



Development Account
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



**Terminal Review of the UNEP/UNDA Project
'Towards coherent implementation of the
environmental dimension of the Sustainable
Development Goals, PIMS ID 02000 and UNDA ID
1819Q
(2018 – 2021)**



**UNEP Law Division
October/2022**



This report has been prepared by an external consultant as part of a Terminal Review, which is a management-led process to assess performance at the project's operational completion. The UNEP Evaluation Office provides templates and tools to support the review process and provides a formal assessment of the quality of the Review report, which is provided within this report's annexed material. The findings and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Member States or the UN Environment Programme Senior Management.

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Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable
Development Goals

PIMS ID 02000

Date 10/22

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The review consultant hopes that the findings, conclusions, and recommendations will contribute to the future implementation of UNDA and UNEP projects and the formulation of a next phase of this initiative, and to the continuous improvement of similar projects in other countries and regions.

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ABOUT THE REVIEW

Report Language: English.

Document Type: Terminal Review

Brief Description: This report is a Terminal Review of a UNEP-UNDA project: *Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals*, implemented between 2018 and 2021. The project's overall development goal was to catalyze the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs. The review sought to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, UNDA and the relevant agencies of the project participating countries.

Key words: SDGs; Agenda 2030; UNDA; national policy; national development plan; statistics; environmental statistics

Primary data collection period: June-September 2022

Field mission dates: No field mission

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PROJECT IDENTIFICATION TABLE

| Project Identification Table | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Title | Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals | | | |
| Implementing partners | UNDP Bangladesh, Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change (Burkina Faso), Stockholm Environmental Institute (Colombia), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (Guyana) | | | |
| UNDA ID: | UNDA 11 | 1819Q | | |
| PIMS ID: | 02000 | 421.2B | | |
| SDG(s): | SDG targets 15.9 and 17.14 | | | |
| UNEP Sub-programme (MTS 2018-2021): | Subprogramme 4: Environmental Governance | Expected Accomplishment(s): | EA b (POW 2018-19 and 2020-21) | |
| | Subprogramme 7: Environment under Review | | EA a (POW 2018-19 and 2020-21) | |
| UNEP approval date: | 12/03/2018 | Programme of Work Output(s) 2018-19 | SP 4: Output 1. SP 7: Output 5. | |
| | | Programme of Work Output(s) 2020-21 | SP 4: Output 1. | |
| Expected start date: | March 2018 | Actual start date: | June 2018 | |
| Planned completion date: | December 2021 | Actual completion date: | December 2021 | |
| Planned project budget at approval: | \$608,000.00 | Actual total expenditures reported as of 30.09.2021 | \$ 473,291.45 (\$ 120,558.04 returned) | |
| Expected co-financing: EF Funding | \$0.00 | Secured co-financing: | Not determined (Swiss funds for project support in Colombia, and in-kind contribution from implementing partners) | |
| First disbursement: | June 2018 | Date of planned financial closure: | December 2021 | |
| No. of revisions: | none | Date of last revision: | | |
| No. of Steering Committee meetings: | 6 | Date of last/next Steering Committee meeting: | Last: 23/09/2021 | Next: N/A |
| Mid-term Review (planned date): | n/a | Mid-term Review (actual date): | n/a | |
| Terminal Review (planned date): | 01/01/2022 | Terminal Review (actual date): | 06/18/2022 | |
| Coverage - Country(ies): | Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guyana, Colombia | Coverage - Region(s): | Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean | |
| Dates of previous project phases: | n/a | Status of future project phases: | n/a | |

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BESF | Bangladesh Environmental Statistics Framework 2016-2030 |
| DGESS | General Directorate of Studies and Sector Statistics |
| DNP | Departamento Nacional de Planeación |
| EA | Expected Accomplishments |
| GSDS | Green State Development Strategy |
| MEAs | Multilateral Environmental Agreements |
| MEEVCC | Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change |
| MTS | Medium-Term Strategy |
| SP-CNDD | National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development |
| NDP | National Development Plan |
| PEI | Poverty and Environment Initiative |
| PNDES | National Plan for Socioeconomic Development |
| PoW | Programme of Work |
| RCO | Resident Coordinator Office |
| ROLAC | Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SSFA | Small-Scale Funding Agreements |
| ToC | Theory of Change |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Teams |
| UNDA | United Nations Development Account |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| VNR | Voluntary National Review |

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. UNEP Law Division implemented the project, Enhancing the Coherent Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs over a four-year period (2018-2021) with an UNDA grant of USD 608,000. The project aimed to address the challenge that countries face in implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, namely that environmental concerns and priorities are not adequately embedded in SDG related reports, strategies, and policies. The project was to be implemented in four pilot countries to draw lessons learnt to be shared through national, regional, and global mechanisms: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Guyana.
2. The implementing partners include: UNDP Bangladesh; Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change (Burkina Faso); Stockholm Environmental Institute (Colombia) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (Guyana)
3. The Terminal Review (TR) covers the set of project activities between March 2018 and December 2021, their resulting outputs, and how national stakeholders have used or processed said outputs to achieve the project's expected outcomes. The TR reviewed the project against a set of seven review criteria: (1) Strategic Relevance, (2) Effectiveness, including the Availability of Outputs, Achievement of Outcomes and Likelihood of Impact (3) Financial Management, (4) Efficiency, (5) Monitoring and Reporting, (6) Sustainability and (7) Cross-cutting Issues: Human Rights and Gender Equality; Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards and Communication and Public Awareness. Additionally, the effect on, and response of, the project to the COVID-19 pandemic is reviewed.
4. The purpose of the TR is to meet accountability needs and to generate learning for future project design and implementation. The intended users are UNEP, UNDA, UNDP, implementing partners and the relevant ministries in each of the participating countries.
5. The project's outcomes, which were expected to result after the delivery and uptake of the project's outputs (see Table 4), were:
 - In the four countries, national policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sectoral priorities aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner.
 - The four countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environmental statistics, data and information that integrate SDGs-related and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)-related data.
 - Lessons learned, and knowledge acquired by the four countries is made available to a wider set of countries through inter-regional networking and cooperation.

Review Methods

6. The TR followed a theory-based approach, verifying the degree to which the project's ToC included in the project design had been realized. To that end, the

review developed a list of 12 review questions based on UNEP's review criteria. The data used to answer the review questions were obtained from project documents and other references and triangulated with qualitative interviews with key informants from the project's implementing partners and beneficiary organizations. An overview of potential respondents contacted and actual respondents is provided in Table 6. The actual numbers of respondents are small, 7 individuals from each of the groups of project team, partners and identifiable beneficiaries even though this represents a high proportion of the potential respondents for the project team (78%) and the partners (70%) and a low proportion of identifiable beneficiaries (21%).

Key Findings

7. The project design was based on ongoing UNEP or partners initiative in the four target countries. Thus, despite the small funding envelope of USD 0.6 million, significant policy effects were expected, among others, strengthened policy frameworks for the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs, supported by robust environmental statistics, enabling improved reporting on environmental SDG indicators.
8. The project delivered the national outputs included in the agreed-upon legal instruments with the project implementing partners, specifically:
 - In **Bangladesh**, the project resulted in the development of two further project documents, securing an additional USD 5 million to support the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs in Bangladesh and Nepal. The project in Bangladesh (SC4SAB project) supported Bangladesh General Economic Division, producing a Voluntary National Review in 2020 containing 150% more environmental indicators than the previous one (2017).
 - In **Colombia**, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) deployed a methodology to identify SDG synergies that strengthened national and sub-national planning processes, which the national government adopted as a planning tool. Moreover, the consolidated method has been applied by SEI in Sri Lanka. The project also supported the national government by producing a guide on environmental responsibilities for local governments.
 - In **Guyana and Burkina Faso**, the project funded capacity development activities to strengthen the use of environmental data in planning processes. Participants state their satisfaction with the workshops but consider that further support is needed to deploy environmental statistics effectively. In both countries, the policy outcomes could not be confirmed.
9. The achievement of the outcomes and hence the likelihood of the project's contribution to the impact have been uneven across the four pilot countries due to national factors and the presence of international implementing partners being able to mobilize their own and external resources to further said ongoing initiatives. However, the project's expected results exceeded the project's limited budget and human resources compared to initiatives with more modest policy and

geography scopes. The contribution made by this project to potentially long-lasting results was feasible through the catalyzing effects of this initiative on processes in each of the four pilot countries, where UNEP was involved, directly or through partners.

Lessons learned

10. A small funding envelope can produce more significant effects if it supports selected entry points identified and implemented with complementary interventions through implementing partners immune to political changes (UN agencies, international think tanks).
11. The exchange of lessons to strengthen the implementation of an ongoing initiative can extend beyond one final workshop. It is most likely to be effective if the project is implemented in countries with similar socioeconomic and institutional contexts, preferably within the same region and language.
12. Future projects should refrain from attempting specific policy changes but focus on the methodologies and capacity development countries need to enhance their own-paced mainstreaming of environmental concerns. Policy changes entail complex political processes beyond any given initiative's influence. Capacity development activities should complement punctual workshops and training seasons with the development of repositories, including helpdesks, e-courses, and webinars, clearly tagged and accessible. Examples of this have been developed for some SDG indicators under UNEP's custodianship, e.g., SDG indicator 6.3.2. A similar strategy could be adopted for SDG indicator 17.14.1.

Recommendations

13. The project's actions need follow-up:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recommendation #1: | UNEP should publish the project's knowledge products (case studies, reports, peer-reviewed papers). |
| Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation: | Dissemination of knowledge is an important intention of the project, which has not yet been fully achieved. |
| Priority Level ¹: | Important |
| Responsibility: | UNEP Project Team |

¹ Select priority level from these three categories:

Critical recommendation: address significant and/or pervasive deficiencies in governance, risk management or internal control processes, such that reasonable assurance cannot be provided regarding the achievement of programme objectives.

Important recommendation: address reportable deficiencies or weaknesses in governance, risk management or internal control processes, such that reasonable assurance might be at risk regarding the achievement of programme objectives.

Opportunity for improvement: comprise suggestions to improve performance that do not meet the criteria of either critical or important recommendations.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proposed implementation time-frame: | By end of quarter 1 2023 |
| Recommendation #2: | Set up an e-portal to provide access to the project's capacity development activities and links to related programs (e.g., Colombia's local government training on environmental responsibilities). |
| Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation: | Making documents accessible through an e-portal was an important output of the project, which has not yet been fully achieved. |
| Priority Level: | Important |
| Responsibility: | UNEP Project Team |
| Proposed implementation time-frame: | By end of quarter 1 2023 |

2. INTRODUCTION

14. The project, Enhancing the Coherent Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs, was implemented by the UNEP Law Division, over a four-year period (2018-2021) in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Guyana with an UNDA grant of USD 608,000.
15. The project was implemented by the Law Division and its implementing partners: UNDP Bangladesh (Bangladesh), UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (Guyana), the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change (Burkina Faso), and the Stockholm Environment Institute (Colombia).
16. The project addressed the challenge that countries face in implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, namely that environmental issues and priorities are not adequately embedded in SDG related reports, strategies, and policies. The project document links the challenge to the following barriers:
 - Limited experience in mainstreaming the SDG's environmental dimension into national policies;
 - Tendency to develop policies and strategies with limited participation of other relevant sectors of society (private sector, civil society etc.);
 - Inadequacy/lack of tools and methodologies for data collection, compilation and sharing.
17. To overcome the identified barriers, the project document proposed to support countries by providing methodologies to develop more coherent processes, mechanisms, policies, and plans, while i) employing a multisectoral approach that would engage actors from different spheres of society, and ii) by identifying data and information gaps and develop mechanisms to address them.
18. The project was to be implemented in several pilot countries to draw lessons to be shared through national, regional, and global mechanisms. Five countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guyana, and Palau were selected to test the project's solution in 2018, using the following criteria:
 - Demonstrated progress in the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
 - Existing collaboration with UNEP and the UNDP on SDG related initiatives.
19. However, the government of Palau withdrew its country's participation in the project.
20. This Review was carried out between June and October 2022 after the project had reached operational completion (December 2021) and provides summative findings on the performance of the work undertaken as part of the UNDA grant agreement. Performance is assessed against standard UNEP review criteria.
21. This Review summarizes the key lessons learned and makes several recommendations for UNEP to improve its work in this area. The primary audiences for this Report are UNEP, UNDP, and the UNDA, as well as implementing partners in the pilot countries and in future targeted implementing countries.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Background

22. The project aimed to catalyze support for the Agenda 2030 in five countries by supporting ongoing UNEP and partners activities. The government of Palau declined participation in the project in 2018, leaving Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Guyana. The four countries are vastly different in ecological and socioeconomic characteristics (Table 1). They also differed in their baseline conditions as described below.
23. **Bangladesh.** In 2016, UNEP and the UNDP supported the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics under the joint Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI) to develop the Bangladesh Environmental Statistics Framework 2016-2030 (BESF) as well as the Compendium of Environmental Statistics. A year prior to the start of project implementation, Bangladesh published its first Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) in 2017. According to the project document, Bangladesh only had data to report against 4 of the 44 targets under SDGs on SCP, Climate, Life on Land and Life below Water. The project document of 2018 identified the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2026) as an entry point for its policy support, the 7th Five Year Plan 2016-2020 being under implementation at the project's inception. The project document identifies the following government organizations as recipients of capacity development activities: the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Forest Department and the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services.
24. In **Burkina Faso**, PEI had implemented two phases, funding a study revealing that the cost of the unsustainable use of natural resources in Burkina Faso amounted to 21% of GDP. The project document offers no information as to the environmental statistics capacities of Burkina Faso, but identified 14 sector policies linked to the National Plan for Socioeconomic Development (PNDES) 2016-20 as the policy entry point. The following groups are identified as capacity development entry points: National Council for Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change; the Parliamentary Group on Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change; the Directorate General of the Budget; the Directorate-General for Economy and Planning and the Economic and Social Council (ESC) of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development.
25. For **Colombia**, the project document does not offer any information on previous UNEP interventions. SDGs are embedded in Colombia's national strategy, having established a national High-Level Commission for the Preparation and Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. The National Development Plan 2018-2022 (NDP) includes environmental concerns as a cross-cutting area, aiming to strengthen environmental institutions and procedures, transparency, and data. Up to the start of project implementation, Colombia had produced two VNR in 2016, and 2018. The project document reports that Colombia had complete

information for 54% of SDG indicators, partial information for 30% and no information for 16%. However, the project document does not specify which of the SDG indicators are related to the SDG's environmental dimension. The project document identifies a *new public policy* to establish national indicators and targets for 2030 as a policy entry point.

26. In **Guyana**, between 2016 and 2019, UNEP supported the national government developing the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS). The GSDS is aligned with the 2030 Agenda aiming to transition Guyana to inclusive green growth. The implementation of this strategy is the Project's entry point, considering that, according to the project document, Guyana lacked a system to monitor and report the GSDS and the SDGs implementation advances. At the start of implementation, Guyana had not published any VNR.

Table 1. Socioeconomic and environmental indicators of target countries

A. Basic data 2018->2021

| Country | Land area (km ²) | Population (thousands) | % Urban population | GDP per capita (US\$) |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Bangladesh | 147,570 | 161,377 -> 166,305 | 37% -> 39% | 1,992 -> 2,503 |
| Burkina Faso | 274,220 | 19,752 -> 21,497 | 29% -> 31% | 804 -> 918 |
| Colombia | 1,140,619 | 49,661 -> 51,266 | 81% -> 82% | 6,730 -> 6,131 |
| Guyana | 214,970 | 779 -> 790 | 27% ->27% | 6,146 -> 9,375 |

B. Human wellbeing and equality data

| Country | Fertility | Infant mortality | % Female managers (year) | % Employed in agriculture |
|--------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bangladesh | 2.0 -> 2.0 | 25 -> 24 | 46% (2019) | 39% -> 38% |
| Burkina Faso | 5.2 -> 5 | 55 -> 55 | 24% (2018) | 27% -> 26% |
| Colombia | 1.8 -> 1.8 | 12 -> 11 | 30% (2021) | 17% -> 16% |
| Guyana | 2.5 -> 2.4 | 25 -> 24 | 12% (2017) | 16% -> 15% |

C. Environmental data

| Country | Forest area (% land area) | Main ecosystem | Protected area (% of land area) | Tones CO2 per capita (year) |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bangladesh | 14.5% -> 14.5% | Moist deciduous forests | 4.6% -> 4.6% | 0.21 (2017) -> 0.19 (2020) |
| Burkina Faso | 23.1% ->22.7% | Savanna | 14.9% ->16.4% | 0.51 (2017) -> 0.56 (2020) |
| Colombia | 53.7% ->53.3% | Moist forests | 14.8% -> 16.9% | 1.76 (2017)-> 1.75 (2020) |
| Guyana | 93.6% -> 93.6% | Moist forests | 8.7% -> 8.5% | 2.99 (2017) -> 2.81 (2020) |

