical agencies and other key stakeholder representatives training</li> <li>All technical government staff that have responsibilities related to the collection and use of environmental data participate in all training courses</li> <li>A minimum of 100 government staff have participated in training courses by month 28</li> <li>At least 80 government staff members that are directly implicated in the planning and decision-making process to monitor and enforce environmental legislation have participated in training workshops by month 32</li> </ul>		

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training programme is revised and strengthened on lessons learned by month 27</li> <li>▪ New training manual is created and tested by month 30</li> <li>▪ Needs report drafted by month 6, endorsed by stakeholders at a validation workshop by month 8, finalized and subsequently approved by Project Board by month 108</li> <li>▪ Training programme is drafted, endorsed by stakeholders by month 8, and finalized and subsequently approved by Project Board by month 13</li> <li>▪ Organize four (4) national training workshops on environmental evaluation convened by month 24, with each having at least 25 stakeholder participants</li> <li>▪ At least 50% of women have participated overall in training workshops by the end of the project and assessed as part of the independent final evaluation</li> </ul>		

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
<b>Output 2.5: Improved EIMMS tested</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One high value sectoral development plan piloted</li> <li>Stakeholder workshops to reconcile mandates among local and regional authorities for streamlined environmental information management and impact assessment within the context of Rio Convention implementation in the selected pilot sector development</li> <li>Manual that provides technical interpretation of the EIMMS</li> <li>Dialogues on the EIMMS and its implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data and information management to implement environmental priorities is undertaken through separate programmes and projects</li> <li>Key data and information is not readily shared among agencies</li> <li>Data and information does not sufficiently inform development decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project Board selects the high value pilot sector development plan by month 13</li> <li>Pilot mainstreaming exercise is structured and endorsed by the technical working group by month 15, and approved by consensus of the GEF Coordination Council by month 16</li> <li>Convene four (4) workshops with at least 15 expert and stakeholder representatives by month 16</li> <li>Report with recommended revisions to institutional mandates completed by month 18, and endorsed by the National Council for Sustainable Development by month 21</li> <li>Operational manual drafted by month 15, tested and piloted by month 20, and approved by month 22</li> <li>Regular dialogues targeted to senior policy-makers convened as needed, with final endorsement by month 24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot sector development plan</li> <li>Meeting minutes</li> <li>Report with recommended revisions</li> <li>Operational manual</li> <li>Lessons learned report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan developed by the project is politically, technically, and financially feasible</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	<p>with decision with policy-makers to enhance their understanding and secure their support and championship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learned study on Rio Convention mainstreaming activities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lessons learned report prepared on targeted Rio Convention mainstreaming activities completed by month 21</li> </ul>		
<b>Output 2.6: Resource mobilization strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis of monitoring and enforcement of environmental legislation</li> <li>Expert group of finance and economic experts for the peer review of activities established</li> <li>Resource mobilization strategy</li> <li>Procedures for allocation of resources for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government agencies responsible for the Rio Conventions have limited budgetary funds</li> <li>The availability of significant resources from the international donor community to address environmental issues has led to the deleveraging of government budgetary allocations to address environmental priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study is drafted, and peer reviewed by month 15, endorsed by stakeholders at a validation workshop by month 16, and finalized and subsequently approved by Project Board by month 18</li> <li>Expert working group is made up of at least 20 rotating members, who will undertake a review of the drafts, and meet at least once to discuss the findings of each</li> <li>Expert drafts resource mobilization strategy by month 21</li> <li>Resource mobilization strategy includes good practices for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes</li> <li>Analysis</li> <li>Feasibility study</li> <li>Review notes</li> <li>Resource mobilization strategy</li> <li>Operational procedures</li> <li>Final evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyses are deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions</li> <li>Expert peer reviewers follow through with quality reviews</li> <li>Strategy and plan developed by the project are politically, technically, and financially feasible</li> </ul>



Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	<p>decentralized resource management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme for extending EIMMS to catalyze Rio Convention mainstreaming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a lack of financial resources available for environmental monitoring, processing and exchange, and an inefficient use of limited resources for monitoring</li> <li>Environmental monitoring in Kyrgyzstan is currently characterized as unsatisfactory and insufficient to meet the requirements of the three Rio Conventions</li> </ul>	<p>raising and allocating funds to achieve global environmental targets through decentralized decision-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert working group reviews and guides the revision and finalization of the resource mobilization strategy by month 25</li> <li>Resource mobilization strategy approved Rio Convention focal points by month 28</li> <li>Operational procedures drafted by month 15</li> <li>Operational procedures tested and piloted by month 20, and approved by month 22</li> <li>By month 36, the independent final evaluation determines that the national communications is on solid ground to raise and allocate funds</li> <li>Draft programme is to be completed by month 22</li> <li>The draft will be peer reviewed by at least 20 national experts, endorsed at</li> </ul>		

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			<p>a stakeholder validation workshop by month 23, and finalized and approved by the Project Board by month 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 50 representatives from the main stakeholder constituencies actively consulted on the draft</li> <li>Stakeholder consultations conclude with a validation workshop by month 23</li> </ul>		
<b>Outcome 3: Awareness of global environmental values is improved</b>					
<b>Output 3.1: Stakeholder dialogues on the value of Rio Conventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of the value of the environment as well as the Rio Conventions is increased</li> <li>One-day conference at the beginning and end of the project</li> <li>Survey to assess understanding of Rio Convention mainstreaming</li> <li>Public awareness and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The population in rural areas do not have an adequate understanding of global environmental issues</li> <li>Despite the fact that many stakeholders are aware of the global environmental issues, they do not use the available information for decision-making or the development of strategic documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-day Kick-Off Conference held within three (3) months of project initiation, over 100 participants attend</li> <li>One-day Project Results Conference is held by month 32, over 100 participants attend</li> <li>Two broad-based surveys carried out by month 4 and by month 33 (N&gt;250 for each survey)</li> <li>Baseline awareness report prepared by month 6</li> <li>Project end awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop and dialogue registration lists</li> <li>Meeting minutes</li> <li>Tracking and progress reports</li> <li>Social media page</li> <li>Baseline awareness report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The various government authorities maintain commitment to the project</li> <li>Survey respondents contribute their honest attitudes and values</li> <li>Survey results will show an increased awareness and understanding of the Rio Conventions' implementation through national</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	<p>communication campaign plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased use of Internet and social media to disseminate data and information</li> <li>Awareness-raising module on Rio Conventions mainstreaming</li> <li>National and sub-national awareness-raising workshops</li> <li>Panel discussions and public dialogues on environmental values</li> <li>Private sector sensitization panel discussions on the global environmental issues, and their relevance</li> <li>Workshops for media professionals to better enable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At present, there is insufficient understanding of the value that the Rio Conventions can contribute to national socio-economic development by facilitating environmentally sound and sustainable development</li> </ul>	<p>report prepared by month 34</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design of public awareness campaign developed in cooperation with partner development agencies completed by month 4</li> <li>Social media page created by month 5, at least 3,000 social media likes by month 32</li> <li>Website includes new webpage and introductory articles on environmental information and monitoring activities as well as Rio Convention mainstreaming by month 8. This will include a compendium of all existing environmental legal instruments.</li> <li>Website is regularly updated, the outstanding website pages are translated into English</li> <li>By month 24, the website is up-to-date, with revisions based on new information</li> <li>Number of sustained visits to the webpages relevant to the Rio Convention is increased by at least 10% over the baseline (prior to month 3 of</li> </ul>		<p>environmental legislation over time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in awareness and understanding of Rio Convention mainstreaming can be attributed to project activities (survey questionnaire can address this issue)</li> <li>Private sector representatives are open to learn about Rio Convention mainstreaming values and opportunities, and will actively work to support project objectives</li> <li>Internal resistance to change</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
	them to report on the environmental information as well as environmental monitoring results from the perspectives of the global environmental issues and their relevance to Kyrgyzstan		<p>project initiation) by month 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awareness-raising module is completed by month 8</li> <li>▪ Two (2) national workshops with &gt;25 participants are convened by month 12</li> <li>▪ Four (4) sub-national workshops with &gt; 25 participants convened by month 23</li> <li>▪ A national workshop and a regional workshop with &gt;25 participants each are convened between months 25 and 32</li> <li>▪ At least 200 unique stakeholders participate in these awareness-raising workshops by month 32</li> <li>▪ Four (4) public dialogues carried out in year 3, by month 32 with active attendance by at least 50 representatives from the local community</li> <li>▪ Three (3) panel discussions, with at least 30 local representatives, one held each year, the first by month</li> </ul>		