Stakeholder analysis

27. Table 2 below describes national stakeholders' involvement and expected outcomes at project design.

Table 2. Project stakeholders at project design

| Non- UN Stakeholders | Type & level of involvement in the project | Desired future outcomes |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bangladesh | | |
| Ministry of Environment and Forestry | Primary counterpart | Improved integration of the environmental pillar of the SDGs |
| Bureau of Statistics National Statistical Office (NSO) | Direct involvement | Strengthened role in coordinating and disseminating environment statistics |
| General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission | Direct involvement | More coherent plans and improved monitoring frameworks for national plans |
| Line Ministries related to Agriculture, Forests, Tourism, Fisheries, Gender, etc. | Informed and consulted | More coherent plans and improved monitoring frameworks for national plans |
| Burkina Faso | | |
| Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (SP-CNDD). | Direct involvement | Improved technical capacity to ensure development of tools that enhance natural resources management efforts |
| Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change (including MEA focal points) | Direct involvement | Enhanced coordination with other line Ministries |
| National Office for Statistics | Direct involvement | Improved technical expertise in environmental data generation and disaggregation |
| Economic and Social Council (ESC) | Direct involvement | <i>Enhanced capacity to ensure a stronger integration of Environmental sustainability into their advisory work</i> |
| Local Authorities and district Assemblies | Direct involvement | <i>Enhanced capacity to ensure a stronger integration of Environmental sustainability into their work</i> |
| Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development | Informed and consulted | Enhanced understanding of Environmental contribution to the Economy and green growth |
| National Assembly (through the Sub-Committee on Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change) | Direct involvement | Increased capacity to integrate environmental sustainability into their work |
| Colombia | | |
| President's office and the High Council for Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security | Primary counterpart | Improved integration of the environmental pillar of the SDGs |
| Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development | Direct involvement | Improved integration of the environmental pillar of the SDGs |
| National Statistical Office (NSO) | Direct involvement | Strengthened role in coordinating and disseminating environment statistics |

| Non- UN Stakeholders | Type & level of involvement in the project | Desired future outcomes |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other members of the National SDG Commission (National Planning Department, Morfa, Move, Department of Social Prosperity, International Cooperation Agency) | Informed and consulted | Enhanced capacity to incorporate environmental dimension of sustainable development into plans |
| Other line ministries | Informed and consulted | More coherent plans and improved monitoring frameworks for national plans and budgets. |
| National Environmental Forum (civil society) | Informed and consulted | Enhanced capacities to support sustainability of SDG proposals in political governmental transitions |
| National Environmental Network of Sustainable Universities | Informed and consulted | Enhanced capacities to support sustainability of SDG proposals in political governmental transitions |
| Chambers of Commerce and private sector associations (such as ANDI – Industry Development National Association) | Informed and consulted | Enhanced capacities to support sustainability of SDG proposals in political governmental transitions |
| Guyana | | |
| Office of the Presidency – Department of the Environment (DOE) | Primary counterpart | Sustainable development transition of Guyana under implementation |
| The Cabinet and the GSDS inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder advisory committee | Informed and consulted | Ensured environmental sustainability of GSDS and SDG implementation proposals |
| National Statistical Department | Direct involvement | Strengthened coordinating and disseminating environment statistics and establishing an Environmental and Natural Resources Management System (ENRMS) |
| National Research Centres and Academic Institutions | Informed and consulted | Ensured environmental sustainability of GSDS and SDG implementation proposals |

Project objectives and expected accomplishments/results

28. The project document states that countries need to develop appropriate means of planning and implementation and governance structures to achieve the transformative changes envisaged in the 2030 Agenda. It also identifies the need for them to report progress, which was expected to help them assess progress and adjust their efforts. However, it was recognized that the countries faced capacity limitations to fulfill those three objectives (means of implementation, governance structure and reporting).
29. The project ultimate objective is to support countries implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs and thus contributing to achieving environmental SDG targets (impact level result). Specifically, the project expects to *Strengthen the capacities of the national institutions towards coherent and*

integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

30. The national outcomes are framed within three general Expected Accomplishments²:
- National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sectoral priorities aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner.
 - The four countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environmental statistics, data and information that integrate SDGs-related and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)-related data.
 - Lessons learned, and knowledge acquired by the four countries is made available to a wider set of countries through inter-regional networking and cooperation
31. This Review notes that Outcome Three (equivalent to Expected Accomplishment Three) is formulated at the output level, as it entails a project deliverable: lessons learnt from this project “made available” to other countries, rather than an outcome, e.g., countries incorporate lessons learnt from this project into policy-making processes. The outcome nature of the result is partially reflected in the “outcome’s” first indicator (‘governments acknowledge enhanced capacity’), although this does not reach the level of capacity being demonstrated or applied. Thus, the terminal review reformulates the intended outcome as governments participating in regional initiatives promoted by the project implement actions for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension.
32. The transition from the outcome level results to the impact: achievement of the environmental SDG targets, is mediated by intermediate states that include the two UNEP sub-programme outcomes (Expected Accomplishments, EA) to which the project is expected to contribute (SP-4 Environmental Governance EAb and SP7 Environment Under Review EAc):
- SP-4, EAb: Policy frameworks achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the SDGs
 - SP-7, EAc: Countries generate, access, analyse, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge
33. At the national level the outcomes were expected to arise from the uptake of the project’s concrete outputs contributing to change. The project document refers to the national results as “realistic outcomes” in the section Situation Analysis. The terminal review found that the statements contained therein include output and outcome level result formulations. In Table 3, the terminal review assigns the results to the output and outcome level. Output level results outlined in the project document were later refined and modified in the legal instruments for implementation as it will be detailed in the section Effectiveness: Availability of Outputs in this report.

² Outcomes are denominated Expected Accomplishments in UN Development Account terminology

Table 3. National outputs and outcomes as outlined in the project document

| Country | Output | Outcome |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bangladesh | Increased awareness of the environmental dimension of the SDGs in national planning institutions | National stakeholders engage in mainstreaming environmental issues into policy |
| | Stronger national capacities to develop environmental economic accounts and data to monitor environmentally linked SDGs targets | The National Statistics Office regularly produces sets of environment statistics to report on SDGs, and MEAs |
| Burkina Faso | Key national institutions are strengthened in cross sector partnerships and synergies | Key national institutions enhance coordination and coherence on environmental matters |
| | Enhanced capacity of the statistical services of several ministries | Key national ministries improve monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs. |
| Colombia | National SDG Commission strengthened to integrate the environmental dimension of the SDGs in national and sub national planning, budgeting, and implementation processes | The National SDG Commission integrates the environmental dimension of the SDGs in national and sub national planning, budgeting, and implementation |
| | | Multi-stakeholder's partnerships are established to incorporate key development sectors, outside government, in the SDG implementation. |
| | Monitoring and reporting are strengthened at national and territorial level including the environment | The National Statistics System has developed new indicators for the design and implementation of public policies that integrate the environmental dimension. |
| Guyana | Institutions and sectors are strengthened | Enhanced institutional coordination and multi-stakeholder's partnerships at national and sub national planning, budgeting, and implementation processes. |
| | schemes for monitoring, consolidation and reporting are strengthened at national and sub national levels including the environment dimension | The National Statistics Department has developed additional indicators to monitor and evaluate the GSDS implementation |

34. The UNDA project document logframe links project-wide activities, outputs, and outcomes, as opposed to national-level results. However, the outputs are formulated as general activities, such as listed in Table 4: provide technical support to review and develop policy, support inter-ministerial meetings, provide

technical support to national statistical offices, etc. In Table 4, below, the Terminal Review reconstructs the specific outputs based on the narrative in the Project Strategy section of the project document. This table represents the results used to assess the performance of this project (see also Table 10 showing how the national level results relate to the project level results).

Gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the realization of human rights, with an emphasis on "leaving non one behind"

35. The project document does not mention any specific action to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the realization of human rights, with an emphasis on "leaving non one behind". This may be explained by the focus on the data and the policy components, in countries with different human rights and gender contexts being addressed by other national government interventions with and without support from the United Nations and other development actors.

Innovativeness

36. The project document does not mention any innovative aspect of the project strategy. However, the terminal review identifies innovative elements in the implementation of the project described in the section Effectiveness

Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards Communication and public awareness

37. Environmental, social and economic safeguards are not applicable in the design of this project, as they'd be included (explicitly or implicitly) in the SDG-aligned policy development promoted by this project.

38. Public awareness was incorporated into the project strategy in the national implementation and specifically in outcome three and will be discussed in the section Effectiveness.

Project Resources

39. See Annex VI for the project workplan and budget (USD 608,000 total budget).

Link to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

40. The project document links the project directly to the following environment-related SDG Goals and targets: Goal 1, targets 1.4, 1.5 and 1.b; Goal 2, targets 2.3, 2.4, 2.5; Goal 3, target 3.9; Goal 6, targets 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6; Goal 7, target 7.2, 7.3 and 7a; Goal 8, target 8.4; Goal 9, target 9.4, 9.5; Goal 11, targets 11.4, 11.6, and 11.a; Goal 12, targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, and 12.a and 12.c; Goal 13, targets 13.3 and 13.b; Goal 14, targets 14.1 to 14.7, 14.a, 14.b and 14.c; Goal 15, targets 15.1, to 15.9 and 15.b. The ProDoc considers that the project would have indirectly contributed to goals and targets related to good governance (Goal 16, targets 16.7, 16.8 and 16.b) and means of implementation (Goal 17, targets 17.14, 17.15, 17.17 and 17.19). Alignment of the project results with the SDGs is discussed in the section on Strategic relevance.

Table 4. Project logical framework at design, with reconstructed outputs (Project Document, 2018)

| Activity | (Reconstructed) Output | Outcome | Target |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Technical support (training, materials, and resources) to review and develop policies or strategies | Capacities of relevant national institutions for mainstreaming environment into policy strengthened | 1. National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sectoral priorities in selected countries aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner | 5 countries have developed new/ strengthened national SDG-related implementation plans or strategies or policies or legislation that embed multi-sectoral environmental objectives |
| Support inter-ministerial meetings in each country, using existing in-country mechanisms | Forum provided for line ministries to share technical knowledge and validate information | | 10 plans, strategies, policies, documents, and initiatives developed through inter-ministerial consultation. |
| Organize national multi-stakeholder workshops in each country | Dissemination of information and provision of input from multiple stakeholders facilitated | | |
| Provide technical support to national statistical offices | Capacities of national statistical offices to produce and use and share environment indicators and metadata | 2. Countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data | Three countries develop multi-sectoral comprehensive sets of environment statistics, |
| Data user-producer workshop with policy makers with statisticians and data producers | Strengthened user-producer dialogue. | | Three countries have used environment statistics for monitoring and reviewing national policy. |
| Technical support and tools on integrating environment statistics, including SDG and MEA indicators, into national monitoring and evaluation policy. | Tools and methodologies on integration of environment statistics into the monitoring and evaluation of national policy provided | | Four countries tackle environmental sustainability in VNR, and the reporting systems put in place in relation to the SDGs |
| Organize an inter-regional workshop to share lessons and experiences to promote the coherent implementation of the SDGs | Lessons and experienced from the project shared at regional workshops | | |
| Provide an ePortal and organize webinars to share and disseminate tools, approaches, and other knowledge products from the project | ePortal available with webinars and other project knowledge materials | 3. Governments participating in regional initiatives promoted by the project implement actions for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension. | 80% of government officials participating in regional initiatives acknowledge enhanced capacity for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension |
| Identify and share best practices and country stories on successes and/or unsuccessful initiatives ending with lessons learned that can be useful to other countries | | | |

4. REVIEW SCOPE, OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

Review scope

41. The Terminal Review covered the set of project activities between March 2018 and December 2021, their resulting outputs, and how national stakeholders have used or processed said outputs to achieve the project's expected outcomes. It also covers the contribution of the project's outcomes, including unexpected outcomes, towards the project's hypothesized impact.

Review purpose

In line with UNDA performance assessment requirements, the UNEP Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Programme Manual, the Terminal Review (TR) is undertaken at completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project. The review has two primary purposes:

- (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN Environment and [main project partners]. Therefore, the review will identify lessons of operational relevance for future project formulation and implementation.

Review Criteria

42. The TR reviewed the project against a set of seven review criteria: (1) Strategic Relevance, (2) Effectiveness, including Availability of Outputs, Achievement of Outcomes and Likelihood of Impact (3) Financial Management, (4) Efficiency, (5) Monitoring and Reporting, (6) Sustainability and (7) Cross-Cutting Issues, including, Human Rights and Gender Equality; Innovativeness; Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards and Communication and Public Awareness. Additionally, the effect and response of the project to the COVID-19 pandemic is reviewed.

43. **Strategic relevance**, the extent to which the project aligned with the national objectives of the implementing regions/countries and the target beneficiaries, including:

- (i) Alignment to the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), Programme of Work (PoW) and Strategic Priorities
- (ii) Relevance to Global, Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities
- (iii) Alignment to UNDA strategic priorities
- (iv) Coherence, synergies, and complementarity with relevant existing interventions

44. **Effectiveness**, the extent to which the project has delivered its expected outputs, the degree to which those have contributed to the expected outcomes, and the likelihood of long-lasting impact according to the project's indicator framework, if adequate, or other indicators defined by the consultant otherwise (see Annex IV, Review Matrix)
45. **COVID-19 response**, the extent to which the project results have been affected by the pandemic and relevance and effectiveness of the project's mitigation measures.
46. **Financial management**
- (i) Adherence to UNEP's financial policies and procedures,
 - (ii) Completeness of financial information, and agreement between approved budgets and expenditure
 - (iii) Communication between financial and project management staff
47. **Efficiency**,
- (i) Extent to which the project delivered maximum results from the given resources (Economic efficiency)
 - (ii) Extent to which the project delivered its intended outputs within the implementation period (timeliness)
 - (iii) Extent to which the project strategy was cost-effective
48. **Monitoring and reporting**, including:
- (i) Monitoring Design and Budgeting: adherence to SMART criteria, especially relevance to project's results
 - (ii) Monitoring of Project Implementation: effectiveness and cost-effectiveness
 - (iii) Project Reporting
49. **Sustainability**, including
- (i) Socio-political Sustainability, extent to which social or political factors are likely to support the continuation and further development of the benefits derived from project outcomes.
 - (ii) Financial sustainability, extent to which the government is likely to allocate budget for the continuation of processes promoted by the project.
 - (iii) Institutional Sustainability, or how likely are the national institutional capacities able to sustain processes promoted by the project
50. **Cross cutting issues**
- (iv) Responsiveness to human rights and gender equity
 - (v) Innovativeness
 - (vi) Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards Communication and public awareness
51. Review criteria are rated on a six-point scale as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact are rated from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU). The ratings against each criterion are 'weighted' to derive the Overall Project Performance Rating. The greatest weight is placed on the achievement of outcomes, followed by dimensions of sustainability.

52. Associated with the seven review criteria outlined above, the TR addresses several strategic questions formulated in the review's Terms of Reference (incorporated in Table 5, below and addressed within this report under the relevant evaluation criteria). Questions, indicators and means of verification are listed in full in Annex IV (Review Matrix). The questions are summarized here:

Table 5. Review questions

| Review criterion | Questions |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic relevance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the project framed and supportive of a) UNEP MTS and PoW; b) UNDA strategic priorities and c) national/regional environmental priorities? • How did the project strengthen the environmental dimension of national policy instruments and enhance policy coherence at the individual country level? |
| Effectiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>(Strategic Question from the TOR)</i>: How effective was the project in improving data generation, management, and uptake on SDG implementation? • <i>(Strategic Question from the TOR)</i>: How effective was the integrated approach taken in each country for the implementation of the project to strengthen the environmental dimension of SDGs, useful for other countries to draw lessons from? • <i>(Strategic Question from the TOR)</i>: How did the project enable the strengthening of the environmental dimension of national policy instruments and enhance policy coherence at national and subnational levels? • <i>(Strategic Question from the TOR)</i>: How did the project set the pace for the future work on SDG data and policy and enhancing UNEP's role in UN reform? |
| COVID-19 response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What adjustments were made to the project to effectively respond to the new priorities of Member States concerning COVID-19? • How did the adjustments affect the achievement of the project's expected results as stated in its original results framework? • How relevant were the activities added in response to the COVID-19 pandemic? • What were the specific challenges to the COVID-19 expected accomplishment and activities? • What are the lessons learned from the COVID-19-related activities? Could they be replicated? • How did the project effectively use funds saved during the pandemic to support the countries' recovery responses through SDG implementation? |
| Financial management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the project adhere to UNEP's financial policies and procedures and produce complete financial information? |
| Efficiency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>(Strategic Question from the TOR)</i>: How did the project make effective use of funds saved during the pandemic to support the countries' recovery responses through SDG implementation? • Did the project forge alliances and collaborate with other ongoing initiatives led by other agencies advancing towards the same or similar goals? • Were human, financial, and in-kind resources leveraged through the contributions of partners? • Did the project strengthen existing data management systems or monitoring systems (e.g., environmental monitoring systems or official statistics bureaus) in the target countries? |
| Monitoring and reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the project team regularly collect and report data on the project's progress against the targets set in the project's indicator framework? • Can national stakeholders verify the information contained in the reports? |
| Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How sensitive are the project outcomes to changes in the national budget and extrabudgetary interventions? • How sensitive are the project outcomes to changes in political priorities? |

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How sensitive are project outcomes to national regulatory and policy framework changes? |
| Cross-cutting issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the country respond to gender and human rights concerns by collecting disaggregated data or raising awareness on inclusion and gender: discriminatory policies or practices, marginalization of population groups (slum dwellers, artisanal fishers, subsistence farmers, migrants)? • <i>(Strategic Question from the TOR):</i> How effectively was the project communicating results to the inner and outer audience through outreach and e-platforms? • Did the project contribute to changes in awareness about environmental issues among decision-makers at the national and subnational levels? |

Users of the review

53. The users of the review results may use its findings in formulating the design of follow-up and relevant projects on strengthening the environmental dimension of SDGs through integrated approach tools led by UNEP which are not available yet. This includes designing more results-based theory of change and identifying more concrete areas for action. The users of the review are categorized as follows:

- Those who have been involved in implementing the project including technical UNEP staff active in similar areas of work in UNEP divisions, Law and Science Divisions and regional offices and heads of branches;
- The Policy and Programmes Division who was not directly involved in the implementation of the project, nevertheless being the main UNEP division overseeing the SDGs portfolio and the UN Reform, including the Project Review Committee (PRC)
- The UNEP Evaluation Office overseeing the revision of effectiveness of past and future projects
- Partners and parties who were expected to participate in, or benefit from, the work, including country focal points in the relevant ministries, NGOs, UN agencies and specialized organizations
- Other countries in the regions that can benefit from upscaling best practices in SDGs implementation with a focus on the environment and building back better from Covid-19,
- Other organisations implementing work with UNDA funding.

5. METHODOLOGY OF THE REVIEW

54. Answering the review questions required reviewing project documents, including the project document and project reports (financial, audit, and narrative), supplied by the project team. The discussion of the project's strategic relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability dimensions was supported by national SDG reports (e.g., Voluntary National Reviews), and other policy, legislation, and other reports issued by national or subnational government entities.
55. The review consultant triangulated the information from the documentary evidence mentioned above with interviews with the project team and national and international stakeholders: national government agencies and non-government organizations directly involved in project activities, UNDP, and UNEP officials.
56. The review follows a theory of change approach analyzing the project's Theory of Change, including how the project intended to drive change and what contributing conditions (i.e., 'assumptions' and 'drivers') needed to hold for change to take place. The Theory of Change, supported by a graphic representation and narrative discussion of the causal pathways, will be discussed further with respondents during the data collection phase, and refined as appropriate.

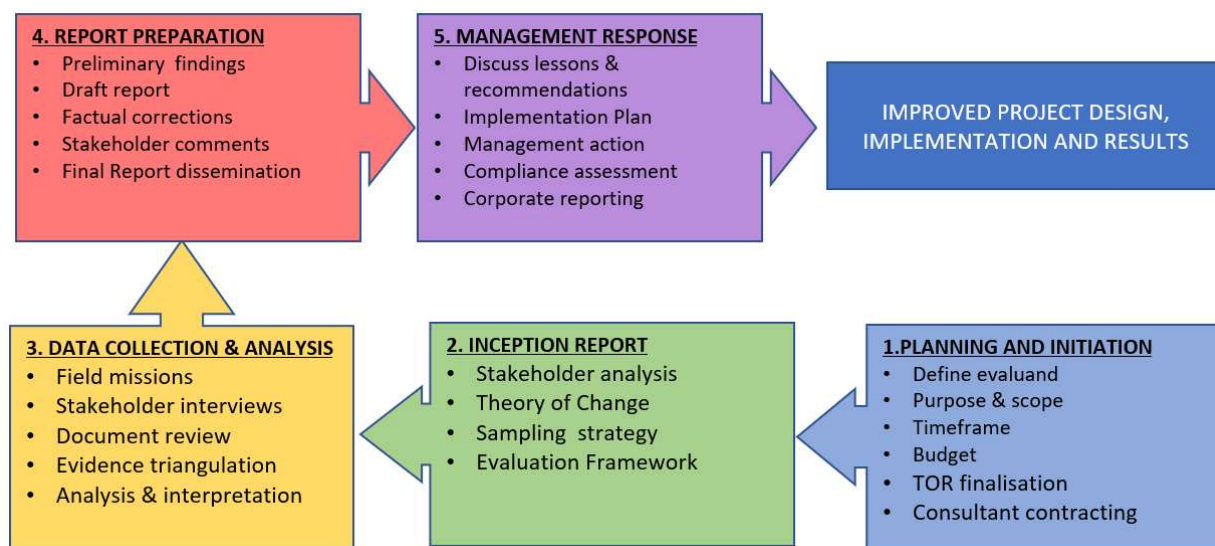


Figure 1. UNEP Review Process

Primary data sources

57. The terminal review interviewed most project stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project (67% of identified project team and 60% of partners). As the project's expected effect and impacts are at the policy and institutional capacity level, with remote indirect effects in vulnerable groups through enhanced implementation of the 2030 agenda, the terminal review did not reach to organizations and individuals representing the views of marginalized groups, considered to be out of the scope of this review.

58. Respondents were selected from a list of participants in the project’s final workshop provided by the project management that included project team, UN and national government staff. The reviewer first attempted interviews with UNEP (regional offices: ROA, ROAP, ROLAC, Colombia country office and consultants), UNDP (Burkina Faso and Bangladesh country offices) and implementing partners (SEI, Fundación Natura of Colombia, Bangladesh Ministry of Climate Change and Environment) requesting identification of the most significant respondents in each country among project beneficiaries, particularly the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and associated organizations in Burkina Faso (both implementing partner and beneficiary), the General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the Department of National Planning in Colombia, the Guyana Bureau of statistics and the Guyana Environmental Protection Office. The reviewer held online, semi-structured, qualitative interviews or got written answers from informants listed in Annex 1. See Annex 5 for the Interview Guidelines.
59. The TR complied with the United Nations Evaluation Group norms and standards and Standards for Evaluation and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including the UNEG Ethical guidelines, and guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality in evaluation, and in accordance with the UNEP evaluation guidelines.

Limitations

60. The review’s main limitation was the limited and slow respondent’s response rate, which caused the mission stage to last until November 2022. The reviewer made 68 requests for interviews/ and or written answer to questions to 50 people, but a significant part of respondents did not recall the project, did not answer, or refused participation. Thus, additional respondents were identified by the reviewer mining project documents and asking key informants (project implementing partners).

Table 6. Respondents' Sample

| | | # people involved (M/F) | # people contacted (M/F) | # respondent (M/F) | % respondent |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Project team (those with management responsibilities e.g., PMU) | Implementing agency | 3 | 2 (0/2) | 2 (0/2) | 67% |
| | # entities involved | # entities contacted | # people contacted (M/F) | # respondent (M/F) | % respondent |
| Project (implementing/ executing) partners <i>(Receiving funds from the project)</i> | 8 | 8 | 20 (13/7) | 12 (9/3) | 60% |
| Beneficiaries: <i>Training recipients and outcome implementors</i> | 12 | 12 | 50 (29/21) | 20 (11/9) | 40% |

6. THEORY OF CHANGE

61. The project document annexed a Theory of Change (ToC) based on a problem tree and identifying the logical link between project activities (named outputs in the ToC diagram), outcomes, intermediate states, and impact.
62. The project document's ToC and the project document, as explained above, does not distinguish between activities and outputs (Section Project objectives and expected accomplishments/results of this report). Thus, in the ProDoc ToC, activities are directly connected to outcomes. In Figure 2, the reconstructed outputs listed in Table 4 are grouped in three categories: policy, data, and regional outputs.

Table 7. Correspondence between Table 4 outputs and ToC groupings

| Output category | (Reconstructed) Output |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy outputs | Capacities of relevant national institutions for mainstreaming environment into policy strengthened |
| | Tools and methodologies on integration of environment statistics into the monitoring and evaluation of national policy provided |
| Data outputs | Forum provided for line ministries to share technical knowledge and validate information |
| | Dissemination of information and provision of input from multiple stakeholders facilitated |
| | Capacities of national statistical offices to produce and use and share environment indicators and metadata |
| | Strengthened user-producer dialogue. |
| Regional outputs | Lessons and experienced from the project shared at regional workshops |
| | ePortal available with webinars and other project knowledge materials |

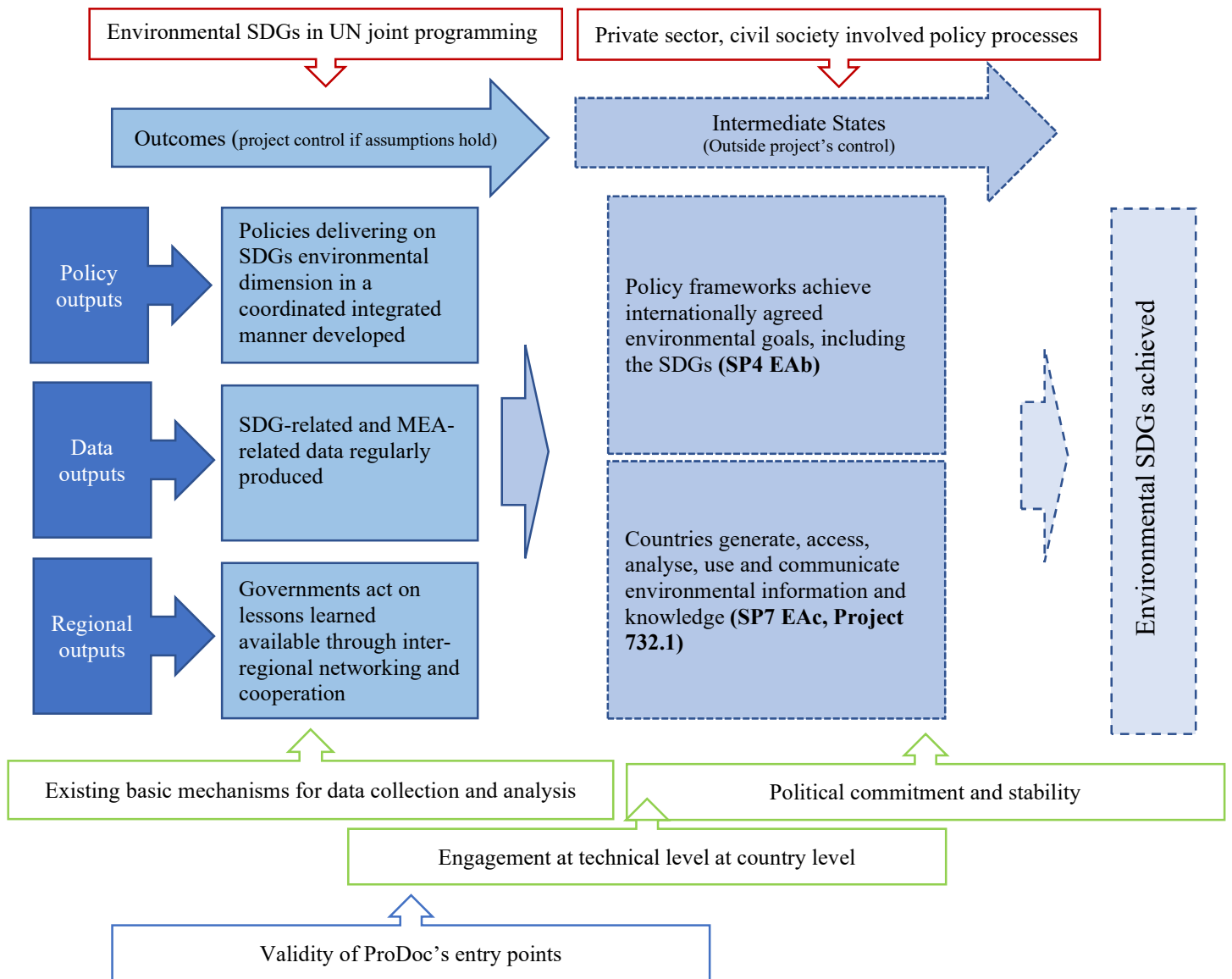
63. The final impact was stated as the achievement of the environmental SDGs, which would be the logical consequence of the intermediate states represented by the two UNEP sub-programme outcomes (Expected Accomplishments, EA) to which the project is expected to contribute (SP-4 Environmental Governance EAb and SP-7 Environment Under Review EAc) as follows:
- SP-4, EAb: Policy frameworks achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the SDGs
 - SP-7, EAc: Countries generate, access, analyse, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge

64. The two intermediate states are directly linked to the project's main outcomes, namely, i) *Development of national policies or strategies includes multi-sectoral priorities aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner*, and ii) *Countries are able to regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data*.
65. The third outcome, which, as explained above has been reformulated as *governments participating in regional initiatives promoted by the project implement actions for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension* refers to the potential action by additional countries on the environmental dimension of the SDGs based on lessons learned from this project. The expected effect is to expand the scope of the intermediate states and impact beyond the four pilot countries.
66. The ToC was based on the following explicit, general (i.e., not country-specific) assumptions:
- *Continued high level political will and commitment in relevant national institutions*
 - *Continued willingness to collaborate from various ministries and partners*
 - *Stable political environment*
 - *Continued openness and support to stakeholder engagement*
 - *Sustained and consistent engagement at technical level at country level*
 - *Basic infrastructure and mechanisms for data collection and analysis in place*
67. To these assumptions, explicit in the ProDoc ToC, the terminal review adds an implicitly, yet fundamental assumption: the validity of identified entry points for policy, data and regional activities.
68. As it will be described in the sections Nature of external context and Effectiveness, the assumptions only held partially. Moreover, the diversity of political contexts and situations among the four pilot countries made general assumptions not very relevant. For instance, the relatively weak formal institutions and processes and proneness to irregular government change in Burkina Faso, and the history of policy change after elections in Guyana, contrast with a more constant institutional environment in the other two pilot countries.
69. As the project design was based on the results of UNEP initiatives recently concluded or ongoing at the time of project design, ensuring a priori that the stakeholder engagement should have been strong in all countries. However, that dependence on entry points identified during the implementation of prior UNEP initiatives hampered the achievement of policy outcomes, as the project could not influence the expected policy processes³.
70. Data collection and management institutions existed too in all pilot countries, albeit with very different capacities (see section Background).

71. The ToC identifies the following drivers:

³ Entry points are listed in section Background and discussed in sections Effectiveness

- Private sector, civil society and other stakeholders involved in planning and policy processes
 - Environmental dimension of SD incorporated in UN joint planning/programming processes
 - Global environmental commitments and SDGs implementation processes are aligned
72. The first two drivers entail the idea of involvement of wider sectors of society and the UN in the project. This came out of the UNEP interventions in the pilot countries with UN partners, mainly the UNDP (PEI implementation in Bangladesh and Burkina Faso) and civil society organizations in Guyana (Development of the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS)), and international think tanks (SEI) in Colombia. While UNDP remained a strong partner in Bangladesh, the project did not engage UNCTs or other UN bodies, including the regional economic commissions, as implied in the project document. The abandonment of the GSDS after the 2019 elections in Guyana, and political instability in Burkina Faso (compounded in all countries by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic) reduced the project to mostly capacity development activities supporting environmental data collection and management in Burkina Faso and Guyana.
73. As in the case of the assumptions, the diversity of the four pilot countries questions the relevance of general project drivers. In fact, a general ToC makes less sense when the project is in fact four separate implementations, based on different antecedent interventions in four very different countries. Specific country ToCs could have been more robust.
74. The ToC does not explicitly mention promoting human rights, gender equality, and inclusion of those living with disabilities and belonging to marginalized/vulnerable groups. However, we can consider these dimensions implicitly included as the project's goal is to support the SDG's achievement, which explicitly has gender equality, and marginalized and vulnerable groups. The project focuses on strengthening national capacities to account for, and implement, policies conducive to advancing environmental SDGs and not on the SDGs directly related to human rights and gender.



Fading blue and outlines signifies diminishing project influence.
 Drivers red outline.
 Assumptions green outline

Figure 2. Diagram of the Reconstructed TOC

7. REVIEW FINDINGS

Strategic relevance

Alignment to the UNEP MTS, POW and Strategic Priorities

75. The project implements UNEA 2/5, *contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (...) providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges, undertaking policy review, dialogue, and exchange of experiences, and fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals (...)* (UNEA, 2016).
76. The project was implemented under UNEP's Midterm Strategy (MTS) 2018-2021, designed specifically to advance toward the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Specifically, the contributed to two Expected Accomplishments (EA) under the Sub-programmes Environmental Governance (SP-4), and Environment under Review (SP-7) in the 2018-19 and 2020-21 Programmes of Work (PoW) (Table 8).
77. The project was part of the delivery of the output 1, SP-4: *Advisory services and capacity development to strengthen institutional capacity and policy and legal frameworks for effectively and inclusively addressing the environmental dimension of the SDGs*, and output 5, SP-7: *Capacity development and indicator support to Sustainable Development Goal follow-up and review, including environmental inputs to United Nations reports and policy forums*, included in the 2018-19 and 2020-21 POWs.
78. The project's results would be even relevant for UNEP's current MTS 2022-25, despite the significant restructuring and changes in sub-programmes and outcomes from the MTS 2018-21. Generation and sharing of environmental data, supported by this project, as a fundamental pillar of the 2030 Agenda is one of the main components of the current MTS. Thus project results have contributed to the baseline of the 2022-23 PoW for the Science-Policy sub-programme indicator 1: *Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities that, as a result of UNEP support, have strengthened capacity to develop sound environmental data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning systems*, and Environmental Governance sub-programme indicator 3: *Number of plans, approaches, strategies, policies, action plans or budgeting processes of entities at the national, regional and global levels that include environmental goals as a result of UNEP support*.
79. The project strategy aligned and supported the existing national policies, particularly national development plans at the highest strategic level, and was implemented by, or in close coordination with, national planning authorities and bodies. Details of the policy, and policy formulation processes supported by this project are found in sections Availability of Outputs and Availability of Outcomes.

Table 8. Links between project outcomes, program of work (POW) expected accomplishments and the SDGs. Note that the project outcomes' order has been change for better visual alignment with the POW and SDGs. Numbers added for clarity

| Project Outcomes | POW (2018 -19 and 2020-21) Expected Accomplishments | SDG targets |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sectoral priorities in selected countries aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner | Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SP-4, EA b) | 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts |
| 3 <i>Governments participating in regional initiatives promoted by the project implement actions for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension</i> | | 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development |
| 2. Countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data | Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action (SP-7, EA a) | SDG indicators under UNEP custody and project-identified SDG-indicators with environmental component |

Alignment to UNDA Strategic Priorities

80. The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) funds capacity development projects at the individual, the organizational, and the enabling environment for the implementation of internationally agreed development goals (IADG). UNDA's objective is helping countries to integrate social, economic, and environmental policies and strategies to achieve inclusive and sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, and sustainable development.
81. The project supports the UNDA strategy by developing the capacities of national government organizations at the individual (training, workshops), and the organizational (methodologies) level in the four pilot countries to mainstream environmental concerns in national and sector policy, contributing to achieving the environmental SDG targets (internationally agreed development goals).

Relevance to Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities

82. The pilot countries' national development strategies are aligned with the SDGs and they all have submitted Voluntary National Reviews to the High Level Political

Forum on Sustainable Development. Details of the national strategies' alignment with the environmental dimension of the SDGs are provided in the section Effectiveness.

Alignment with the environmental dimension of the SDGs

83. The project document claims that the project would contribute to SDGs Goals 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17⁴. These targets roughly correspond to those with indicators under the custodianship of UNEP or identified as having an environmental component by the project management. The project contributes to the claimed SDG targets, but contribution to most claimed SDG targets is rather indirect. The project supported capacity development to enhance reporting on environmental SDGs to support mainstreaming of environmental issues into policy and supporting reporting on SDG indicator 17.4.1 on policy coherence. Thus, the project has a robust contribution in targets 15.9 and 17.4.

What is the environmental dimension of the SDGs?

84. What constitutes the "environmental dimension of the SDGs" is not defined in the project document. However, the project management compiled a list of 90 SDG indicators (out of 250 SDG indicators) corresponding to all goals (except SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities) and 71 targets considered to carry said environmental dimension. They include all SDG indicators for which UNEP is the custodian or support agency, except for indicators 1.5.4 (Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies) and 11.3.2 (Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically). Also not supported or under custodianship by UNEP are the closely related 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology, 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption, and 7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita). All selected SDG indicators have a clear environmental dimension.

85. UNEP's 2018-21 MTS states that half of the Sustainable Development Goals have an environmental focus, and at least one target in each of the 17 Goals concerns environmental sustainability. The MTS considers Goals 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land) to be goals with an environmental focus. These SDG targets are linked with the MTS sub-programmes: sub-programme Environmental Governance

⁴ According to the project document the project would contribute directly to 50 targets 1.4, 1.5, 1.b, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.9, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 7.2, 7.3, 7a, 8.4, 9.4, 9.5, 11.4, 11.6, 11.a, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.a, 12.c, 13.3, 13.b, 14.1 to 14.7, 14.a, 14.b, 14.c, 15.1 to 15.9, 15.b. Indirectly the project document aims to influence 7 targets 16.7, 16.8, 16.b, 17.14, 17.15, 17.17 and 17.19

is linked to 17 SDG targets⁵, and sub-programme Environment under Review is linked to 34 SDG targets⁶. These 71 targets do not completely match the 90 “environmental indicators” identified by the project.