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
			<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three (3) panel discussions, with at least 30 private sector representatives, one held each year, the first by month 12</li> <li>At least five (5) media awareness workshops held, each with at least 20 participating media representatives, the first by month 7 to introduce the value of the EIMMS and in subsequent months on an appropriate high value aspect of the EIMMS' contribution to national development priorities</li> <li>By month 32, reporting in the popular literature on environmental information flow and accessibility as well as monitoring of impact results in the context of the Rio Convention mainstreaming shows a 10% increase over forecasted trends using baseline data and past trends</li> </ul>		
<b>Output 3.2:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brochures and articles on the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a limited awareness of linkages between poverty, the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 12 articles on the relevancy of the Rio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published articles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articles published in the popular media</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
<b>Brochures and articles on the Rio Conventions</b>	Rio Conventions that highlight the importance of the Rio Conventions and help individuals understand how their daily lives are impacted by the global environment	<p>environment and social unrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The population in rural areas do not have an adequate understanding of global environmental issues</li> <li>▪ At present, there is insufficient understanding of the value that the Rio Conventions can contribute to national socio-economic development by facilitating environmentally sound and sustainable development</li> </ul>	<p>Conventions to Kyrgyzstan's national socio-economic development published at least every two months with the first by month 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each article is published as a brochure, at least 100 copies each and distributed to at least two high value special events for greatest impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Published brochures</li> </ul>	<p>will be read and not skipped over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brochures will be read and the content absorbed</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3.3: Public service announcement on environmentally friendly behavior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Service Announcement airings on television and radio that promote environmental information management as well as mainstreaming of Rio Conventions into socio-economic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The general public in Kyrgyzstan remains generally unaware or unconcerned about the contribution of the Rio Conventions to meeting and satisfying local and national socio-economic priorities</li> <li>▪ There is a limited awareness of linkages between poverty, the environment and social unrest</li> <li>▪ There are television and radio programmes covering environmental protection and agriculture, but these are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One PSA completed for radio and television by month 14, with the first airing by month 16</li> <li>▪ At least 5 airings of the PSA on television and at least 20 airings of the PSA on radio both by month 34</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PSAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PSAs will be listened to and not skipped over</li> <li>▪ The content of PSAs will be absorbed</li> </ul>



Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
		largely produced in Russian and not accessible to a large segment of the Kyrgyz speaking population in rural areas			
<b>Output 3.4: Improved educational curricula</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness module for institutions on Rio Conventions mainstreaming</li> <li>Environmental awareness module for secondary schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite the availability of scientific knowledge the data are not sufficiently used in the formulation of strategies or policy instruments</li> <li>Most of the leading universities in Kyrgyzstan have ecological departments</li> <li>There are occasional events for students in order to increase their interest in environmental issues</li> <li>Most students do not have a comprehensive view of environmental issues due the lack of a conceptual approach to secondary education on environmental issues and sustainable development</li> <li>At the university level (not including specialized facilities) the educational curriculum does not include topics like environmental management, environmental monitoring or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education module prepared for civil servants completed by month 18 and approved by the National Council for Sustainable Development by month 20</li> <li>At least one civil servant institute (1) at the national and three (3) at the regional levels carry out mainstreamed concepts and principles of Rio Conventions for better environmental information management by month 22</li> <li>At least three (3) institutes of civil servants have implemented education module by month 28</li> <li>At least 100 civil servants and local teachers have implemented education module by month 32</li> <li>Education module prepared for secondary schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes</li> <li>Tracking and progress reports</li> <li>Participant registration lists</li> <li>Civil servant and university awareness modules and accompanying lecture materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness module will be popular with teachers, students, and their parents</li> <li>Awareness modules will be effective</li> <li>Awareness module will be popular with civil servants</li> </ul>

Project Strategy	Objectively verifiable indicators			Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline value	Target value and date		
		environmental legislation	<p>completed by month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 10 secondary schools have implemented education module by month 20, and at 20 secondary schools by month 32</li> </ul>		

## **ANNEX B: LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE EVALUATORS**

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### **General documentation**

- UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP);
- UNDP Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating for Results;
- UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects;
- GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy;
- GEF Guidelines for conducting Terminal Evaluations;
- UNDP-GEF Gender Policies.

### **Project documentation**

- National Sustainable Development Strategy;
- UNDP Country Programme Documents;
- GEF Project Information Form (PIF) and Log Frame Analysis;
- List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, including Project Boards, and other partners to be consulted;
- Project document;
- Annual Work Plans;
- Annual Project Reports;
- UNDP ROAR;
- Annual Progress Report;
- Project Implementation Review;
- GEF Operational Quarterly Reports;
- Project budget and financial data (CDRs);
- Project Board Meeting minutes;
- Knowledge and legislation related products.