86. UNEP is the custodian agency of 24 SDG indicators, mostly under goals 12, Responsible Consumption and Production (10 indicators), 15, Life on Land (4 indicators), 14, Life below Water (3 indicators), and 6, Clean Water and Sanitation (3 indicators). Additionally, UNEP is a support agency for another 51 indicators, mostly under Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities (9 indicators), and Goal 15 (9 indicators). Thus, UNEP is officially involved in encouraging and supporting countries reporting on 75 SDG indicators (a third of the total), less than the 90 indicators identified by the project as having an “environmental dimension” but corresponding approximately to those identified in the project document as being influenced by the project actions. Table Project SDG Alignment annexed to this report details the SDGs’ custodianship, support, and environmental dimension.
87. In summary, while the link of environmental factors, and ecosystem services to the SDGs is clear or arguable for most, if not all the SDGs, the environmental dimension of the SDGs needs yet to be formally defined in terms of SDG targets and indicators.

Complementarity with Existing Interventions Coherence

88. The project is design to build upon UNEP implemented initiatives in the four pilot countries.
89. In Burkina Faso and Bangladesh, the activities funded by this project complement results achieved under the UNDP-UNEP Joint Programme Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI). In Bangladesh, it successfully cooperated with PEI developing a project securing significant additional funding (Section Effectiveness)
90. In Guyana, the project planned to continue past UNEP support to the Green State Development Strategy funded under the Knowledge and Capacity Development for Inclusive Green Development Transition in Guyana project (2017-2018, USD 1.5 million). However, as explained in the section Effectiveness: Availability of Outcomes, the government of Guyana discontinued said strategy.
91. In Colombia, the project complemented the support provided by the UNEP Colombia Country Office to the environmental dimension of the Peace Process and regional office initiatives in support of the environmental dimension of the SDGs

⁵ Targets: 1.4, 10.2, 11.6, 12.4, 14.c, 15.6, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a, 15.c 16.3, 16.6-7, 16.b, 17.9, 17.14 and 17.16

⁶ Targets: 1.5, 2.4, 3.9, 4.7, 5.a, 6.3, 6.6, 7.2, 7.3, 8.4, 9.4, 10.7, 11.5-7, 12.3-5, 13.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.5, 15.1-5, 15.c, 16.4, 16.10, 17.6, 17.7, 17.18, 17.1

Rating of strategic relevance

92. The project document claims extensive SDG contributions and extraordinary ambitions to influence policy-making processes and capacity development in four diverse countries (budgeted for five) in Latin America, the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia. However, the project had less budget and resources than others intending policy effects in one country, such as strengthening a national protected area system, improving water quality monitoring, or capacities to use environmental data.
93. The divergence between project means and expected outcomes can be explained by the fact that this project aimed to support ongoing processes in each of the four pilot countries, where UNEP was, directly or through partners, already involved in policy and environmental data initiatives. Thus, the project's expected accomplishments were related to the catalyzing effect of additional funding for those initiatives.
94. The ongoing initiatives were the UNEP-UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative in Burkina Faso and Bangladesh, the support to the Green State Development Strategy in Guyana, and the UNEP's country office for the Peace Agreements environmental dimension in Colombia. As the review will describe in the section Effectiveness, the actual outcomes of the project highly depended on the success of those initiatives and their implementing partners, which were uneven due to internal and external factors described below.
95. Despite the risks involved, the project strategy was relevant to the environmental dimension of the Agenda 2030, was aligned with national objectives at the time of project design, and well framed within UNEP's planning instruments. Therefore, the terminal review rates the project's strategic relevance as satisfactory.

Rating for Strategic Relevance: **Satisfactory**

Effectiveness

Availability of outputs

96. The project document did not explicitly link the project outcomes to the “national outputs”. The national outputs from the project document were redefined in the legal instruments that governed the national implementation of the project (Table 10).
97. In **Burkina Faso**, the project was implemented under Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SSFA) with the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change (MEEVCC), with an amount of USD 52,390 concluded in October 2019.
98. In **Bangladesh**, the project was implemented in coordination with the UNDP under the ongoing joint initiative Poverty and Environment, with additional funds (USD 40,000) injected through a UN-agency to UN-agency contribution agreement with the UNDP.

99. In **Colombia**, the project was implemented under a 2018 USD 75,252 SSFA with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and a 2020 USD 78,833 SSFA with the Fundación Natura.
100. In **Guyana**, the project funds were administered and implemented by the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC).

Table 9. Project Outcomes, Project Outputs (reconstructed) and National Outputs from the legal instruments with project implementing partners

| Project Outcome | Project Output (reconstructed) | Country | National output |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Outcome 1 National policies | Capacities of relevant national institutions strengthened | Bangladesh | A 'model' section on environmental dimension included in VNR 2020 and SDGs Progress Report 2020 produced |
| | | Colombia | National SDG Commission strengthened to integrate environmental SDGs |
| | | Burkina Faso | Enhanced national institution capacity to deliver on their mandate. This includes capacity to develop or to review national policies and strategies |
| | | | Stronger local governance exercised in support to PNDES and SDGs implementation |
| | Forum provided for line ministries to share technical knowledge and validate information | Burkina Faso | Environment considered by other sectors: Planning, Health, Agriculture, Energy, Education and Economy as a cross-cutting issue to their work |
| | | Guyana | Institutions and sectors are strengthened |
| | Dissemination of information and provision of input from multiple stakeholders facilitated | All | Dissemination of information and provision of input from multiple stakeholders facilitated |
| Outcome 2. Data | Capacities of national statistical offices to produce and use and share environment indicators and metadata | Burkina Faso | Quality of environmental data enhanced for an improve decision-making processes at national level and for a stronger participation of the country in regional and global 2030 agenda mechanisms and processes |
| | | Colombia | Strengthened monitoring and reporting at the national and sub national levels including environment |
| | | Guyana | |
| | Strengthened user-producer dialogue. | All | Strengthened user-producer dialogue. |
| | Tools and methodologies on integration of environment statistics into the monitoring and evaluation of national policy provided | Bangladesh | A meeting organized on SDGs M&E Framework with SDG M&E focal points of ministries/divisions |
| | | Burkina Faso | Enhanced capacity of the statistical services of several ministries |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Outcome 3. Lessons | Lessons and experienced from the project shared at regional workshops | NA ⁷ | Monitoring and reporting are strengthened at national and territorial level including the environment |
| | ePortal available with webinars and other project knowledge materials | NA | Institutions and sectors are strengthened |

Burkina Faso

101. Outputs in Burkina Faso (Table 10) were intended to strengthen the capacity of key government organizations to integrate environmental issues into public policy and local planning, and environmental statistics.
102. In February 2020, the project supported an IUCN national workshop on integrating environmental issues into public policy and local planning, for the national MEA committee. The workshop addressed the following topics:
 - Principles of Official Statistics, Environmental-Economic Accounting, and the sustainable development analysis grid.
 - Application of the IUCN toolkit for planning, monitoring and evaluation of the capacity to adapt to climate change.
 - SDG indicator 17.14.1 methodology
103. Also in February 2020, with the support of IOM, two workshops were held in the North Central Region and the Northern Region of Burkina Faso for decentralized technical services and CSOs, on the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements on the Environment (MEAs) in Regional Development Plans (PRDs) and Communal Development Plans (PCDs). According to project reports, this workshop enabled participants to evaluate the sustainability of communal development plans and the following National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES II).
104. In January 2021, a workshop was held on Cartographic applications and geospatial mapping of selected SDG targets, attended by officials from the MEEVCC, the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (SP-CNDD), the General Directorate of Studies and Sector Statistics (DGESS), among others.
105. Also in January 2021, the project held a workshop for officials of the SP / CNDD and the General Directorate of the Economy and Planning on ex-ante evaluation of projects and risk analysis, including environmental risks.
106. Following the impacts of COVID-19, the project funded a study by a national expert on the pandemic impacts and mitigation strategies to integrate into the PNDES II, published in December 2021.

Table 10. Burkina Faso National Outputs

| Output | Delivered |
|--------|-----------|
|--------|-----------|

⁷ Not applicable as the goal here is to disseminate and replicate the project's approach

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>National institutions with enhanced capacity to develop or to review national policies and strategies</p> | <p>National workshop on integrating environmental issues into public policy and local planning</p> <p>Workshop for officials of the SP / CNDD and the General Directorate of the Economy and Planning on ex-ante evaluation of projects and risk analysis, including environmental risks.</p> |
| <p>Stronger local governance exercised in support to PNDES and SDGs implementation</p> | <p>Study the pandemic impacts on environmental mainstreaming and mitigation strategies to integrate into the PNDES II</p> |
| <p>Quality of environmental data enhanced for an improve decision-making processes at national level and for a stronger participation of the country in regional and global 2030 agenda mechanisms and processes</p> | <p>Workshop was held on Cartographic applications and geospatial mapping of selected SDG targets</p> |
| <p>Enhanced capacity of the statistical services of several ministries</p> | |

Bangladesh

107. The project in Bangladesh was implemented in the frame of the existing UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Development Initiative.
108. The planned outputs for Bangladesh were intended to raise awareness of the environmental dimension of the SDGs at the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission and to develop the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' capacity to establish environmental accounts and monitor environmental SDGs. These outputs are outlined in the project document and defined (Table 11) in a UNEP-UNDP agreement. In 2018, a project hired a consultant to prepare a road map for sustainable financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. This roadmap led to the developing of a \$2.8 million project funded by the UNEP-UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative and the UNDP: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SAB)⁸.
109. The SC4SAB project, with additional financial support (USD 40,000) from this project under an UN-to-UN agency contribution agreement (2020), supported the development of a revised SDG monitoring framework included in the GED-produced voluntary national review (VNR): Bangladesh Progress Report, released in June 2020. This VNR reported on 20 environmentally relevant indicators with baselines (out of 73, 27%), including seven indicators for which UNEP is the custodian (out of 25, 28%) from 8 environmental and 2 UNEP SDG indicators in

⁸ <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/projects/strengthening-institutional-capacity-sdgs-achievement-bangladesh-sc4sdg>.

2017. The GED has acknowledged the contribution of the SC4SAB project to this achievement⁹.
110. In 2020, the project funded a workshop coordinated by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to develop the capacities of 22 government bodies, including the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate, together with other line ministries mentioned in the stakeholder table, environmental statistics, and introduced the SDG indicator 17.14 methodology.
111. The project expert who prepared the finance road map leading to the SC4SAB project outlined a project concept with guidance from the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Thus, a project document for accelerating the SDG process for Nepal secured funding from PEI, UNDP, European Union, and the Austrian government (USD 2.6 million) and is currently being implemented by UNDP Nepal¹⁰.

Table 11. Bangladesh National Outputs

| Output | Delivered |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A 'model' section on environmental dimension included in VNR 2020 and SDGs Progress Report 2020 produced | Road map for sustainable financing for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals leads to SC4SAB project |
| A meeting organized on SDGs M&E Framework with SDG M&E focal points of ministries/divisions | Training workshop on environmental statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals |
| An inter-ministerial training organized on SDG 17.14.1. | |

Colombia

112. Colombia's national policy has a high degree of alignment and commitment to the SDGs, backed by a robust institutional capacity. Colombia was, in 2015, one of the SDG proponents and had constituted an SDG Commission to follow up on the national implementation of the 2030 agenda, coordinated by this project government partner, the National Planning Department (DNP).
113. Unlike in other countries, UNEP is a resident agency in Colombia, with a country office established in the frame of the environmental dimension of the 2016 Peace Agreement. At the time of project inception, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), a reputed think tank, was developing a participatory methodology to identify synergies among SDG targets to inform public policy. Thus, the Colombia country office and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) identified an opportunity to provide the DNP with a new tool in their role as national planning authority and coordination of the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

114. The 2018 agreement with SEI listed the following outputs for Colombia:

⁹https://mole.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mole.portal.gov.bd/page/ac7088c7_a211_4905_9ff3_1e62af00c837/VNR_2020.pdf.

¹⁰<https://www.undp.org/nepal/projects/accelerating-implementation-sustainable-development-goals-nepal>.

- Technical support to review and develop policies or strategies and support relevant national institutions to address existing gaps according to identified country needs for implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs and other global goals
- Support inter-ministerial meetings in each country to raise awareness and share technical knowledge across line ministries of national environmental priorities under the SDGs, including those derived from MEAs
- Multi-stakeholder workshops in each country to disseminate information, raise awareness, and receive feedback.

115. The outputs were delivered through DNP-organized workshops applying the SDG synergies methodology with a diverse array of development stakeholders (national government, private sector, civil society organizations) at the national and sub-national (department of Antioquia) levels. The workshops supported the national frame policy (CONPES 3918)¹¹ on implementation of the Agenda 2030 at the subnational level, and the subnational workshop at the requests of the local government of Antioquia. The main results of the workshops were consolidated in a report¹², and peer-reviewed article¹³

116. The project enabled SEI to refine the methodological concept out of the application in Colombia and has since supported an SDG synergies exercise in Sri Lanka. Moreover, the SDG synergies methodology is now freely available online: <https://www.sei.org/projects-and-tools/tools/sdg-synergies/>.

117. In the frame of this project, the UNEP Colombia Country Office and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with Fundación Natura, a reputed national environmental NGO, and financial support from the Swiss government supported the Office of the Procurator General (Procuraduría General de la Nación, PGN) in the production of two reports:

- Analysis of environmental risks and impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in Colombia (2021). Not available online
- Guide to the environmental responsibilities of Colombian municipalities and districts (2020)¹⁴

Table 12. Colombia National Outputs

| Output | Delivered |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Technical support to review and develop policies or strategies, and support relevant national institutions to address existing gaps according to identified country needs | Report and peer reviewed article detailing application of the methodology and results Refined methodology available online and applied in Sri Lanka |

¹¹ <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Económicos/3918.pdf>

¹² <https://www.sei.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/201027-ortiz-lobos-colombia-sdgs-pnuma-working-paper.pdf>

¹³ <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s11625-021-01045-3.pdf>

¹⁴ https://natura.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/PGN_2020_Guia-Obligaciones-Ambientales-Alcaldias-y-Gobernaciones.pdf

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| for implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs and other global goals | Report on environmental impacts of COVID Legal guide on environmental responsibilities of local government |
| Support inter-ministerial meetings in each country to raise awareness and share technical knowledge across line ministries of national environmental priorities under the SDGs including those derived from MEAs | Technical workshops deploying the SDG synergies methodology identifying positive and negative feedbacks among SDG targets at the national and sub-national level |
| Multi-stakeholder's workshops in each country to disseminate information, raise awareness and receive feedback. | |

Guyana

118. Two training workshops on environmental statistics in February and August 2019 were prepared and delivered to national government officials, including from the Ministry of Finance; Bureau of Statistics; Department of Environment; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Natural Resources; Forestry Commission; Environmental Protection Agency; Lands and Survey Commission, and Hydrometeorological Services among others.
119. Respondents to this review valued the SDG as positive, providing insight into integrating environmental data in planning processes and decision-making and the importance of raising awareness for the public. Implementing those insights would involve more coordination among the government organizations that provide environmental data, the statistical services, and the ministry of education, for which the workshops spark a renewed will but scarce human resources and financial means to execute.
120. Based on consultations with government officials, an international consultant prepared a series of recommendations for the production, use and sharing of environmental data collection and production of statistics. The report included recommendations to operationalize data sharing agreements, based on other Caribbean examples that was presented to an array of government and civil society officials. The recommendations were reportedly well received by its intended audience, including the Environmental Protection Agency; the Guyana Bureau of Statistics; the Protected Areas Commission; the Geology and Mines Commission; Wildlife and Conservation Management Commission; Ministry of Agriculture; Department of Environment, and the Land and Survey Commission.
121. The project funded a report on COVID-19's impacts on Guyana: Foundations for a post-COVID 19 recovery: Improving cooperation and quality standards for development of environmental statistics in Guyana (not available online).

Table 13. Guyana National Outputs

| Output | Delivered |
|--------|-----------|
|--------|-----------|

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Enhanced institutional coordination and multi-stakeholder’s partnerships at national and sub national planning, budgeting, and implementation processes. | Political changes prevented actions on this output, as UNEP-supported policy was abandoned by new government |
| The National Statistics Department has developed additional indicators to monitor and evaluate the GSDS implementation | Workshops on environmental statistics were delivered and well received, but not applied to monitor the abandoned GSDS. Enhanced used of environmental statistics not yet realized |

International outputs

122. UNEP developed a methodology (not under this project) for the sustainable development SDG indicator 17.14.1 that was presented in all pilot countries.
123. A project closing virtual workshop was held in October 2021 with the participation of mostly project consultants and UNEP officials involved in the implementation of the project, but also some national government officials from the pilot countries, in which the results of the national activities were presented.
124. Four case studies highlighting the project’s work were developed by an international consultant but need yet to be uploaded to a project’s web site or e-portal: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/supporting-2030-agenda/unep-action>.

Rating for Availability of Outputs: Satisfactory

Achievement of outcomes

125. Each outcome had associated indicators with targets, listed in Table 14. The project’s outcomes were:
 - a. In the four countries, national policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sectoral priorities aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner.
 - b. The four countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environmental statistics, data and information that integrate SDGs-related and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)-related data.
 - c. Lessons learned, and knowledge acquired by the four countries is made available to a wider set of countries through inter-regional networking and cooperation.