## ANNEX C: EVALUATION QUESTIONS

*This is a generic list, to be further detailed with more specific questions by CO and UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based on the particulars of the project.*

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
<b>Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of the GEF focal area, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?</b>			
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
<b>Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?</b>			
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
•		•	•
<b>Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently, in-line with international and national norms and standards?</b>			
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
<b>Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?</b>			
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•
<b>Impact: Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?</b>			
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•

## ANNEX D: RATING SCALES

<b><i>Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&amp;E, I&amp;E Execution</i></b> 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	<b><i>Sustainability ratings:</i></b> 4. Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability 3. Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks 2. Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks 1. Unlikely (U): severe risks	<b><i>Relevance ratings</i></b> 2. Relevant (R) 1.. Not relevant (NR)  <b><i>Impact Ratings:</i></b> 3. Significant (S) 2. Minimal (M) 1. Negligible (N)
<b><i>Additional ratings where relevant:</i></b> Not Applicable (N/A) Unable to Assess (U/A)		

**ANNEX E: EVALUATION CONSULTANT CODE OF CONDUCT AND AGREEMENT FORM**

**Evaluators:**

- 1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
- 2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
- 3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people’s right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people’s right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
- 4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
- 5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders’ dignity and self-worth.
- 6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
- 7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form<sup>66</sup>

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at *place* on *date*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>66</sup>[www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct](http://www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct)

## ANNEX F: EVALUATION REPORT OUTLINE<sup>7</sup>

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- i. Opening page:
  - Title of UNDP supported GEF financed project
  - UNDP and GEF project ID#s.
  - Evaluation time frame and date of evaluation report
  - Region and countries included in the project
  - GEF Operational Program/Strategic Program
  - 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<sup>8</sup>)
- 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<sup>9</sup>)
- 3.1 Project Design / Formulation
  - Analysis of LFA/Results Framework (Project logic /strategy; 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 project and other interventions within the sector
  - Management arrangements
- 3.2 Project Implementation
  - Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)

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<sup>7</sup>The Report length should not exceed 40 pages in total (not including annexes).

<sup>8</sup> UNDP Style Manual, Office of Communications, Partnerships Bureau, updated November 2008

<sup>9</sup> Using a six-point rating scale: 6: Highly Satisfactory, 5: Satisfactory, 4: Moderately Satisfactory, 3: Moderately Unsatisfactory, 2: Unsatisfactory and 1: Highly Unsatisfactory, see Guidelines for conducting Terminal evaluations: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1905>.



- 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
- 5.** 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
  - Co-financing table
  - Report Clearance Form
  - *Annexed in a separate file:* TE Audit Trail
  - *Annexed in a separate file:* Terminal GEF Tracking Tool, if applicable

ANNEX G: EVALUATION REPORT CLEARANCE FORM

(to be completed by CO and UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region and included in the final document)

Evaluation Report Reviewed and Cleared by

UNDP Country Office

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

UNDP-GEF RTA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ANNEX H: UNDP-GEF TE REPORT AUDIT TRAIL TEMPLATE

Note: The following is a template for the TE Team to show how the received comments on the draft TE report have (or have not) been incorporated into the final TE report. This audit trail should be included as an annex in the final TE report.

To the comments received on (date) from the Terminal Evaluation of (project name) (UNDP Project ID-PIMS #)

The following comments were provided in track changes to the draft Terminal Evaluation report; they are referenced by institution (“Author” column) and track change comment number (“#” column):

Author	#	Para No./comment location	Comment/Feedback on the draft TE report	TE team response and actions taken
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## Annex 2. Itinerary and persons interviewed

Time	Activity and participants	Venue, responsible person and contacts	Remarks/ Comments
<b>Day 1, Monday – December 17, 2018</b>			
06.20	Arrival of the International Consultant	Manas airport and Accommodation in Shah Palace Hotel	
09.30	Pick-up from the Shah Palace Hotel	Shah Palace Hotel UNDP PMU car	
10.00-11.00	<b><i>Briefing with UNDP project team</i></b> Mr. Daniar Ibragimov, UNDP CO Team Leader on Environment, CC and DRM Ms. Sherbet Nurzhanova, UNDP CO Associate Mr. Kumar Kylychev, UNDP Environment Project's TA and Coordinator Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, UNDP-GEF Project Coordinator	UNDP PMU 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	Confirmed
11.00-13.00	<b><i>Introductory presentation on Project's activity by</i></b> Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, UNDP-GEF Project Coordinator Mr. Daniar Ibragimov, UNDP CO Team Leader on Environment, CC and DRM Ms. Sherbet Nurzhanova, UNDP CO Associate Mr. Kumar Kylychev, UNDP Environment Project's TA and Coordinator Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, UNDP-GEF Project Coordinator Ms. Natalia Baidakova Sergeevna, State Agency on Environment Protection, Strategic planning Department Mr. Apasov Ryspek Tungybaevich, Executive Secretary of the IWG on UNCCD Ms. Nazira Kerimalieva Kerimalievna, National Statistic Committee, Head of the Department on Sustainable Development Statistics Ms. Nina Valieva Valerievna, Leading expert of the EIMMS "Kerege" team	UNDP PMU 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	Confirmed
13.00-14.00	<b><i>Lunch</i></b>		

Time	Activity and participants	Venue, responsible person and contacts	Remarks/ Comments
14.00-15.00	<b><i>Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (UNCCD)</i></b>  Mr. Kerimaliev Zhanybek Kalkanovich, Deputy Minister, UNCCD FP, Vice chair of the UNDP-GEF Project Board; Ms. Taranova Elena Pavlovna, Strategic planning department, UNDP-GEF Project Board member; Mr. Shamiev Azamat, focal point on climate change issues; Mr. Bekenov Malik Esenbekovich, Department of pastures, livestock and fisheries; Mr. Apasov Ryspek Tungybaevich, Executive Secretary of the IWG on UNCCD.	Ministry of Agriculture 96a Kiev str., Bishkek	Confirmed  Joint activities within the all project's Outputs and development LDN Methodology
15.00 – 16.00	<b><i>Security briefing at UNDP</i></b> Mr. Bakit Bekibayev, UNDSS	UN House 160 Chui str., Bishkek	Confirmed
16.00 - 17:00	Working with documents	UN House 160 Chui str., Bishkek	
17.00 - 18.30	<b><i>Meeting at the Ministry of Education and Science</i></b> Ms. Jusupbekova Nadira Santashevna, Vice-minister; Ms. Marchenko Larisa Iurievna, Minister's advisor; Ms. Pak Zoya Alekseevna, leading expert on secondary education; Ms. Suhodyb Natalia Alekseevna, Teacher's Re-training Institute of the Arabaev's Kyrgyz State University; Ms. Alfiya Nasyrova, BIOM Ecological movement; Mr. Vladimir Korotenko, BIOM Ecological movement.	Ministry of Education and Science 257 Tynystanov str., Bishkek	Confirmed  Joint activities within the Output 3 on secondary schools and development Climate Box toolkit
<b>Day 2, Tuesday – December 18, 2018</b>			
8.30	Pick-up from the Shah Palace Hotel	Shah Palace Hotel PMU car	
10.30 - 11.30	<b><i>Meeting with UNEP-GEF Project</i></b>	SAEPF office	Confirmed