Table 14. End-of-Project status of project expected outcomes

| Project outcome | Indicator with target | Country | End of Project Status |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1) National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sector priorities in selected countries aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner</p> | <p>1. Four countries with strengthened national SDG-related implementation plans or strategies or policies or legislation that embed multi-sectoral environmental objectives</p> <p>2. Ten plans, strategies, policies, documents, and initiatives developed through inter-ministerial consultation.</p> | Burkina Faso | <p>PNDES II 2021-25 elevates two environmental indicators to impact indicators (from outcome), but the number of environmental indicators in the PNDES remains mostly the same, and PNDES sector plans identified in the project document have not mainstreamed environmental concerns.</p> |
| | | Bangladesh | <p>Both Bangladesh's 7th Five-year Plan (2016-20) and 8th Five-year Plan (2021-2026) are aligned with the SDGs and include environmental indicators. Inter-ministry coordination challenges persist.</p> |
| | | Colombia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-funded deployment of SEI's SDG synergies methodologies consolidated the tool and led to its adaptation in planning processes by the National Planning Department and local governments in Colombia. Production of guide on environmental responsibilities for local governments promoted by Colombian National Attorney General Office (PGN) as part of a capacity development programme. |
| | | Guyana | <p>Due to the substantive shift in policy priorities from the project document identified policy entry point, the project did not support policy development or implementation processes in Guyana</p> |
| Project outcome | Indicator with target | Country | End of Project Status |
| <p>2) Selected countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three countries develop multi-sectoral comprehensive sets of environment statistics Three countries have used environment statistics for monitoring and reviewing national policy | Burkina Faso | <p>Challenges identified in the project document persist, despite project raising awareness and interest among government organizations. In its first and last VNR (2019) Burkina Faso reported on 12% of 73 environmentally linked indicators and 10% of UNEP 20 SDG indicators (excluding SDG 14 indicators)</p> |
| | | Bangladesh | <p>With UNEP-UNEP support, Bangladesh increased the number of environmental indicators in its 2020 VNR by 150% since 2017 (first VNR)</p> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four countries tackle environmental sustainability in VNR, and the reporting systems put in place in relation to the SDGs | Colombia | The project funded no capacity development activities in Colombia as there are high statistical capacities prior to project implementation |
| | | Guyana | Challenges identified in the project document persist: In its 2019 VNR Guyana reported on 25% of 73 environmentally linked indicators and 16% of UNEP 25 SDG indicators. |
| <p>3) Lessons learned and knowledge acquired by target countries is made available to a wider set of countries through inter-regional networking and cooperation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of government officials participating in regional initiatives acknowledge enhanced capacity for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension 10 documents, tools, case studies are developed and made accessible on the e-portal | NA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEI methodology consolidated and adopted in Colombia's planning procedures and applied in Sri Lanka (by SEI) Support to the SDG implementation process in Bangladesh prompted a new project for SDG acceleration in Nepal Case studies and reports were internally reviewed and shared including during the final interregional workshop. The planned project e-portal has been partially developed and contains some of the project's outputs. |

Project Outcome 1. National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sectoral priorities aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner (Partially Achieved)

Bangladesh

126. In Bangladesh, the project was implemented in the context of a PEI (Poverty and Environment Initiative) project supporting the National Commission's General Economics Division (GED). The GED has been committed to the SDGs before the project's involvement, and the 7th Five-year Plan was already clearly and explicitly aligned with the SDGs as early as 2016. While the 8th Five-year Plan has a more explicit alignment with the SDGs with the stated goal of achieving the SDGs within the Plan's implementation period it does not include significantly more environmental indicators (with baseline and target values) than the previous one (Table 15).
127. Inter-ministry coordination continues to be a challenge as the Eighth Five-year Plan recognizes that there are "inadequate capacities, technical knowledge and staffing due to very limited resources" and that inadequate coordination between ministries undermines environment management, at the national and the subnational level.

Table 15. The environmental dimension of Bangladesh's recent Five-year Plans

| SDG link | 7 th Five-year Plan (2016-2020) indicators | 8 th Five-year Plan (2021-2025) indicators |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indicator 6.5.2 | NA | Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation |
| Indicator 7.2.1 | Share of renewable energy to the total electricity generation (%) (including hydro) | Share of renewable energy to the total electricity generation (%) (including hydro) |
| NA | Consumption of ozone depleting H-CFCs (Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP)) | Consumption of ozone depleting HCFCs (Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP)) |
| Indicator 15.1.1 | Percentage of land covered by forestry with 70% tree density | Forest area as a proportion of total land area (based on periodic survey) |
| Indicator 13.2.2 | CO2 emissions (tones per capita) | CO2 emissions (tones per capita) |
| Indicator 14.5.1 | Percentage of (a) coastal and (b) marine areas that are protected | Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas |
| Target 15.1 | Percentage of wetland and natural sanctuaries maintained | Percentage of wetland and natural sanctuaries maintained |
| Target 15.1 | Percentage of forests that are protected | Percentage of forests that are protected |
| Target 3.9 | Mean urban air pollution of particulate matter (a) PM10 in µg/m ³ (b) PM2.5 in µg/m ³ | Mean urban air pollution of particulate matter (a) PM10 in µg/m ³ (b) PM2.5 in µg/m ³ |
| Indicator 11.6.1 | Percentage of urban solid waste regularly collected | Percentage of urban solid waste regularly collected |
| Indicator 1.5.3 | NA | Developing Guidelines for Risk Reduction as Mentioned in revised SoD |
| Indicator 1.5.3 | NA | Number of housings with disaster resilient habitats and communities assets |
| Indicator 11.5.1 | NA | Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population |

Burkina Faso

128. The project document expressed the intent to support mainstreaming environmental indicators into 14 sector policies derived from the first National Plan for Economic and Social Development 2016-2020 (PNDES-I). However, during implementation the project advocated for the inclusion of environmental sustainability indicators in the second National Plan for Economic and Social Development 2021-2025 (PNDES-II) according to project reports and did not directly act on the project document identified 14 sector policies.

129. The project's report on COVID-19 socioeconomic and environmental impacts indicates that the environmental concerns need yet to be mainstreamed into the PNDES-II sector policies. An analysis of the two PNDES shows little change in its environmental dimension, although environmental indicators have attained the impact level (Table 16). Thus, the project did not seem to have had any effect in terms of enhancing the environmental dimension of the national plan or facilitating inter-ministry coordination leading to environmental mainstreaming in sector policies.
130. It is not clear how the recent political developments in Burkina Faso will affect the implementation of PNDES-II.

Table 16. Burkina's National Development Plan (PNDES) environmental dimension

| SDG link | PNDES-I (2016-2020) indicators | PNDES-II (2021-2025) indicators |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PNDES Impact | | |
| Goals 2,3,6,7,13,14,15 | NA | Environmental Performance Index (Yale) |
| Indicator 15.1.1 | NA | Vegetation cover ratio (%) |
| PNDES outcomes | | |
| Indicator 11.6.1 | Percentage of municipalities with a functional solid waste management system | NA |
| Indicator 11.7.1 | Area of green spaces reforested in urban municipalities (hectares) | NA |
| Indicator 7.2.1 | Share of renewable energy in total production | Share of renewable energy in total energy production |
| Indicator 7.3.1 | NA | Amount of energy saved in terms of consumption (in MW) |
| Indicator 11.a.1 | Number of cities with operational SDDEP and SDGDU | NA |
| Indicators 15.1.2/ 15.2.1 | Proportion of conservation areas under management | Proportion of forest areas classified under management |
| Indicator 15.1.2 | Proportion of wildlife protection areas under management | Proportion of wildlife protection areas under management |
| Indicator 15.3.1 | Areas of degraded land in reclaimed protected areas | Areas of degraded land in reclaimed protected areas |
| Target 12.4 | NA | Rate of polluted soil rehabilitated (%) |
| Target 15.9 | Proportion of sectoral policies, SDPs and UTPs integrating the principles and emerging issues of sustainable development (baseline 17%) | NA |
| Target 11.3 | Number of eco villages created | NA |
| Indicator 13.2.2 | Amount of carbon sequestered in millions of tons | Amount of carbon sequestered in millions of tons |
| Indicator 13.1.2 | NA | Adoption rate of popularized climate change adaptation technologies |

Colombia

131. In contrast to the other pilot countries, Colombia has robust institutional capacities for implementing the 2030 Agenda: Colombia's 2018-2022 National Development Plan (NDP)¹⁵ has 20 goals articulated in five agreements explicitly linked to the SDGs. Among the 20 NDP targets, most refer to human capital, infrastructure, and economic environment, but two are explicit environmental targets:
- Reduce deforestation by 30% from the baseline
 - Increased renewable energy installed capacity to 1500 MW (from 22.4 MW)
132. Colombia's first VNR in 2016 already contained interlinkages and dependencies among SDG targets and indicators. The project-funded SEI methodology increased the power of the analysis, as it is explicitly acknowledged in Colombia's latest VNR¹⁶ of 2021. The National Planning Department (DNP) will use the synergies methodology to assess synergies among national goals in elaborating the next National Development Plan.
133. The DNP promotes using the SDG-synergies methodology in further implementing CONPES 3918 (subnational implementation of the 2030 Agenda). The procedure substantially helps departments and municipalities, which generally had not identified links between their planning instruments and the SDGs, identify these links and synergies among their objectives and the SDGs. For example, the city of Pereira has published an SDG voluntary report that identifies and tracks synergies among local and SDG targets using the SEI SDS synergies methodology¹⁷. The DNP and SEI are assisting other municipalities and departments requesting this kind of planning support.
134. Other UN-supported initiatives are also using the SDG synergies methodology. For example, it was used by the DNP to strengthen an SDG finance mapping exercise conducted within a Joint-SDG-fund funded project implemented by the UNDP: Roadmap for an Integrated National Financing Framework in Colombia. The mapping oriented the national and local governments on the financial needs to achieve SDG targets, considering the synergies among them¹⁸.
135. Another government organization, the energy planning authority (UPME) has analyzed the links between Colombia's national energy targets and the SDGs using SEI's SDG synergies methodology, leading to the enactment in 2021 of a guide to integrate SDG targets in UPME's interventions¹⁹.
136. The project supported guide on environmental responsibilities of local governments is promoted by the *Procuraduría* and forms part of an online capacity development

¹⁵ <https://www.dnp.gov.co/DNPN/Paginas/Plan-Nacional-de-Desarrollo.aspx>

¹⁶ Page 98, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282902021_VNR_Report_Colombia.pdf

¹⁷ <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/vlrs/2022-08/rlv-pereira-final-hq-colombia.pdf> and <https://pereira.tracking-progress.org/los-ods/>.

¹⁸ <https://jointsdgfund.org/publication/sdg-alignment-and-budget-tagging-towards-sdg-taxonomy>

¹⁹ https://www1.upme.gov.co/Normatividad/339_2022.pdf.

course²⁰ launched by the PGN in cooperation with Fundación Natura for local governments. Despite other successful collaboration in other UNEP initiatives the project funded Fundación Natura Colombia's report on the pandemic effects on environmental policies prompted no action by the national government.

Guyana

137. UNEP supported the Department of Environment of the Ministry of the Presidency in elaborating the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 (GSDS) between 2016 and 2019, facilitating research, consultations, and the drafting of the strategy through the Knowledge and Capacity Development for Inclusive Green Development Transition in Guyana project (2017-2018, USD 1.5 million). The strategy aimed at channeling oil and mineral revenues towards transforming and diversifying agriculture, improving ecosystem management, increasing the renewable energy share, and enhancing its human capital through improving the health and education systems and infrastructure (GSDS, 2019). However, the new government taking up office after the August 2020 elections promoted a new Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) for national development, approved in 2022. The LCDS focuses on aims to mobilize revenue from international carbon markets, improve ecosystem management and promote ecosystem-based adaptation, and increase the renewable energy share. One of the stated drivers to achieve the LCDS' goals is developing an integrated and robust spatial data infrastructure, and a geospatial information system. While both strategies share some common points (improved ecosystem management, renewable energy) they are distinct, with the LCDS clearly focusing on the economic value of forest carbon ecosystem services through voluntary carbon markets, while the GSDS had a more holistic scope.
138. The coordination challenges identified in the project document persist according to respondents to the Review. Namely that inter-agency committees set up by the Environmental Protection Agency and other statutory agencies for coordinating the work and involvement of relevant stakeholders on national environmental and biodiversity issues stopped meeting after the end of the project promoting them.

Project Outcome 2. The four countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environmental statistics, data and information that integrate SDGs-related and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)-related (Partially Achieved)

Burkina Faso

139. Participants from the MEEVCC, the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (SP-CNDD), the General Directorate of Studies and Sector Statistics (DGESS), among others that participated in the project funded workshops on planning and environmental statistics highly valued the information

²⁰ <https://iemp.gov.co/noticias/instituto/territorios-sostenibles-guia-de-obligaciones-ambientales-para-entes-territoriales/>

received and manifested their interest and willingness to improve the still limited integration of environmental data into planning. However, the unstable political situation and the scarce means at the disposal of Burkina’s national institutions seem to have hampered the implementation of the acquired capacities: in its last VNR (2019), Burkina Faso reported only on 12% of 74 environmentally linked indicators and 10% of UNEP custodied indicators (excluding SDG 14 indicators).

Bangladesh

140. This project supported the inclusion of environmental SDGs in the Voluntary National Review *indirectly* by the project-prompted UNEP-UNDP funded SC4SAB project, and *directly*, funded UNDP activities contributing to the increased capacities of the Bangladesh Planning Commission and increasing the number of reported environmental SDG indicators from 8 in 2017 to 20 in 2020, or an increase of 150%.

Colombia

141. Colombia’s VNRs in 2016, 2018 and 2021 report on just five out of 73 environmental SDG indicators. However, the approach of these VNRs was to report on SDG indicators coinciding with Colombia’s stated national development plan goals rather than a comprehensive list of SDG indicators, and thus cannot be used to gauge the development of capacities on statistics. Colombia’s department of planning has comprehensive access to detailed statistics on most SDG indicators, including environmental indicators.

Guyana

142. In its 2019 VNR Guyana reported on 25% of 73 environmentally linked indicators and 16% of UNEP 25 SDG indicators. The challenges identified in the project document, including the unsystematic production of environmental statistics affecting reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the diversity of uncoordinated sources of environmental data manifested in the low reporting of environmental SDG indicators in 2019, persists today according to review respondents and the country’s current Low Carbon Development Strategy.

Table 17. Evolution of the environmental dimension of the SDGs in the pilot countries VNRs (except Colombia). 1= reported, 0 = not reported

| SDG indicator | Name | Custodian | Tier | BFA 2019 | BGD 2017 | BGD 2020 | GUY 2019 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1.5.1 | Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people | UNISDR | II | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1.5.2 | Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) | UNISDR | II | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|
| 1.5.3 | Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (global indicator) | UNISDR | II | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 2.4.1 | Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture | FAO | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.5.1 | Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities | FAO | I | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2.5.2 | Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction | FAO | I | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 3.3.3 | Malaria incidence per 1,000 population | WHO | I | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 6.3.1 | Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated | WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6.3.2 | Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality | UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6.4.1 | Change in water-use efficiency over time | FAO | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 6.4.2 | Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources | FAO | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 6.5.1 | Degree of integrated water resources management | UNEP | I | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 6.5.2 | Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation | UNESCO-UIS, UNECE | II | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 6.6.1 | Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time | UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7.1.2 | Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology | ITC, UNCTAD, WTO | I | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 7.2.1 | Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption | IEA, UNSD, UN Energy | I | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 7.3.1 | Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy [MJ/\$2017 PPP GDP] | IEA, UNSD, UN Energy | I | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 7.a.1 | International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems | OECD | II | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 7.b.1 | Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita) | OECD, UNEP, UNESCO-UIS, World Bank) | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8.4.1 | Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP | UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8.4.2 | Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP (Domestic material consumption of primary forest products in cubic meters) | UNEP | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 8.9.1 | Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate | UNTWO | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 9.4.1 | CO2 emission per unit of value added | IEA, UNIDO | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.2.1 | Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities | UN-Habitat | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.3.1 | Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate | UN-Habitat | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|---|---|---|---|
| 11.5.1 | Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population | UNISDR | II | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 11.5.2 | Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global domestic product (GDP) | UNISDR | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.6.1 | Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities | UN-Habitat, UNSD | II | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.6.2 | Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted) | WHO | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11.7.1 | Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities (Number of urban parks) | UN-Habitat | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 12.1.1 | Number of countries developing, adopting, or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production | UNEP | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.2.1 | Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP | UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.2.2 | Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP | UNEP | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 12.3.1 | (a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index | FAO, UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.4.1 | Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement | UNEP | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.4.2 | (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment | UNSD, UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.5.1 | National recycling rate, tons of material recycled | UNSD, UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.6.1 | Number of companies publishing sustainability reports | UNEP, UNCTAD | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.8.1 | Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment | UNFCCC, UNESCO-UIS | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.a.1 | Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita) | OECD, UNEP, UNESCO-UIS, World Bank) | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.b.1 | Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability | UNWTO | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.c.1 | Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies (production and consumption) per unit of GDP | UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 13.1.1 | Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population | UNISDR | II | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 13.1.3 | Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction | UNISDR | II | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|---|---|---|
| | strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies | | | | | | |
| 13.2.1 | Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change | UNFCCC | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13.2.2 | Total greenhouse gas emissions per year | UNFCCC | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13.3.1 | Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment | UNFCCC, UNESCO-UIS | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13.a.1 | Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025 | UNFCCC, OECD | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13.b.1 | Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change | OHRLLS, Regional Commissions, AOSIS, SIDS, Samoa Pathway | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14.1.1 | (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density | UNEP | III | NA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14.2.1 | Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas | UNEP | III | NA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14.3.1 | Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations | IOC-UNESCO | III | NA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14.4.1 | Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels | FAO | I | NA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14.5.1 | Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas | UNEP-WCMC, BLI, IUCN | I | NA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 14.6.1 | Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing | FAO | III | NA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14.7.1 | Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries, and all countries | FAO, UNEP-WCMC | III | NA | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 14.c.1 | Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting, and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources | UN-DOALOS, FAO, UNEP, ILO | III | NA | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15.1.1 | Forest area as a proportion of total land area | FAO | I | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 15.1.2 | Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type | UNEP-WCMC, UNEP | I | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 15.2.1 | Progress towards sustainable forest management | FAO | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|---|---|---|
| 15.3.1 | Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area | UNCCD | III | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 15.4.1 | Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity | UNEP-WCMC, UNEP | I | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15.4.2 | Mountain Green Cover Index (Intact Forest landscape '000 ha) | FAO | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 15.5.1 | Red List Index | IUCN, BLI | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15.6.1 | Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits | CBD | I | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15.7.1 | Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked | UNODC | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15.8.1 | Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species | IUCN | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15.9.1 | (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting | CBD, UNEP | III | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15.a.1 | (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments | OECD | I/ III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 15.b.1 | (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments | OECD | I/ III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 15.c.1 | Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked | UNODC | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17.7.1 | Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies | UNEP, OECD | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17.14.1 | Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development | UNEP | III | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 17.18.1 | Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring | UNSD | III | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Reported | 8 | 8 | 20 | 18 | | | |
| Relevant SDGs | 67 | 73 | 73 | 73 | | | |
| % Reported | 11.94% | 10.96% | 27.40% | 24.66% | | | |
| Relevant UNEP SDGs | 2 | 2 | 7 | 4 | | | |
| % Reported | 10.00% | 8.00% | 28.00% | 16.00% | | | |

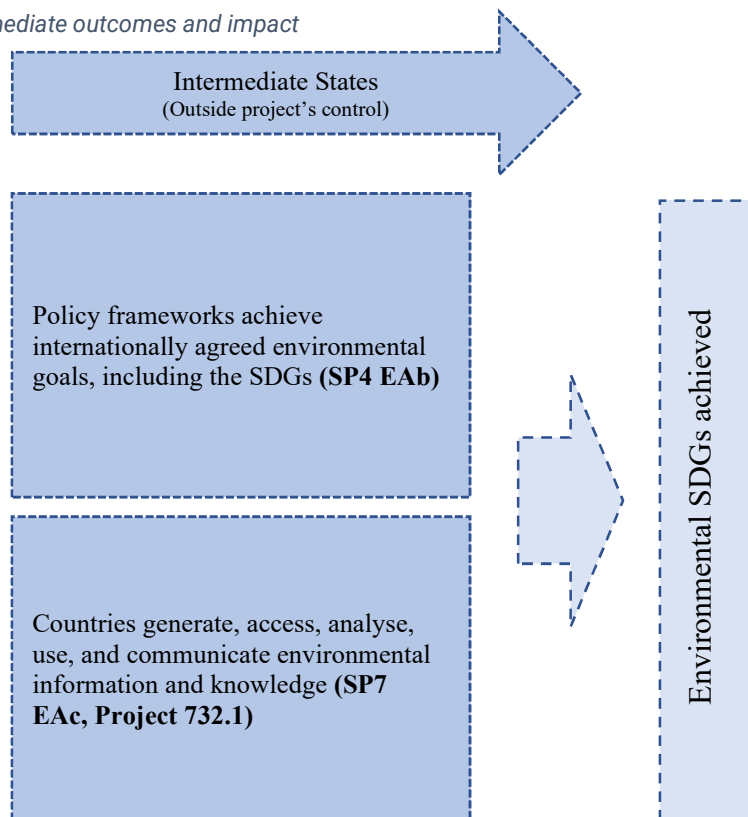
Project Outcome 3: Governments participating in regional initiatives promoted by the project implement actions for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension (Partially Achieved)

143. The project's main upscaling effects were not linked to the project-channeled exchanges among the pilot countries, but the product of country-specific actions led by international actors. The experiences catalyzed by this project in Bangladesh prompted a contact note and a project document implemented in Nepal by project implementing partner UNDP. The Stockholm Environment Institute, the project implementing partner in Colombia, consolidated its methodology out of its deployment in the frame of this project and has since published guidance online and published reports and a peer-reviewed publication based on the project's experience, on top of assisting the Sri Lankan government in the integration of the Agenda 2030. In partnership with the United Nations Development Program and the Centre for Poverty Analysis.
144. The project funded four national case studies presented to project implementing partners at the final (inter-regional) meeting described below. The case studies highlight the project's achievements from the project's point of view. However, they still need to be published. Moreover, the project document-planned e-portal has not been set up, and information on the project, achievements and all the reports and publications mentioned in this project are not found on the UNEP's project page: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/supporting-2030-agenda/unep-action>.
145. A final workshop was held in October 2021 with the participation of UNEP officials and consultants involved in delivering the project's outputs and some national government officials. The interaction among participating countries was limited to this last workshop, preventing using lessons learned from implementing the project. However, it must be noted that the project implemented very different activities in different contexts, making it challenging, if not unfeasible, to implement lessons learned from one country in a different context.

Rating for Achievement of Outcomes: Satisfactory

Likelihood of Impact

Figure 3. Project's intermediate outcomes and impact



146. The project was expected to contribute to strengthened policy frameworks and statistical procedures, leading to improved implementation and reporting of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda (Figure 3), provided that the assumptions held, and the drivers materialized. The project's expected results (outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and impact) exceeded the project's limited budget and human resources when compared to initiatives with more modest policy and geography scopes. Yet the contribution of the intermediate states was feasible through the expected catalyzing effect of this initiative on UNEP-supported processes in each of the four pilot countries.
147. The project's ToC assumed a firm political commitment to the environmental dimension of the SDGs, political stability and counted on wider involvement of civil society and UN support (drivers) to strengthen processes initiated in the frame of UNEP-supported initiatives. The general ToC does not address the fact that the project was implemented as four unrelated initiatives that dependent to a great degree on the individual country context. The project did not develop explicit national theories of change, but national implementing partners did consider the national context.
148. Thus, where the assumptions (commitment to SDGs, stability) held and the drivers (involvement of civil society, UN organizations) materialized, the project contribution to the intermediate effects is more robust.

149. In **Bangladesh**, there was political stability, commitment to the SDGs, and sufficient statistical capacity (assumptions), which, with support by the UNDP (driver) enabled the project to contribute to improved reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs in Bangladesh (Bangladesh 2020 VNR) by catalyzing funding for a project supporting the Bangladesh Planning Commission on environmental indicators. The project also developed a concept note that secured funding to support the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Nepal, with similar expected outcomes. However, in terms of policy, the project did not influence the identified entry point, Bangladesh 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2026).
150. In **Colombia**, with strong institution commitment to the SDGs and a stable democratic policy environment (assumptions), with support from the regional and country office (driver) the project demonstrated a methodology to identify synergies among SDG targets that is being used in planning processes at the national and the sub-national level, highlighting how environmental targets positively feedback socioeconomic targets. An additional driver of the project success was the selection of a prestigious, independent international think tank with country presence as project implementing partner. It is remarkable that the no policy entry point was identified in Colombia, and policy action in the ProDoc was intended to support the development of a “new policy”. The absence of a defined policy process enabled SEI and the DNP to deploy and adopt the new planning tool introduced by the project.
151. In **Guyana and Burkina Faso**, the project acted in a more volatile political environment, and with less support by other stakeholders. Consequently, the project did not influence or support policy-making processes and its contribution to the intermediate outcomes is less robust, mostly reduced to capacity development activities for environmental data collection and management, which need yet to produce significant changes in policy or even reporting of the environmental dimension of the SDGs.
152. The expected catalyzing effect of the project in other countries did not materialize: planned regional and inter-regional workshops and dissemination of lessons learned was well below expectations, as COVID-19 related restrictions limited and drastically diminish the scope of these activities.

Rating for Likelihood of Impact: Moderately Likely

Rating for Effectiveness

153. The strategic evaluation questions for the criterion effectiveness were as follows:
- How effective was the project in improving data generation, management, and uptake on SDG implementation?
 - How did the project enable the strengthening of the environmental dimension of national policy instruments and enhance policy coherence at national and subnational levels?

- How effective was the integrated approach taken in each country for the implementation of the project to strengthen the environmental dimension of SDGs, useful for other countries to draw lessons from?
- How did the project set the pace for the future work on SDG data and policy and enhancing UNEP's role in UN reform?

154. The project's success has been uneven across these four points:

- The project team undoubtedly kept updated on project developments which were included in the project's annual reports. However, monitoring of project progress was done based on activities implemented in the different countries, regardless of their contribution to the originally planned targets.
- As the project could not act upon identified policy entry points in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and Guyana, outcome one indicators referring to elaboration of national policy documents with project support ceased to be relevant.
- Similarly, the data indicators (outcome 2) lost their relevance to the project as project support took different paths in each country, the project reported mostly on implementation of capacity development activities, and changes in national circumstances. Moreover, the three outcome two indicators could not have measured any effect of the project. The baseline situation in all pilot countries entailed sets of environment statistics used for monitoring and reviewing national policy and VNRs. The degree and quality of improvement should have been better defined, for each country, for these indicators to be measurable.
- The indicators for outcome three were also not measurable. No attempt was made to gauge perception of participants in unspecified regional workshops. The indicator also lost its relevance when the planned project upscaling was limited in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

155. Despite the limitations described above, the project has achieved tangible changes, beyond what could have been expected for a project with limited funding. Therefore, the terminal review rates the project's effectiveness as satisfactory.

Rating for Effectiveness: Satisfactory

Financial management

Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures

156. The project completed its disbursements against annual work plans on time, allowing the timely delivery of project activities and outputs following UNEP rules and regulations. However, nearly a fifth of the budget had to be returned to UNDA (Table 19), as COVID-19 caused the cancellation of project activities related to outcome 3, and the project needed financial closing by December 2021.

157. Expenditure reached only 77%, considering the original budget of USD 0.608 million. However, if the actual budget is considered (USD 0.488 million), 95% of funds were implemented, pending reporting on closing activities, including this terminal review. Although regular project activities and expenditure of project funds were affected by the pandemic, additional funds²¹ (USD 45,493) were received by the project to implement COVID-19-related studies in Colombia, Guyana, and Burkina Faso.

Table 18. Planned and actual budget and expenditure per budget line to December 2021

| Budget line | Budget/Allotment (as per project document) (USD) | Total cumulative Expenditure (USD) 2021 report | Returned to UNDA | Actual budget (Allotment-returned) | Expenditure rate (original budget) | Expenditure rate (actual budget) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Consultants and experts | \$ 215,002.00 | \$ 233,064.35 | \$ - | \$ 173,254.00 | 108% | 135% |
| Travel of staff | \$ 70,385.00 | \$ 42,245.03 | \$ 24,303.65 | \$ 40,658.35 | 60% | 104% |
| Contractual services | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 18,232.27 | \$ 349.37 | \$ (349.37) | 91% | -5219% |
| General operating expenses | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 4,558.50 | \$ 1,342.11 | \$ 19,657.89 | 11% | 23% |
| Supplies and materials | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 40,500.00 | 0% | 0% |
| Furniture and equipment | \$ - | \$ 950.00 | \$ - | \$ - | 0% | 0% |
| Workshops / Study tours | \$ 259,613.00 | \$ 165,539.30 | \$ 94,071.70 | \$ 214,215.30 | 64% | 77% |
| Total | \$ 605,000.00 | \$ 464,589.45 | \$ 120,066.83 | \$ 487,936.17 | 77% | 95% |

Rating for Adherence: Satisfactory

Completeness of project financial information

158. Budget and expenditure were reported by year, budget line and implementing unit. The budget and expenditures were distributed among the different implementing units, with minor divergencies dictated by the realities of project implementation (Table 19).
159. The project planned to provide funds for all activities performed by its implementing partners and did not account for in-kind contributions beyond project funds. Project implementing partners reported significant in-kind investment in project activities, mostly not quantified, and when they were, not reported to the project management.

²¹ USD 25,493 from UNEP's Environment Fund and USD 20,000 from the Norway fund

Table 19. Budget and expenditure per country/ region as to December 2020

| Implementing unit | Budget | Expenditure December 2020 | Available in January 2021 | % Budget | % Expenditure |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Science Division | \$ 109,500.00 | \$ 79,235.28 | \$ 30,624.72 | 18% | 22% |
| Law Division | \$ 169,004.00 | \$ 19,255.52 | \$ 149,748.48 | 28% | 5% |
| Burkina Faso | \$ 93,435.00 | \$ 58,078.99 | \$ 35,356.01 | 15% | 16% |
| Bangladesh | \$ 82,375.50 | \$ 82,214.88 | \$ 160.62 | 14% | 23% |
| Latin America | \$ 153,685.50 | \$ 123,775.93 | \$ 29,909.57 | 25% | 34% |
| Total | \$ 608,000.00 | \$ 362,560.60 | \$ 245,799.40 | | |

Rating for Completeness: Satisfactory

Communication between finance and project management staff

160. Project implementing partners did not report any troubles or impasses in communicating with the project management or receiving the allocated disbursements

Table 20. Financial Management Table

| Financial management components: | | Rating | Evidence/ Comments |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures: | | S | |
| Any evidence that indicates shortcomings in the project's adherence ²² to UNEP or donor policies, procedures or rules | | No | Project implementing partners highly satisfied with financial management |
| 2. Completeness of project financial information²³: | | S | |
| Provision of key documents to the reviewer (based on the responses to A-H below) | | | |
| A. | Co-financing and Project Cost's tables at design (by budget lines) | Yes | [specify here level of detail provided] |
| B. | Revisions to the budget | Yes | Impacts of COVID-19 caused unexpended funds, returned to donor |
| C. | All relevant project legal agreements (e.g., SSFA, PCA, ICA) | Yes | SSFA with implementing partners |
| D. | Proof of fund transfers | Yes | Umoja |
| E. | Proof of co-financing (cash and in-kind) | No | No co-finance was planned, but implementing partners incurred costs, mostly not accounted for |
| F. | A summary report on the project's expenditures during the life of the project (by budget lines, project components and/or annual level) | Yes | Expenditure reported by budget line, year and implementing unit |
| G. | Copies of any completed audits and management responses (where applicable) | N/A | No audits |

²² If the review raises concerns over adherence with policies or standard procedures, a recommendation may be given to cover the topic in an upcoming audit, or similar financial oversight exercise.

²³ See also document 'Criterion Rating Description' for reference

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| H. | Any other financial information that was required for this project (list): | Yes | Precise co-finance information (implementing partners in-kind contributions) |
| 3. Communication between finance and project management staff | | HS | |
| | Project Manager and/or Task Manager's level of awareness of the project's financial status. | HS | Yes |
| | Fund Management Officer's knowledge of project progress/status when disbursements are done. | HS | Yes |
| | Level of addressing and resolving financial management issues among Fund Management Officer and Project Manager/Task Manager. | HS | Optimal |
| | Contact/communication between by Fund Management Officer, Project Manager/Task Manager during the preparation of financial and progress reports. | HS | No issues reported |
| | Project Manager, Task Manager and Fund Management Officer responsiveness to financial requests during the review process | HS | No issues reported |
| Overall rating | | S | |

Rating for Communication: Satisfactory

Rating for Financial Management: Satisfactory

Efficiency

Economic efficiency

161. The project intended to cause significant effects in enhancing policy coherence supported by improved flows of environmental data in four countries separated into three regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia with just over USD 600,000, allocating an average of USD 100,000 per country, and the rest to the activities of the implementing unit at UNEP's Law Division headquartered in Nairobi.
162. Other UNEP-implemented projects intending similar effects, e.g., Connect Biodiversity (USD 5 million) or SUNRED (USD 1.6 million), have financial envelopes three to six times this project's budget. Moreover, UNEP implements these projects in just one to three countries within the same region. Yet, the project delivered all its intended outputs with fewer funds than planned within the allotted implementation period. Moreover, management costs and travel (in part limited by COVID-19) were within reasonable limits (Figure 4).

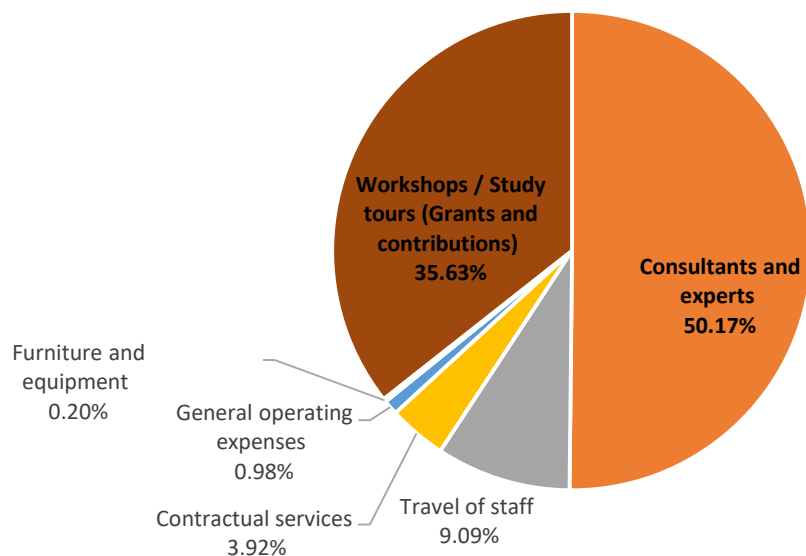


Figure 4. Expenditure by budget line

Timeliness

163. The project delivered all its activities in the originally planned timeframe. However, COVID-19-related cancellation of activities meant that some project funds were not executed.

Partnerships (engagement of implementing entity with national, regional, and global level stakeholders; engagement with other implementing agencies).

164. Delivery was facilitated by the identification of suitable ongoing and past initiatives leading to synergies and cost reductions:

- In **Bangladesh**, and **Burkina Faso**, the project built upon work done under the UNDP-UNEP joint program Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI). In Bangladesh, the project also catalyzed additional PEI funding.
- In **Guyana**, the project was set to continue the work initiated under the UNEP project Knowledge and Capacity Development for Inclusive Green Development Transition in Guyana project (2017-2018), supporting the development of Guyana's Green State Development Strategy.
- In **Colombia**, the project benefited from contacts established under other ROLAC-implemented initiatives.

165. Implementing a UNEP project requires careful identification of a project implementing partner, as UNEP does not have country offices to support day-to-day project implementation. Most project activities were implemented using project funds exclusively, under SSFAs or UN-agency to UN-agency agreements. However, some activities involved in-kind contributions from the UNDP in Bangladesh, the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change (MEEVCC) in Burkina Faso, the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, and the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean that are

estimated to be of a magnitude comparable to the project costs, according to project respondents. However, the total amount of in-kind contributions could not be quantified, and thus the total project costs are unknown.

Rating

166. Comparing the project’s outcomes to the scarce budget invested implies a low cost/ effectiveness ratio and a highly satisfactory efficiency. However, the project also entailed hidden costs carried by the implementing partners, and not quantified for the most part. Therefore, the terminal review rates the project’s efficiency as satisfactory.

Rating for Efficiency: Satisfactory

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring design and budgeting

167. The project’s design logical framework included 7 indicators at the outcome level (Table 22) with baselines and targets. The project’s monitoring and evaluation plan was provided with USD 48,004 (8% of the original budget) that included general operating expenditure (USD 23,000) and the terminal review (USD 25,004). No midterm review was planned for a three-year project.
168. The seven indicators were a priori SMART, referring to measurable specific elements relevant to project actions within its implementation period. Yet the changes in national context affecting project assumptions entailed that most lost their relevance during the project implementation (Table 22 and monitoring of project implementation).