Time	Activity and participants	Venue, responsible person and contacts	Remarks/ Comments
	Partnership on climate statistics and initiation of climate planning Ms. Bekkulova Dzhyparkul Eshimbekovna, Manager of the UNEP-GEF project on development NCC for UNFCCC, former UNDP-GEF Project Board member Mr. Temirbekov Alexander, Leading expert of the UNEP-GEF project on development NCC for UNFCCC	142 Gorkii str., Bishkek	Joint activities within the Output 2, development Set of Climate Statistic's indicators and future follow-up actions within the UNEP-GEF project
11.30 - 13.00	<b>Lunch</b>		
13.00 - 14.00	<b>Meeting with FinWaterWEI (Finnish Environment Institute)</b> Ms. Olivia Gruzdova, Regional Coordinator of the program in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	SAEPF office 142 Gorkii str., Bishkek	Confirmed  Engagement international expertise and joint activities within the Output 2 and 3
14.00 – 17.30	<b>Meeting of inter-agency working group on EIMMS “Kerege”</b> Mr. Ryspekov Arsen Arzyevich, Deputy Director of the SAEPF; Ms. Valieva Nina Valerievna, “Kerege” leading expert; Ms. Kerimalieva Nazira, Head of sustainable development and environment protection statistics management, UNDP-GEF Project Board member; Ms. Baidakova Natalia Sergeevna, leading expert of management and strategic planning department + up to 15 IWG members	SAEPF office 142 Gorkii str., Bishkek	Confirmed  Activities within the Output 2 on EIMMS development process

Time	Activity and participants	Venue, responsible person and contacts	Remarks/ Comments
	Skype presentation of the SoftLine Company on development software part of the EIMMS “Kerege”		
<b>Day 3, Wednesday – December 19, 2018</b>			
8.30	Pick-up from the Shah Palace Hotel	Shah Palace Hotel PMU car	
08.45 - 10.00	<b><i>Meeting with Internews Network and Skype call with Media Training Center of the Public Broadcasting Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic</i></b> Ms. Aigul Bolotova, Regional manager of Internews Ms. Adel Laisheva, Director of the Training center (via Skype from US)	UNDP PMU 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	Confirmed  Joint activities within the Output 3 on capacity building of Mass media representatives and awareness raising of wide public
10.00-11.00	<b><i>Meeting with PF Archa representatives</i></b> Mr. Dmitrii Vetoshkin, Director of the PF “Archa” Ms. Kunduz Adylbekova, Project’s coordinator of the PF “Archa”	UNDP PMU 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	Confirmed Implementation joint activities within the Output 3 on awareness raising of wide public on Rio
11.00-12.00	<b><i>Meeting at the Public Broadcasting Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic</i></b> Ms. Zarema Kolkonbaeva, Head of Apparatus + 2 media specialists	Public broadcasting Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic 9, Jash Gvardiya Blvd., Bishkek	Confirmed  Joint activities within the Output 3 on capacity building of Mass

Time	Activity and participants	Venue, responsible person and contacts	Remarks/ Comments
			media representatives, development TV/Radio products and broadcasting
12.00-13.00	<b>Lunch</b>		
14.00 – 15.30	<b>Meeting with Regional Ecological Center of Central Asia and UNDP BioFin</b> Kumar Mambetaliev, Vice-director of the Biodiversity Protection Department of the SAEPF Ms. Baidakova Natalia Sergeevna, leading expert of management and strategic planning department Kuban Madraimov, CAREC NBSAP Development Team leader Lira Joldubaev, UNDP BioFin project coordinator	SAEPF office 142 Gorkii str., Bishkek	Confirmed  Joint activities within the Output 2 on development pilote strategy – NBSAP and set of biodiversity indicators with Aichi and SDG15
15.30-16.00	Transfer to UNDP PMU		
16.00 – 17.00	<b>Meeting with UNDP gender team</b> Project results and impact assessment Ms. Umutai Dauletova, UNDP Specialist on gender issues Ms. Nadezhda Prigoda, expert-analysist on gender issues	UNDP PMU, 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	Confirmed  Joint activities within the all Outputs on mainstreaming gender issues and gender report on impact assessment
17.00 – 18.00	<b>Working with documents</b>	UNDP PMU, 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	



Time	Activity and participants	Venue, responsible person and contacts	Remarks/ Comments
<b>Day 4, Thursday – December 20, 2018</b>			
09.30	Pick-up from the Shah Palace Hotel	Shah Palace Hotel PMU car	
10.00 - 11.00	<b><i>Meeting with OSCE and Aarhus Center</i></b> Mr. Erali Paiziev, National Environmental Officer, UNDP-GEF Project Board member Mr Dmitry Prudskih, OSCE International Consultant Mr Edil Nurbekov, Director of the Aarhus Convention Center	OSCE Office in Bishkek Ryskulova str., 6	Confirmed Joint activities within the all Outputs
11.00 - 12.00	Lunch		
12.30 - 14.00	<b><i>Meeting with National Statistic Committee</i></b> Ms. Alymkulova Elmira Nasipkulova, Head of Apparatus of the NSC of the KR Ms. Kerimalieva Nazira Kerimalieva, National Statistic Committee, Department on Sustainable Development Statistics, UNDP-GEF Project Board member Ms. Mursabekova Gulzeynep Turdubekovna, Head of the Real Sector of the NSC KR; Ms. Ysabekova Baktygul, Deputy Head of the Main Computer Center NSCKR Ms. Doronova Elena Valerievna, Head of the Energy Section Ms. Baymakova Lola, Head of the International Department of the NSC KR	UNDP PMU 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	Confirmed Joint activities within the all Outputs include LDN, Climate Statistics and “Kerege” EIMMS
15.00-16.30	<b><i>Meeting with State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry</i></b> Mr. Rystamov Abdykalyk Alibekovich, Director of SAEPF, Head of the Project Board Ms. Salykmambetova Baglan Nurstamovna, Head of International Cooperation Department, UNDP-GEF Project Board member Ms. Barieva Aizada Zhantaevna, Head of strategy and policy management department, UNDP-GEF Project Board member Ms. Baidakova Natalia Sergeevna, leading expert of management and strategic planning department	SAEPF office 142 Gorkii str., Bishkek	Confirmed Joint activities within the all Outputs include awareness raising, Mass media, Climate Statistics

Time	Activity and participants	Venue, responsible person and contacts	Remarks/ Comments
			and “Kerege” EIMMS
17.00 – 18.30	<b><i>Debriefing with UNDP project team</i></b> Ms. Aliona Nikulita, UNDP RR i.a., Vice chair of the UNDP-GEF Project Board; Mr. Erkinbek Kasybekov, UNDP ARR; Ms. Aidai Arstanbekova, UNDP CO Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; Mr. Daniar Ibragimov, UNDP CO Team Leader on Environment, CC and DRM; Ms. Sherbet Nurzhanova, UNDP CO Associate; Mr. Kumar Kylychev, UNDP Environment Project’s TA and Coordinator; Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, UNDP-GEF Project Coordinator.	UN House 160 Chui str., Bishkek	Confirmed
16.00-18.30	<b><i>Discussion on Follow-up actions</i></b>	UNDP PMU 5 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room Turusbekova str., 109/2, Bishkek	

## **Annex 3. List of documents reviewed**

### **General documentation**

- UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP);
- UNDP Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating for Results;
- UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects;
- GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy;
- GEF Guidelines for conducting Terminal Evaluations;
- UNDP-GEF Gender Policies.

### **Project documentation**

- National Sustainable Development Strategy;
- UNDP Country Programme Documents;
- GEF Project Information Form (PIF) and Log Frame Analysis;
- List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, including Project Boards, and other partners to be consulted;
- Project document;
- Annual Work Plans;
- Annual Project Reports;
- UNDP ROAR;
- Annual Progress Report;
- Project Implementation Review;
- GEF Operational Quarterly Reports;
- Project budget and financial data (CDRs);
- Project Board Meeting minutes;
- Knowledge and legislation related products.

### **Final Project Reports**

- Informational and Analytical Report on developing an institutional framework for integrated management information system and monitoring Kerege environmental information in the Kyrgyz Republic. 2018
- Environment in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2011-2015. National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2016
- Lessons learned report on targeted Rio Convention mainstreaming: Conclusions and recommendations on the implemented activities of the Rio conventions. August 2018"

### **Project website**

[http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/operations/projects/environment\\_and\\_energy.html](http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy.html)

## List of communication material

<http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/06/12/-if-you-are-one-of-us-help-us-.html>

<http://www.time.kg/vremya-pokazhet/184204-ekologicheskie-voprosy-v-smi-kyrgyzstana.html>

<http://www.stat.kg/ru/news/nacstatkom-prinyal-uchastie-v-seminare-po-voprosam-ekologii/>

<http://www.stat.kg/ru/news/provedeno-pervoe-zasedanie-mezhvedomstvennoj-rabochej-gruppy-po-sovershenstvovaniyu-statistiki-svyazannoj-s-izmeneniem-klimata-v-kyrgyzskoj-respublike/>

<http://ecology.gov.kg/news/view/id/126>

<http://ecology.gov.kg/news/view/id/102>

<http://eco.ikipress.org/news:1466372>

<http://eco.ikipress.org/news:1463032>

<https://bilim.ikipress.org/ru/news:1467965>

<https://sptnkne.ws/jxNq>

<https://bilim.ikipress.org/ru/news:1466532>

<http://aarhus.kg/ru/novosti/na-issyk-kule-proshel-obuchayushhij-seminar-primenenie-natsionalnogo-komplekta-ekologicheskikh-pokazatelej-kerege.html>

<http://aarhus.kg/ru/novosti/seminar-ekologicheskie-informatsionnye-sistemy-i-ekologicheskaya-statistika-dlya-dostizheniya-tselej-ustojchivogo-razvitiya-2.html>

<http://aarhus.kg/ru/novosti/rol-ekologicheskoy-informatsii-v-razviti-kyrgyzstana.html>

<http://aarhus.kg/ru/novosti/obuchayushhij-seminar-po-rabote-s-ekologicheskimi-dannymi-dlya-prinyatiya-reshenij.html>

<http://aarhus.kg/ru/novosti/ekologicheskie-dannye-v-kyrgyzstane-eto-slozhno.html>

<http://aarhus.kg/ru/novosti/kruglyj-stol-na-temu-uchastie-chastnogo-sektora-v-realizatsii-3-h-globalnyh-ekologicheskikh-konventsij.html>

<http://aarhus.kg/ru/novosti/kerege-otkrytyj-dostup-k-ekologicheskoy-informatsii-o-razrabotke-sistemy-upravleniya-i-monitoringa-ekologicheskoy-informatsii.html>

<http://ekois.net/obuchayushhij-seminar-po-rabote-s-ekologicheskimi-dannymi-dlya-prinyatiya-reshenij/>

<http://ik.kgz-water.kg/en/menu-novosti/missiya-menedzhera-proekta-v-kyrgyzstan-maj-2018-g..html>

<http://www.stat.kg/ru/news/v-bishkeke-prohodit-mezhdunarodnyj-seminar-po-cur/>

[http://pressrelease.ikipress.org/unews/un\\_post:11685](http://pressrelease.ikipress.org/unews/un_post:11685)

## Annex 4. Evaluation Questions

### Evaluative Criteria Questions

**Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of the GEF focal area, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?**

- Is the Project relevant to the three Rio Conventions?
- Is the Project relevant to UNDP objectives?
- Does the project's objective fit GEF strategic priorities and operational principles?
- Is the Project relevant to Kyrgyzstan's environmental objectives?
- Does the Project address the needs of target beneficiaries?
- How is the Project complementary to activities of other stakeholders and donors active in the region?
- How could the Project better target and address the priorities and development challenges of targeted beneficiaries?
- What is the most significant change observed due to the project activities?

**Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?**

- To what extent have implemented outputs produced or contributed to attaining the expected outcomes?
- What lessons have been learnt for the Project to achieve its outcomes?
- How could the Project be more effective in achieving its results?
- Which activities have been the most effective?
- Which have been less effective?
- Is the project objective likely to be met? To what extent and in what timeframe?
- What are the key factors contributing to project success or underachievement?
- Is adaptive management being applied to ensure effectiveness?
- Is monitoring and evaluation used to ensure effective decision-making?

**Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently, in-line with international and national norms and standards?**

- Was adaptive management used or needed to ensure efficient resource use?
- How efficient is the project at using resources?
- Were the accounting and financial systems in place adequate for Project management and producing accurate and timely financial information?
- Was Project implementation as cost effective as originally proposed (planned vs. actual)?
- Was the leveraging of funds (co-financing) happening as planned?
- What are the biggest difficulties in implementing the different project component?
- Is the project cost-effective?
- Was the project implementation delayed? If so, did that affect cost-effectiveness?

**Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?**

- Did the Project adequately address financial and economic sustainability issues?
- Is there evidence that Project partners will continue their activities beyond Project support?
- Are laws, policies and frameworks being addressed through the Project, in order to address sustainability of key initiatives and reforms?