Table 21. Project logical framework indicators

| Original Project outcome | Indicator with target |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sector priorities in selected countries aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four countries with strengthened national SDG-related implementation plans or strategies or policies or legislation that embed multi-sectoral environmental objectives 2. Ten plans, strategies, policies, documents, and initiatives developed through inter-ministerial consultation. |
| 2) Selected countries regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Three countries develop multi-sectoral comprehensive sets of environment statistics 4. Three countries have used environment statistics for monitoring and reviewing national policy 5. Four countries tackle environmental sustainability in VNR, and the reporting systems put in place in relation to the SDGs |
| 3) Lessons learned and knowledge acquired by target countries is made available to a wider set of countries | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. 80% of government officials participating in regional initiatives acknowledge enhanced capacity for coherent implementation of the SDG environmental dimension |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| through inter-regional networking and cooperation | 7. 10 documents, tools, case studies are developed and made accessible on the e-portal |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Rating for Monitoring Design and Budgeting: Satisfactory

Monitoring of project implementation

- 169. The project team undoubtedly kept updated on project developments which were included in the project's annual reports. However, monitoring of project progress was done based on progress in the implementation of activities, regardless of their contribution to the originally planned targets, complemented with information on the national context.
- 170. As the policy context at design stage changed during its implementation, the project could not act upon identified policy entry points in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and Guyana. Thus, outcome one indicators referring to elaboration of national policy documents with project support and inter-ministry coordination ceased to be relevant.
- 171. Similarly, the data indicators (outcome 2) lost their relevance to the project as project support took different paths in each country. Hence, the project reported mostly on implementation of capacity development activities, and changes in national circumstances. Moreover, the three outcome two indicators could not have measured any effect of the project in their original formulation: the baseline situation in all pilot countries entailed sets of environment statistics used for monitoring and reviewing national policy and VNRs. The degree and quality of improvement should have been better defined, for each country, for these indicators to be measurable.
- 172. The indicators for outcome three were also not measurable, as the regional workshops were not held, nor was the e-portal developed. No attempt was made to gauge participant's perception in other countries, but awareness of the project was limited to people directly involved with it (implementing partners and some beneficiaries). The indicator also lost its relevance when the planned project upscaling was limited in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rating for Monitoring of Project Implementation: Moderately satisfactory

Project reporting

- 173. The project produced three UNDA annual progress reports following that were shared, and discussed with stakeholders, including the annual steering committee meeting. The project produced several other internal communication materials reporting on some aspects of the project implementation and implementing partners reported on activity progress and expenditure to the project team. The misalignment of reports and indicator framework did not seem to have affected the implementation of the project or the steering committee's approval of the project annual budget and work plan.

Rating for Project Reporting: Moderately satisfactory

Rating for Monitoring and Reporting: Satisfactory

Sustainability

Socio-political sustainability

174. The socio-political Sustainability of the project outcomes depends on their appropriation by national stakeholders. In Colombia, the National Department of Planning adopted the SDG-synergies methodology as part of its planning toolkit. Even at the local government level, solid institutions, and commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the demand for SDG synergies methodology by local government and other government organizations signal that the project outcome will be sustainable, at least for the next planning cycle. The NDP manifested the intention of including the methodology in formulating the next National Development Plan.
175. In Bangladesh, the project supported the General Economic Division (GED) of the National Planning Commission, which is likely to continue incorporating more environmental indicators in the VNRs. Different agencies in the national government of Bangladesh produce quality environmental data, which the GED centralizes for reporting. Given the central role of GED in preparing the country's overarching Five-year Plans, it is likely that the next planning cycle will expand the relatively narrow environmental scope of the Five-year Plans, in line with the VNR.
176. Awareness raised and interest in strengthening environmental reporting systems in Burkina Faso and Guyana, such as sharing data among government agencies and enhancing SDG reporting, e.g., in national voluntary reviews, is unlikely without further support. Concerned government agencies still face significant technical, coordination, and resource barriers: review respondents manifested that improving and consolidating quality of environmental statistics and reporting will need additional extrabudgetary support.

Rating for Socio-Political Sustainability: Moderately likely

Financial sustainability

177. All national government agencies implementing or benefiting from the project in the four pilot countries are core national agencies with secure budgets and mandates. They include national planning bodies and statistical offices and services. Thus, the sustainability of their functions is guaranteed, regardless of political changes.
178. However, the resources available for environmental statistics and mainstreaming of the environmental dimension of the SDGs into national policy substantially diverges in all four

countries. As the project did not have any effect in enabling or strengthening the resource allocation for the beneficiary agencies, applying methodologies for improved management of environmental data is unlikely in the countries where these capacities are the weakest.

Rating for Financial Sustainability: Moderately Likely

Institutional sustainability

179. Changes in political priorities have affected project outcomes in Guyana, as the project strategy was intimately linked to the abandoned Green State Development Strategy. Guyana is now one of the leading oil exporters of the Caribbean, and the nation expects to use the significant oil revenues to strengthen human development while implementing its Low Carbon Development Strategy. The LCDS aims to mobilize further revenue from international carbon markets to support its substantial forest reserves.
180. The political instability of Burkina Faso does not seem to affect core government business, including statistical services. However, SDG reporting and integrating the 2030 Agenda into national planning processes may not constitute the most pressing priority under current circumstances.
181. Colombia and Bangladesh are committed to the national and sub-national implementation of the 2030 agenda, and government changes seem not to affect that commitment.
182. Given the likely sustainability of project outcomes in Colombia and Bangladesh and the unlikely sustainability of any of the project actions in the other two countries, the terminal review rates the project's sustainability as moderately likely.

Rating for Institutional Sustainability: Moderately likely

Rating for Sustainability: Moderately likely

Cross-Cutting Issues

Human Rights and Gender Equality

183. Although the UNEP MTS 2022-25 states that compared to the rest of the population, marginalized and vulnerable groups enjoy greater social and economic benefits from the integration of environmental considerations into development planning, this project acted at decision-making levels and high-level planning unlikely to have any direct effect on human rights and gender equality. The focus here was to improve implementation and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs into policies such as national development plans.

Rating for Human Rights and Gender Equality: Not applicable

Innovativeness

184. The project document does not address innovativeness or suggests that any project's planned approaches and activities are innovative. For the most part, the project strategy followed established practice to enhance national capacities for policy processes and data management and uptake. Indeed, the project's strategy was based on UNEP-supported initiatives already being implemented in the four pilot countries. However, the terminal review finds several features of the project implementation and results as innovative.
185. In Colombia, the project enabled SEI's deployment and consolidation of their then-newly developed SDG synergies methodology. This methodology helps planning process stakeholders identify synergies among a subset of priority SDG targets. The prioritization and the synergies exercise help stakeholders select which SDG targets are more relevant for their territories and which policy actions could potentially have the most significant impacts in achieving their priority SDG targets. SEI is currently deploying this methodology in other countries, which has been adopted as part of the national planning toolbox in Colombia.

Rating for Innovativeness: Moderately satisfactory

Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards

186. The project support national policy aligned with the SDGs, and it did not have any tangible field actions. Therefore, environmental, social, or economic safeguards were not relevant here.

Rating for Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards: Not Applicable

Communication and public awareness

187. The project produced several relevant documents, including four case studies highlighting the project's achievements from the project's point of view. While the project shared these documents internally and with its implementing partners, it needed a more explicit communication strategy. Thus, although participants in project activities and implementing partners are aware of the project outcomes, there is no current repository bringing all the project's publications and related documents. Documents include, e.g., SEI's peer-reviewed paper, project document of the Accelerating SDGs in Nepal, Sri Lanka's SDG synergies experiences, or the Colombian guide and capacity development for local government on environmental matters.

Rating for Communication and Public Awareness: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating on Cross-Cutting Issues: Moderately satisfactory

8. CONCLUSIONS LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

188. The project was designed to catalyze the implementation of the SDG environmental dimension in four countries with ongoing UNEP initiatives. Thus, significant policy effects were expected despite the project's limited budget and geographical dispersion.
189. The project design outlined outputs at the national level that the project team concretized through legal instruments with the project implementing partners early in the project implementation. All the outputs negotiated with the national implementing partners were achieved. However, the transformation of those outputs into outcomes was uneven, driven by national factors.
190. **Strategic question: How did the project enable the strengthening of the environmental dimension of national policy instruments and enhance policy coherence at national and subnational levels?** The project identified precise policy entry points in three (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and Guyana) of the four pilot countries. However, context changes prevented the project from achieving any significant effect on policy-making processes, except in Colombia, where the project did not identify a precise policy entry point. Still, the project implementing partner, SEI, deployed a new decision-making support methodology that promotes decision-making's environmental dimension and coherence. The National Planning Department and other national and subnational government organizations have adopted the SDG synergies methodology.
191. **Strategic Question: How effective was the project in improving data generation, management, and uptake on SDG implementation?** The initial capacities of the four pilot countries were very different during project design, and their relative capabilities have remained the same due to the project activities. The project implemented a data initiative in three pilot countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and Guyana. However, the project catalyzed improvements in environmental data management in Bangladesh for the National Planning Commission and delivered training for the statistical services of Guyana and Burkina Faso. In Bangladesh, the improved capacities translated into improved reporting of environmental SDG indicators in the country's last Voluntary National Report. Participants in the other two pilot countries confirmed the usefulness of the training, workshops, and tools facilitated by the project. However, the project's budget limitations entailed delivering capacity development in short, one or two-time workshops, which raised the awareness and interest of stakeholders but did not enable them to change their environmental data output and reporting levels significantly.
192. **Strategic question: How effective was the integrated approach taken in each country for the implementation of the project to strengthen the environmental dimension of SDGs, useful for other countries to draw lessons from?** The project's intended upscaling effect based on sharing lessons learned from this initiative has yet to materialize. The project's knowledge products have been partially published and sub-optimally shared outside of UNEP and with people directly involved with its

implementation. However, the successful implementation in Colombia and Bangladesh has enabled upscaling of the project outcomes:

- Based on the project's work in Bangladesh, two further projects securing USD 5 million to boost the environmental dimension of the SDGs are now under implementation in Bangladesh and Nepal.
- The SDG-synergies methodology developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and deployed in Colombia with project funds has been adopted as one of the planning tools for implementing national policy and enabled consolidation of the methodology to be applied in other national contexts.

193. **Strategic question: How did the project make effective use of funds saved during the pandemic to support the countries' recovery responses through SDG implementation?** Project support to national efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic effects consisted of funding reports outlining the environmental impacts of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Guyana. Although the studies were reportedly undertaken at the initiative of the national governments and in coordination with the respective UNCTs, the terminal review cannot identify any concrete action taken because of the reports.
194. **How effectively was the project communicating results to the inner and outer audience through outreach and e-platforms?** The project invested in preparing case studies highlighting its results in the four pilot countries, along with the other materials and reports linked to the project outputs. However, these materials need yet to be published to reach wider audiences. COVID-19 prevented the project from deploying planned interregional interactions expected to facilitate the upscaling of lessons learned from its implementation.

Table 22. Summary of project findings and ratings

| Criterion (Enter each rating into the Weighting of Ratings table to arrive at the rating for each criterion and the overall project rating) | Summary Assessment | Rating |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| A. Strategic Relevance | | S |
| 1. Alignment to UNEP's MTS, POW and Strategic Priorities | The project implements UNEP 2018-21 MTS | S |
| 2. Alignment to UNDA strategic priorities | Project aligned with UNDA priorities | S |
| 3. Relevance to regional, sub-regional and national (i.e. beneficiaries') environmental priorities | Project relevant at design and coordinated with national policy initiatives, but changes during implementation diminish alignment with national policy | S |
| 4. Complementarity with existing interventions/Coherence | Project catalyzing results from existing initiatives | S |
| B. Effectiveness | | S |
| 1. Availability of outputs | Outputs delivered, with limitations due to onset of COVID | S |
| 2. Achievement of outcomes (Expected Accomplishments in Development Account terminology) | Uneven but tangible achievements | S |
| 3. Likelihood of impact (including an analysis of the project's contribution to long-lasting results) | Impact likely in two countries | ML |
| C. Financial Management | | S |
| 1. Adherence to UNEP's financial policies and procedures | Complied with financial policies, but could not execute funds completely due to COVID-19 | S |
| 2. Completeness of project financial information | Complete information except for co-financing | S |
| 3. Communication between finance and project management staff | No issues | S |
| D. Efficiency | | S |
| 1. Economic efficiency | Outputs virtually completed in allocated time | S |
| 2. Timeliness | | S |
| 3. Partnerships (engagement of implementing entity with national, regional and global level stakeholders; engagement with other implementing agencies) | Intimate coordination with other UNEP and UNDP activities | S |
| E. Monitoring and Reporting | | S |
| 1. Monitoring design and budgeting | Monitoring plan and budget at design | S |
| 2. Monitoring of project implementation | Project annual reports did not follow indicator framework | MS |
| 3. Project reporting | | MS |
| F. Sustainability (the overall rating for Sustainability will be the lowest rating among the three sub-categories) | | ML |
| 1. Socio-political sustainability | Adoption of tools in countries with policy results, and sustained awareness and interest on the SDGs environmental dimension | ML |
| 2. Financial sustainability | Further external support needed in some countries | ML |
| 3. Institutional sustainability | Highly likely except for political change prone countries | ML |

| Criterion <i>(Enter each rating into the Weighting of Ratings table to arrive at the rating for each criterion and the overall project rating)</i> | Summary Assessment | Rating |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| G. Cross Cutting Issues ²⁴ | | MS |
| 1. Sustainable Development Goals | Project goal | HS |
| 2. Human Rights and Gender Equality (Also for UNDA) | Aligned with SDGs, without any specific gender or human rights actions | NA |
| 3. Innovativeness | | MS |
| 4. Environmental, Social and Economic Safeguards | Aligned with national environmental and socioeconomic strategies | NA |
| 5. Communication and public awareness | Limited impact of communication strategy | MS |
| Overall Project Rating | | S |

²⁴ While ratings are required for each of these factors individually, they should be discussed within the Main Review Report as cross-cutting issues as they relate to other criteria. Catalytic role, replication and scaling up should be discussed under effectiveness if they are a relevant part of the TOC.

Lessons learned

195. A small funding envelope can produce more significant effects if it supports selected entry points identified and implemented with complementary interventions through implementing partners immune to political changes (UN agencies, international think tanks). However, the validity and relevance of the entry points can change, risking the entire project strategy. This project obtained the most important results because UNEP had a direct presence in Colombia, and had a committed implementing partner, but not a precise policy entry point at design. This example also demonstrates that projects need more country presence than what regional offices can provide to facilitate outcomes and sustainability.
196. Future projects should refrain from attempting specific policy changes but focus on the methodologies and capacity development countries need to enhance their own-paced mainstreaming of environmental concerns. Policy changes entail complex political processes beyond any given initiative's influence.
197. Exchange of lessons to strengthen the implementation of an ongoing initiative can only work if the project is implemented in countries with similar socioeconomic and institutional contexts, preferably within the same region and language. This project's final inter-regional workshop prompted an exchange of ideas that came too late to aid the implementation. However, the very diverse national context and the fact that the project's activities supported different outputs in each country did not make the lessons learned applicable.
198. Capacity development activities should complement punctual workshops and training seasons with the development of repositories, including helpdesks, e-courses, and webinars, clearly tagged and accessible. Examples of this have been developed for some SDG indicators under UNEP's custodianship, e.g., SDG indicator 6.3.2. A similar strategy could be adopted for SDG indicator 17.14.1.

Recommendations

199. The project's actions need follow-up:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recommendation #1: | UNEP should publish the project's knowledge products (case studies, reports, peer-reviewed papers). |
| Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation: | Dissemination of knowledge is an important intention of the project, which has not yet been fully achieved. |
| Priority Level ²⁵: | Important |

²⁵ Select priority level from these three categories:

Critical recommendation: address significant and/or pervasive deficiencies in governance, risk management or internal control processes, such that reasonable assurance cannot be provided regarding the achievement of programme objectives.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Responsibility: | UNEP Project Team |
| Proposed implementation time-frame: | By end of quarter 1 2023 |
| Recommendation #2: | Set up an e-portal to provide access to the project's capacity development activities and links to related programs (e.g., Colombia's local government training on environmental responsibilities) |
| Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation: | Making documents accessible through an e-portal was an important, which has not yet been fully achieved. output of the project. |
| Priority Level: | Important |
| Responsibility: | UNEP Project Team |
| Proposed implementation time-frame: | By end of quarter 1 2023 |

Important recommendation: address reportable deficiencies or weaknesses in governance, risk management or internal control processes, such that reasonable assurance might be at risk regarding the achievement of programme objectives.

Opportunity for improvement: comprise suggestions to improve performance that do not meet the criteria of either critical or important recommendations.