- Is the capacity in place at the national and local levels adequate to ensure sustainability of the results achieved to date?
- Are Project activities and results being replicated elsewhere and/or scaled up?
- What are the main challenges that may hinder sustainability of results?
- Are there any long-term sustainable benefits from the project already?
- 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?
- Which partnerships/linkages were facilitated? Can be considered sustainable?

**Impact: Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and/or improved ecological status?**

- What is the level of sensitization and awareness about the integrated ecosystem management approach?
- What is the impact of the demonstrated approach in private, public and/or at individual levels?
- What would you say is a “good practice” that you have seen from the project?
- Did the Project mainstream gender considerations into its implementation?

## Annex 5. Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

### Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

### Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form<sup>10</sup>

#### Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

**Name of Consultant:** Lamia Mansour

**Name of Consultancy Organization** (where relevant): Independent Consultant

**I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.**

Signed at *Beirut, Lebanon* on 10/02/2019

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1010</sup> [www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct](http://www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct)



Annex 6. Report Clearance Form

(to be completed by CO and UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region and included in the final document)

Evaluation Report Reviewed and Cleared by	
UNDP Country Office	
Name: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____
UNDP-GEF RTA	
Name: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____

## Annex 7. Terminal Evaluation Capacity Development Scorecard

**Project Name:** Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information

**Scorecard<sup>11</sup>:** Score at Project Preparation (PPG), dated November 2014. Score at Terminal Evaluation (TE), dated December 2018

Capacity Result / Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	Score At PPG	Comments at PPG	Score at TE	Comments At TE
<b>CR 1: Capacities for engagement</b>						
Indicator 1 – Degree of legitimacy/ mandate of lead environmental organizations	Organizational responsibilities for environmental management are not clearly defined	0	1	Government policy must be based on data and information that is considered “official”. However, this data and information is often challenged by other expert institutions such as the expert institutes under the National Academy of Sciences.  A number of environmental NGOs carry out a number of important activities relevant to informing environmental policy and management. They are particularly active in a promoting environmental awareness among civil society	3	The project addressed the issue of legitimacy and institutional mandates. The project facilitated consensus building on the use of sound data and information for informing national environmental policies and reporting progress on Rio Convention implementation.
	Organizational responsibilities for environmental management are identified	1				
	Authority and legitimacy of all lead organizations responsible for environmental management are partially recognized by stakeholders	2				
	Authority and legitimacy of all lead organizations responsible for environmental management recognized by stakeholders	3				
Indicator 2 – Existence of operational co-management mechanisms	No co-management mechanisms are in place	0	1	There are a number of cooperation agreements and “rules of interaction” between and among the SAEPF, MALR, and other government ministries and	2	The project assessed the effectiveness and lessons learned in order to facilitate the development of new agreements.  The project developed appropriate MoUs between key stakeholder organizations.
	Some co-management mechanisms are in place and operational	1				

<sup>11</sup> At project formulation, the Capacity Development Scorecard was discussed during a half-day workshop with participation of independent experts, including a representative from the SAEPF. At TE, the Capacity Development Scorecard was completed by the TE expert as an independent exercise and comments by stakeholders included as part of the review of the draft TE report.

Capacity Result / Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	Score At PPG	Comments at PPG	Score at TE	Comments At TE
	Some co-management mechanisms are formally established through agreements, MOUs, etc.	2		inspectories. Similar agreements with non-state actors do not exist.		However, the MoU are not formally signed and are not operational to date
	Comprehensive co-management mechanisms are formally established and are operational/functional	3		Co-management arrangements are dictated by these agreements, and largely facilitated by externally funded projects. Notwithstanding, there remains an institutionalized culture of competition among agencies rather than cooperation or collaboration.		
Indicator 3 – Existence of cooperation with stakeholder groups	Identification of stakeholders and their participation/involvement in decision-making is poor	0		Public councils and advisory and monitoring bodies are established on a voluntary basis. They are made up of representatives of civil society for interaction and cooperation between the ministries, state committees, and administrative departments. To a limited extent, these groups contribute to public monitoring of the activities of ministries, state committees and administrative authorities.	<b>3</b>	The learning-by-doing approach of this project allowed stakeholders to actively participate and build long-term technical capacities to better understand and apply global environmental indicators. Particular attention was given to demonstrating the value of teamwork among government agencies and technical disciplines with a view to integrating global environmental priorities into sectors development plans at the national and sub-national levels.  The project facilitated capitalizing of the various comparative advantages of different stakeholder organizations to promote global environment values.
	Stakeholders are identified but their participation in decision-making is limited	1	<b>1</b>			
	Stakeholders are identified and regular consultations mechanisms are established	2				
	Stakeholders are identified and they actively contribute to established participative decision-making processes	3		To a limited extent, experts representing the academic community and NGOs are involved in the decision-making process on environmental issues through a number of mechanisms, such as online discussion of draft laws, normative legal acts and other regulatory documents. Notwithstanding, there are anecdotal instances when key stakeholders are not adequately informed or invited to participate on key issues for which they have expertise or comparative advantages.		

Capacity Result / Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	Score At PPG	Comments at PPG	Score at TE	Comments At TE
				The participation of the general public in consultation processes is limited to public debate.		
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>CR 2: Capacities to generate, access and use information and knowledge</b>						
Indicator 4 – Degree of environmental awareness of stakeholders	Stakeholders are not aware about global environmental issues and their related possible solutions (MEAs)	0		Although there was an increase in awareness raising activities, these have largely focused on staffs of government institutions and agencies.	<b>3</b>	<p>The project involved as many stakeholders as possible in various activities in order to increase the number of people who have an improved understanding and value of the global environment to national development priorities. The project also assessed baseline awareness as well as end-of-project awareness of stakeholders in order to make some statement that awareness is increasing. However, this may not be fully attributable to the CCCD project.</p> <p>Awareness raising was directed to all stakeholder types, i.e., government civil servants at all levels, Parliamentarians, private sector, journalists, youth, and local civil society, among other possible categories of stakeholders. Particular attention was directed to awareness-raising at the level of the media and in schools.</p>
	Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues but not about the possible solutions (MEAs)	1	<b>1</b>	While there are television and radio programmes covering environmental protection and agriculture, these are largely produce Russian and not accessible to a large segment of the Kyrgyz speaking population in rural areas. As such, they do not have an adequate understanding of global environmental issues.		
	Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues and the possible solutions but do not know how to participate	2		Despite the fact that many stakeholders are aware of the global environmental issues, they do not use the available information for decision-making or the development of strategic documents.		
	Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues and are actively participating in the implementation of related solutions	3				
Indicator 5 – Access and sharing of environmental information by stakeholders	The environmental information needs are not identified and the information management infrastructure is inadequate	0		Environmental information in Kyrgyzstan is collected by many institutions in different forms and formats. The official management of data and information is governed by legislation (Law N° 213). However, there is an inconsistent understanding of how to apply this law and bureaucratic procedures appear to hinder the exchange of data and information.	<b>2</b>	<p>The project organized consultations and workshops to address the systemic and institutional challenges that result in the poor access and sharing of data and information. The EIMMS, as an integrated set of institutional mechanisms that is supported by technology, is intended to improve access and sharing.</p> <p>During the project, information campaigns were undertaken, including outreach sessions on the Rio Conventions and other MEAs.</p>
	The environmental information needs are identified but the information management infrastructure is inadequate	1	<b>1</b>			
	The environmental information is partially available and shared among stakeholders but is not	2				

Capacity Result / Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	Score At PPG	Comments at PPG	Score at TE	Comments At TE
	covering all focal areas and/or the information management infrastructure to manage and give information access to the public is limited			An unintended consequence is that different agencies and stakeholders find it easier to create and manage their own data, which includes using different methodologies and metrics.		This has strengthened a shared understanding and interpretation of environmental information across diverse stakeholders.
	Comprehensive environmental information is available and shared through an adequate information management infrastructure	3		The main issues with respect to the management of data and information for planning, decision-making, and reporting relate to the source of the data and information and the quality of the analyses. A number of agencies also publish environmental information on their websites.		However, the limited duration of the project does not allow a comprehensive environmental information to be fully operational and shared through an adequate information management infrastructure
Indicator 6 – Existence of environmental education programmes	No environmental education programmes are in place	0		Most of the leading universities in Kyrgyzstan have ecological departments. There are also occasional events for students in order to increase their interest in environmental issues.  However, most students do not have a comprehensive view of environmental issues due to the lack of a conceptual approach to secondary education on environmental issues and sustainable development. Technical material exists, but for the most part these are dated.	3	During the project, both technical materials and information materials targeted on the linkage between the global environment and national socio-economic issues was developed.  Instructors at the secondary and university level had access to more recent knowledge on the critical issues related to the global environment to help better capacitate their teaching and training activities.
	Environmental education programmes are partially developed and partially delivered	1	1			
	Environmental education programmes are fully developed but partially delivered	2				
	Comprehensive environmental education programmes exist and are being delivered	3				
Indicator 7 – Extend of the linkage between environmental research/science and policy development	No linkage exist between environmental policy development and science/research strategies and programmes	0		Despite the availability of scientific knowledge in the Kyrgyzstan, the data are not sufficiently used in the formulation of strategies or policy instruments. This is partly due to the fact that the key ministries and agencies do not share a common understanding of how to use the research to inform policies, plans, or strategies.	2	Stakeholder representatives, in particular staffs from government, NGOs, academia, and the research community were brought together to discuss and agree on best practicable approaches to collaborate and coordinate their respective activities with a view to maximizing the utility of high quality data, information and knowledge.  The National Statistic Committee under the President of Kyrgyzstan is one of the
	Research needs for environmental policy development are identified but are not translated into relevant research strategies and programmes	1	1			

Capacity Result / Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	Score At PPG	Comments at PPG	Score at TE	Comments At TE
	Relevant research strategies and programmes for environmental policy development exist but the research information is not responding fully to the policy research needs	2		This is compounded by the relatively weak recognition and support given to the academic and scientific community on their valuable contribution to environmentally friendly and sustainable development.		institutional arrangements that worked in a multicultural field in order to reconcile institutional comparative advantages.
	Relevant research results are available for environmental policy development	3				Efforts to ensure that relevant research strategies and programmes for environmental policy development exist have been initiated but the research information is not responding fully to the policy research needs
Indicator 8 – Extend of inclusion/use of traditional knowledge in environmental decision-making	Traditional knowledge is ignored and not taken into account into relevant participative decision-making processes	0		Knowledge associated with local traditions is not sufficiently used, resulting in the loss of value knowledge. The knowledge that currently exists is mainly documented in the catalog of technologies and approaches that are to be found in various been distributed among a limited number of educational institutions.	2	The project's assessment exercises included an analysis of the barriers and opportunities to improve the access and use of traditional knowledge through best practices applicable to the Kyrgyz context. This included balancing traditional knowledge with that of more modern methods of knowledge creation for informing policy formulation and implementation.  While the project made every effort to engage local community and civil society representatives who can objectively represent this category of stakeholders in various project activities, traditional knowledge is being collected but is not used systematically into relevant participative decision-making processes
	Traditional knowledge is identified and recognized as important but is not collected and used in relevant participative decision-making processes	1	1			
	Traditional knowledge is collected but is not used systematically into relevant participative decision-making processes	2				
	Traditional knowledge is collected, used and shared for effective participative decision-making processes	3				
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>12</b>	

CR 3: Capacities for strategy, policy and legislation development						
Indicator 9 – Extent of the environmental planning and strategy development process	The environmental planning and strategy development process is not coordinated and does not produce adequate environmental plans and strategies	0		Kyrgyzstan has adopted a number of key policies (“Concepts”) and programmes to govern key aspects of environmental and natural resource management. These include the Concept of Environmental Security, the Concept of Forestry Sector Development for the Period up to 2025, the National Forest Programme for the Period up to 2015, Priorities of Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change until 2017, Priorities of Biodiversity Conservation for the Period until 2024 and the Plan of Action. Given these and the important investment by the international donor community, including the GEF, to prepare these, suggest that Kyrgyzstan has prepared adequate environmental plans and strategies.	3	<p>The objective of the project was to prepare assessments for strengthening environmental information systems. This CCCD project is a capacity development project, the project of which is to build, strengthen, and or improve a specific set of capacities (systemic, institutional, and individual) at the country level to undertake a sustained implementation (during and beyond the CCCD project) to achieve Rio Convention obligations through improved data and information management. As such, the project was able to catalyze a transformation of key targeted policy instruments, institutional structures and mechanisms, and very importantly facilitate critical thinking among planners and decision-makers on understanding and applying new knowledge.</p> <p>All of these capacities are strategically organized around the integration and targeted strengthening of existing environmental information monitoring and management systems.</p>
	The environmental planning and strategy development process does produce adequate environmental plans and strategies but there are not implemented/used	1				
	Adequate environmental plans and strategies are produced but there are only partially implemented because of funding constraints and/or other problems	2	2			
	The environmental planning and strategy development process is well coordinated by the lead environmental organizations and produces the required environmental plans and strategies; which are being implemented	3				
Indicator 10 – Existence of an adequate environmental policy and regulatory frameworks	The environmental policy and regulatory frameworks are insufficient; they do not provide an enabling environment	0		<p>In addition to the comments provided on Indicator 9, the linkage between environmental policy and their associated regulatory frameworks do not adequately reflect criteria and indicators to monitor, measure, or validate the extent to which the Rio Conventions are adequately being implemented at the national level.</p> <p>Although Kyrgyzstan’s environmental legislation appears to be quite comprehensive, a number of their obligations or mutually exclusive or contradictory, rendering their enforcement problematic.</p>	3	<p>The project focus on certain key reforms in policy and legislation in accordance with the provisions under the Rio Conventions through by-laws and/or associated operational guidance.</p> <p>For the project has also succeeded to ensure that they are formally approved.</p>
	Some relevant environmental policies and laws exist but few are implemented and enforced	1	1			
	Adequate environmental policy and legislation frameworks exist but there are problems in implementing and enforcing them	2				
	Adequate policy and legislation frameworks are implemented	3				



	and provide an adequate enabling environment; a compliance and enforcement mechanism is established and functions					
Indicator 11 – Adequacy of the environmental information available for decision-making	The availability of environmental information for decision-making is lacking	0		<p>The very rationale of this project lies in the inadequacy of environmental information for decision-making. Notwithstanding, there are many programmes, projects and other activities underway to address this very real need. As a targeted, cross-cutting capacity development project, this project focuses on a particular type of environmental information.</p> <p>An important baseline to the project lies in the existence of important government databases and websites. While the websites serve to make available official data and information, their validity and accuracy is challenged by a number of non-state stakeholders. A particular weakness in the clarity and coverage of data and information relevant to the three Rio Conventions. These websites are also not managed in a cost-effective manner.</p>	2	<p>The project ensured a clear understanding of what is meant by environmental information for decision-making. Among the earliest of project activities is the analysis and identification of these indicators with the active engagement of stakeholder representatives. Rather than creating any new institutional structure or mechanism, project activities emphasized their strengthening and networking.</p> <p>Although the project ensured that relevant environmental information is made available to environmental decision-makers, the process to update this information is not functioning properly yet</p>
	Some environmental information exists but it is not sufficient to support environmental decision-making processes	1	1			
	Relevant environmental information is made available to environmental decision-makers but the process to update this information is not functioning properly	2				
	Political and administrative decision-makers obtain and use updated environmental information to make environmental decisions	3				
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>8</b>	

CR 4: Capacities for management and implementation						
Indicator 12 – Existence and mobilization of resources	The environmental organizations do not have adequate resources for their programmes and projects and the requirements have not been assessed	0		The main problem in this area is limited budgetary funds of the government agencies responsible for the Rio Conventions. An unintended consequence of the availability of significant resources from the international donor community to address environmental issues is the deleveraging of government budgetary allocations to address environmental priorities. With the increased pressure of recipient countries to validate their eligibility and compete for dwindling funds, it is especially incumbent on the decision-makers to seek synergies and institutionalize capacities as a means of becoming less reliant on external financing.	2	One of the project's key features is the learning-by-doing approach of capacity building activities that serves to strengthen the technical absorptive capacities to create and use new knowledge for the cost-effective and sustainable achievement of Rio Convention obligations. As second feature is the development of a resource mobilization strategy that is intended to carefully structure a plan of action to replicate and extend the capacity building activities carried out under the project. Not only must this strategy look to mobilize external resources from the international community, but importantly financial resources from within the country. The funding sources for these resource requirements are partially identified and the resource requirements are partially addressed
	The resource requirements are known but are not being addressed	1	1			
	The funding sources for these resource requirements are partially identified and the resource requirements are partially addressed	2				
	Adequate resources are mobilized and available for the functioning of the lead environmental organizations	3				
Indicator 13 – Availability of required technical skills and technology transfer	The necessary required skills and technology are not available and the needs are not identified	0		Previous assessments and analyses suggest that best practices for conserving biodiversity, combatting desertification, and mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change are not sufficiently reflected in the development of sectoral policy documents. The challenge in this instance is the weak institutional coordination and collaboration that would foster the sharing of comparative advantages and technological know-how. While there are trainings directed to specific technical skills, they do not include Rio Convention mainstreaming.	3	While project activities developed systemic, institutional, and individual capacities, the latter perhaps represented the greatest percentage of financial investment. This is because the social actor is the individual, and significant investments are needed to facilitate a shift in both attitudes and ways of working in order to move beyond old approaches that have been demonstrated not to be successful. However, the very first set of project activities made this determination with the active engagement of stakeholders. Targeted training was undertaken through learning-by-doing.
	The required skills and technologies needs are identified as well as their sources	1	1			
	The required skills and technologies are obtained but their access depend on foreign sources	2				
	The required skills and technologies are available and there is a national-based mechanism for updating the required skills and for upgrading the technologies	3				
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>5</b>	

CR 5: Capacities to monitor and evaluate						
Indicator 14 – Adequacy of the project/programme monitoring process	Irregular project monitoring is being done without an adequate monitoring framework detailing what and how to monitor the particular project or programme	0		Kyrgyzstan has established a few important programme monitoring processes, including an Inter-Agency Commission for Cooperation with GEF and a Coordination Commission on Climate Change, both of which serve to ensure congruency with national environmental priorities.  However, these committees emphasize environmental programme monitoring for projects implemented by the SAEPPF and MALR. The other line ministries whose development sectors have important environmental linkages are not part of this monitoring process.	2	The EIMMS is an encompassing set of integrated databases, tracking protocol (Indicator 14), and procedures for programme evaluation to assess programme effectiveness and sustainability (Indicator 15).  Regular participative monitoring of results is being conducted but this information is only partially used by the project/programme implementation team
	An adequate resourced monitoring framework is in place but project monitoring is irregularly conducted	1	1			
	Regular participative monitoring of results in being conducted but this information is only partially used by the project/programme implementation team	2				
	Monitoring information is produced timely and is used by the implementation team	3				
Indicator 15 – Adequacy of the project/programme evaluation process	None or ineffective evaluations are being conducted without an adequate evaluation plan;	0		Programme evaluation is what comes after the programme monitoring process (Indicator 14). In Kyrgyzstan, there are a couple of environmental programme monitoring processes, but these are not sufficiently linked to the a robust evaluation of their effectiveness and use to inform the formulation and implementation of sectoral development plans that reflect global environmental obligations or meet best practice standards for resilience or sustainability.	2	In addition to the comment on Indicator 15, the testing of the EIMMS is an important exercise to demonstrate the value of collaboration and coordination. Critically, the success of the project is dependent on the institutionalization of capacities to formulate more holistic constructs of sector development plans that better reflect manageable indicators of the global environment.  By the time of the TE, the evaluations were being conducted as per an adequate evaluation plan but the evaluation results are only partially used by the programme implementation team
	An adequate evaluation plan is in place but evaluation activities are irregular	1	1			
	Evaluations are being conducted as per an adequate evaluation plan but the evaluation results are only partially used by the implementation team	2				
	Effective evaluations are conducted timely and accurately and are used by the implementation team to correct the course of action	3				
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>37</b>	

## **Annex 8. UNDP-GEF TE Report Audit Trail**

Attached separately.