ANNEXES

- I. List of individuals interviewed
- II. List of documents consulted, including references
- III. Detailed results framework of the project
- IV. Review Matrix
- V. Data collection instruments/tools
- VI. Workplan and Budget
- VII. TOR for the Terminal Review
- VIII. Assessment of the quality of the Review Report

ANNEX I. PEOPLE CONSULTED DURING THE TERMINAL REVIEW

List of individuals interviewed or answering written requests

| First name | Last name | Affiliation | Country |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fakrul | Ahsan | UNDP | Bangladesh |
| Zubayer | Hossen | UNDP | Bangladesh |
| Jonathn | Gilman | UNEP - ROAP | Bangladesh |
| Abdoul Karim | Dipama | Département des Politiques de Développement Durable (DPDD) | Burkina Faso |
| Libata | Ouédraogo | MEEVCC/DCCI/SPCNDD | Burkina Faso |
| Kaboré | Salif | Direction générale des études et des statistiques sectorielle | Burkina Faso |
| Jean Jacob | Sahou | UNEP-ROA | Burkina Faso |
| Frank | Turyatunga | UNEP-ROA | Burkina Faso |
| David | Purkey | Stockholm Environment Institute - SEI | Colombia |
| Ivonne | Lobos | Stockholm Environment Institute - SEI | Colombia |
| Juan | Bello | UNEP Colombia Office | Colombia |
| Leyla Mercedes | Montenegro Calderon | UPME | Colombia |
| Lina Maria | Moncaleano Cuellar | DNP | Colombia |
| Valentina | Botero Sánchez | DNP | Colombia |
| Adriana Elena | Cozma | DNP | Colombia |
| David | Oswald | Consultant | Guyana |
| Rila | Harlequin | Statistician | Guyana |
| Afeefa | Richardson | UNEP Research Consultant in Guyana | Guyana |
| Deirdre | Shurland | UNEP Sub Regional Office for the Caribbean | Guyana |
| Francesco | Gaetani | UNEP-Science Division-ROLAC | Guyana |

ANNEX II. KEY DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

| Author | Year | Title |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bangladesh | 2017 | Bangladesh Voluntary National Review: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world |
| Bangladesh | 2020 | Sustainable Development Goals, Bangladesh Progress Report 2020 |
| Bangladesh GED | 2016 | Development Planning in Bangladesh: 7th Five Year Plan and SDG Implementation |
| Bangladesh GED | 2015 | 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) Accelerating Growth, Empowering Citizens |
| Bangladesh GED | 2020 | 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) Promoting Prosperity and Fostering Inclusiveness |
| Barquet, K. et al | 2022 | Exploring mechanisms for systemic thinking in decision-making through three country applications of SDG Synergies |
| Burkina Faso | 2021 | Plan national de développement économique et social 2021-2025 (PNDES-II) |
| Burkina Faso | 2016 | Plan national de développement économique et social 2016-2020 (PNDES-I) |
| Burkina Faso | 2019 | Rapport National Volontaire de Mise on Oeuvre des Objectifs de Development Durable (2016-2019) |
| Colombia | 2018 | Reporte Nacional Voluntario Colombia |
| Colombia | 2021 | Reporte Nacional Voluntario 2021. Acelerar la Implementación para una Recuperación Sostenible |
| Colombia | 2016 | Foro Político de Alto Nivel 2016 - ECOSOC. Presentación Nacional Voluntaria de Colombia. Los ODS como instrumento para Consolidar la Paz |
| PGN | 2020 | Territorios Sostenibles. Guía de obligaciones ambientales para alcaldías y gobernaciones de Colombia |
| David Oswald | 2021 | Deliverable 4: Recommendations for Production, Use, and Sharing of Environmental Data Collection and Consultancy Name: Environmental Statistics and Policy (Guyana) |
| DNP | 2018 | Documento CONPES 3918 Estrategia para la implementación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) en Colombia |
| DNP | 2019 | Pacto por Colombia, pacto por la equidad. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2018-2022: Retos, estrategias y metas. Todo lo que no le han contado del Plan |
| Fundación Natura | 2021 | Revitalizando a Colombia: hacia una reactivación integral basada en la naturaleza |
| Fundación Natura | 2021 | Análisis de riesgos e impactos ambientales de la crisis del COVID-19 en Colombia |
| Guyana | 2019 | Guyana Green State Development Strategy |
| Guyana | 2022 | Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 |
| Guyana | 2019 | Guyana First Voluntary National Review |

| | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Peter Morrison | 2019 | Support for Coherent Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Guyana |
| SC4SDG project | 2020 | Consultation with Ministry/Division SDG Focal Points on Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective |
| SEI-PNUMA | 2020 | Promoviendo una implementación coherente de la dimensión ambiental de los ODS en Colombia |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2019 | Summary Report Training Workshop Enhancing Environmental Statistics for Measurement and Evaluation: Implementing Guyana's Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 6th - 8th August 2019 |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2020 | Policy Brief Strengthening governance of environmental data and information in Guyana to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | ND | Case study of Guyana UNDA Project 1819Q Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2021 | (Burkina Faso) Reporting for January-June 2021 |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2020 | Strengthening the Capacity of Burkina Faso to integrate environmental issues into public policy |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2021 | Etude diagnostique de l'impact socio-économique et environnemental de la COVID-19 en appui au PNDES II |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2020 | Report on activities in Bangladesh for the period January – Dec 2020 |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2021 | Bangladesh Case Study |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2021 | Guyana Case Study |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2021 | Colombia Case Study |
| UNDA 1819Q Project | 2021 | Burkina Faso Case Study |
| UNDP and UNEP | 2020 | UN-Agency to UN-Agency Contribution Agreement |
| UNEA | 2016 | Resolution 2/5, Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| UNEP | 2018 | Project Document: Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals |
| UNEP | 2016 | Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2018–2019 |
| UNEP | 2019 | Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2020–2021 |
| UNEP | 2014 | Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017 |
| UNEP | 2021 | For people and planet: the United Nations Environment Programme strategy for 2022–2025 to tackle climate change, loss of nature and pollution |

| | | |
|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UNEP | 2016 | Knowledge and Capacity Development for Inclusive Green Development Transition in Guyana Project Document |
| UNEP | 2020 | Measuring progress, The Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals Latin America and the Caribbean For People and Planet The United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNEP | 2021 | strategy for tackling climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste from 2022–2025. |
| UNEP | 2021 | The United Nations Environment Programme strategy for tackling climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste from 2022–2025, annex I, Programme of work and Budget for 2022-2023 |
| UNEP | 2016 | UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021 |

ANNEX III. DETAILED RESULTS FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT (OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTPUTS)

| <u>Intervention logic</u> | <u>Indicators</u> | <u>Means of verification</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Objective: To strengthen the capacities of the national institutions towards coherent and integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> | | |
| <p>EA1 National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sectoral priorities in selected countries aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner</p> | <p>IA 1.1 Number of target countries that have developed <u>new/</u> strengthened national SDG-related implementation plans or strategies or policies or legislation that embed multi-sectoral environmental objectives including those derived from MEAs <u>Target: 5 countries</u></p> | <p>National road maps/implementation plans/ strategies/policies/legislation revised or created</p> |
| | <p>Number of plans, strategies, policies, documents and initiatives developed through inter-ministerial consultation. <u>Target: 10</u></p> | <p>Documents, plans, mechanisms, partnerships or new institutional arrangements established among different sectors and stakeholders using integrated approaches.</p> |
| | <p>IA1.2</p> | |
| <p>A1.1 Provide technical support to review and develop policies or strategies, and support relevant national institutions to address existing gaps towards the development of concrete policies or strategies that effectively integrate the SDGs and other global goals.</p> | | |
| <p>A1.2 Support inter-ministerial meetings in each country, using existing in-country mechanisms, to raise awareness, share technical knowledge and validate information across line ministries.</p> | | |
| <p>A1.3 Organize national multi-stakeholder workshops in each country to facilitate the dissemination of information and provision of input from multiple stakeholders.</p> | | |

| <u>Intervention logic</u> | <u>Indicators</u> | <u>Means of verification</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>EA 2 Selected countries are able to regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data</p> | <p>IA 2.1 Number of target countries that develop multi-sectoral comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that enhance the integration of SDG and MEA related data <u>Target: 3 Countries</u></p> | <p>National websites or the Environment Live platform, periodic updates of the database, reports of stakeholder meetings, publication documents, policy papers</p> |
| | <p>IA 2.2 Number of target countries that have used environment statistics that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data for monitoring and reviewing national policy. <u>Target: 3 countries</u></p> | <p>Monitoring and evaluation reports on national policies related to the environment as indicators.</p> |
| <p>A 2.1 Provide technical support to national statistical offices for producing and using environment indicators, for strengthening the sharing of data and metadata, and for strengthening the user-producer dialogue.</p> | | |
| <p>A 2.2 Conduct a data user-producer workshop to bring together policy makers, planners and environmental stakeholders with statisticians and data producers.</p> | | |
| <p>A 2.3 Provide technical support and tools on how to integrate environment statistics, including SDG and MEA indicators, into the monitoring and evaluation of national policy. <u>All project countries</u> Develop/adapt tools and methodologies on integration of environment statistics into the monitoring and evaluation of national policy. Ensure environmental sustainability is properly tackled in Voluntary National Reviews and the reporting systems put in place in relation to the SDGs.</p> | | |

| <u>Intervention logic</u> | <u>Indicators</u> | <u>Means of verification</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>EA 3 Lessons learned and knowledge acquired by target countries is made available to a wider set of countries through inter-regional networking and cooperation</p> | <p>IA 3.1 Government officials participating in inter-regional networking and cooperation initiatives acknowledge having enhanced their capacity for coherent and integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <u>Target:</u> 80% of participants</p> | <p>Survey distributed at or following inter-regional networking and cooperation initiatives</p> |
| | <p>IA 3.2 Number of documents, tools, case studies that are developed and made accessible on the e-portal <u>Target:</u> 10</p> | <p>Tools, case studies documents published on web portal</p> |
| <p>A3.1 Organize an inter-regional workshop to share lessons and experiences among the participating countries and other selected countries to promote the coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Headquarters and Regional Offices - Collation and synthesis of reports and project lessons Regional Offices – Production of reports and analysis of project activities and outputs.</p> | | |
| <p>A3.2 Provide an ePortal and organize webinars to share and disseminate tools, approaches and other knowledge products emerging from the advances of the countries involved in the implementation of the project Develop and disseminate country stories on successes and/or unsuccessful initiatives ending with lessons learned that can be useful to other countries. Identify and share best practices.</p> | | |

ANNEX IV. REVIEW MATRIX

Review criterion: Strategic Relevance

| RQ1: How did the project strengthen the environmental dimension of national policy instruments and enhance policy coherence? | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project supports and is aligned with national frameworks related to SDGs and environmental objectives linked to MEAs |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National policy/strategy documents UNEP and implementing partner's staff National stakeholders |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentary analysis Interviews with implementing partners Interviews with national stakeholders |
| RQ2: Was the project framed and supportive of UNEP MTS and PoW? | |
| Indicators/Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project framed in the 2018-2021 MTS and associated PoW, to the Sub-Programs 4 and 7 |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP strategy and planning documents UNEP and implementing partner's staff |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentary analysis Interviews with implementing partners Interviews with national stakeholders |

Review criterion: Effectiveness

| RQ3: How effective was the project in improving data generation, management, and uptake on SDG implementation? | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indicators/Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target countries developed new/ strengthened national SDG-related implementation plans or strategies or policies with project support Enhanced inter-ministerial consultation thanks to project support Countries develop multi-sectoral comprehensive sets of environment statistics with project support Countries use environment statistics that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data for monitoring and reviewing national policy. Government officials participate in inter-regional networking organized by the project |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project's outputs and publications National strategy documents UNEP and implementing partner's staff National stakeholders |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentary analysis Interviews with implementing partners Interviews with national stakeholders |

Review criterion: COVID-19 response

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RQ4: COVID-19 response | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What adjustments were made to the project to effectively respond to the new priorities of Member States concerning COVID-19? • How did the adjustments affect the achievement of the project's expected results as stated in its original results framework? • How relevant were the activities added in response to the COVID-19 pandemic? • What were the specific challenges to the COVID-19 expected accomplishment and activities? • What are the lessons learned from the COVID-19-related activities? Could they be replicated? • How did the project effectively use funds saved during the pandemic to support the countries' recovery responses through SDG implementation? | |
| Indicators/Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has supported countries COVID-19 response • Project has assessed COVID-19 impacts on SDG implementation |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project's outputs and publications • Peer reviewed publications and publications by UN agencies and multilateral financial institutions. • UNEP and implementing partner's staff • National stakeholders • Other National Partners (UN, Government, CSO and Academia) |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary analysis • Interviews with implementing partners • Interviews with national stakeholders |

Review criterion: Financial management

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RQ5: Did the project adhere to UNEP's financial policies and procedures and produce complete financial information? | |
| Indicators/Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disbursements against AWP's allowed the timely delivery of project activities and outputs • The project financial management is in accordance with UNEP rules and regulations |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project document, reports, including financial reports and audits • UNEP and implementing partner's staff |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary analysis • Interviews with project, implementing partners and administrative staff |

Review criterion: Efficiency

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RQ6: Did the project forge alliances and collaborate with other ongoing initiatives led by other agencies advancing towards the same or similar goals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were human, financial, and in-kind resources leveraged through the contributions of partners? • Did the project use or strengthened data management systems in the target countries? • Did the project deliver its outputs within the implementation period? • Was the project strategy the most cost-effective of all? | |
| Indicators/Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project identified suitable ongoing initiatives leading to synergies and cost reductions • The project used or strengthened existing statistic systems • The project delivered its outputs within the implementation period • The project’s strategy maximized cost effectiveness |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project’s outputs and publications • Project reports • UNEP and implementing partner’s staff, • National stakeholders |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary analysis • Interviews with implementing partners • Interviews with national stakeholders |

Review criterion: Monitoring and reporting

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RQ7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the project team regularly collect and report data on the project’s progress against the targets set in the project’s indicator framework? • Can national stakeholders verify the information contained in the reports? | |
| Indicators/Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team regularly collect and report data on the project’s progress against the targets set in the project’s indicator framework The project’s design includes a monitoring and evaluation plan • National stakeholders verify the information contained in the reports |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project’s outputs and publications • Project document, reports, including financial reports and audits • UNEP and implementing partner’s staff • National stakeholders |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary analysis • Interviews with implementing partners • Interviews with national stakeholders |

Review criterion: Sustainability

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>EQ12: How sustainable are the project’s results?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How sensitive are the project outcomes to changes in the national budget and extrabudgetary interventions? • How sensitive are the project outcomes to changes in political priorities? • How sensitive are project outcomes to national regulatory and policy framework changes? | |
| Indicators/Criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project result not sensitive to changes in budget for key agencies (e.g., statistics bureaus) or budget support for processes supported by the project guaranteed for the next five years through national budget or extrabudgetary means • Likely continuation of support for SDG framework implementation • National policy and regulatory framework in target countries support project results |
| Sources of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project’s outputs and publications • Peer reviewed publications and publications by UN agencies and multilateral financial institutions. • National strategy and budget documents • UNEP and implementing partner’s staff • National stakeholders • Other National Partners (UN, Government, CSO and Academia) |
| Methods for data collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary analysis • Interviews with implementing partners • Interviews with national stakeholders |

ANNEX V. DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS/TOOLS

Project team implementing partners

1. Please describe the project's main strengths and weaknesses
 - Project design
 - Project budget and resource mobilization
 - Project monitoring and reporting
 - Project management
 - Synergies, complementarities with other projects
2. What were the main challenges during the project's implementation? How did you work to solve them?
3. Did the project address gender, human rights, energy efficiency issues during implementation?
4. Please describe the project's main results.
 - Has the level of awareness on the environmental dimension of SDGs changed since the project inception in the three pilot countries? Why?
 - How has the project contributed to those changes?
5. Please comment of the project's impacts.
 - a. How has environmental mainstreaming changed in the target countries since project inception? What was the project contribution to those changes?
6. How do you see the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs in the target countries until 2030?

National stakeholders

1. How is your organization involved in the national SDG implementation? How is your organization involved with mainstreaming environmental concerns into development/ planning processes?
2. How were you involved with the project?
3. How has the project supported your organization achieve its goals?
 - a. Improve environmental information and data (updated, better timing, more/ less useful)
 - b. Support mainstreaming
 - c. Develop capacities of staff
 - d. Develop capacities at the level of policy formulation
4. Were there any challenges during the implementation of the project's activities?
5. What other projects/ programs/ initiatives supported your organization between 2018 and now?
6. What are the main barriers preventing effective SDG implementation in 2018? What barriers are there now?
 - a. Capacity barriers
 - b. Policy/ institutional barriers
 - c. Financial barriers
7. Were there any issues of equity and/or empowerment of women/ indigenous/ vulnerable groups addressed by the project? Are those issues still present?
8. How do you think awareness on the environmental dimension of the SDGs at the national government has changed over the last five years?
7. How do you see the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs in the target countries until 2030?

ANNEX VI. WORKPLAN AND BUDGET (PROJECT DOCUMENT)

| Expected Accomplishment EA | Activity # | Timeframe by activity | | | | | | | | Budget class and Code | | Amount (USD) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------------------------|-----|--------------|
| | | Year | | | | Quarter | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| EA1 National policies or strategies are developed that include multi-sector priorities in selected countries aimed at delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated and integrated manner | A1.1 Provide technical support to review and develop policies or strategies, and support relevant national institutions to address existing gaps according to identified country needs for implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs and other global goals | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | \$ 44,500 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Travel of Staff | 115 | \$ 10,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 54,500 |
| | A1.2 Support inter-ministerial meetings in each country to raise awareness and share technical knowledge across line ministries of national environmental priorities under the SDGs including those derived from MEAs; | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | \$ 31,500 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Travel of Staff | 115 | \$ 10,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Contractual Services | 120 | \$ 5,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Grants and Contributions | 145 | \$ 44,249 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 90,749 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | A1.3 Multi-stakeholder's workshops in each country to disseminate information raise awareness and receive feedback. | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | \$ 31,500 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Travel of Staff | 115 | \$ 10,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Contractual Services | 120 | \$ 5,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | General Operating Expenses | 125 | \$ 5,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Grants and Contributions | 145 | \$ 44,249 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 95,749 |

Terminal Review of the UNEP/UNDA Project: Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals

| Expected Accomplishment EA | Activity # | Timeframe by activity | | | | | | | | Budget class and Code | | Amount (USD) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|--------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| | | Year | | | | Quarter | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| EA2 Selected countries are able to regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate SDG-related and MEA-related data | A2.1 Provide technical support to national statistical offices for mapping relevant indicators for strengthening the sharing of data and metadata. | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | \$ 57,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Travel of Staff | 115 | \$ 10,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Contractual Services | 120 | \$ 5,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Grants and Contributions | 145 | \$ 44,249 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 116,249 |
| | A2.2 Conduct a data user-producer workshop to bring together policy makers, planners and environmental stakeholders with statisticians and data producers. | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | \$ 12,500 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Travel of Staff | 115 | \$ 10,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Contractual Services | 120 | \$ 5,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Grants and Contributions | 145 | \$ 44,249 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 71,749 |
| | A2.3 Provide technical support and tools on how to integrate environment statistics, including SDG and MEA indicators, into the monitoring and evaluation of national policy | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Travel of Staff | 115 | \$ 10,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 10,000 |

Terminal Review of the UNEP/UNDA Project: Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals

| Expected Accomplishment EA | Activity # | Timeframe by activity | | | | | | | | Budget class and Code | | Amount (USD) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| | | Year | | | | Quarter | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| EA 3 Lessons learned and knowledge acquired by target countries is made available to a wider set of countries through inter-regional networking and cooperation | A3.1 Organize an inter-regional workshop to share lessons and experiences among the participating countries and other selected countries to promote the coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | \$ 13,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Travel of Staff | 115 | \$ 10,385 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Grants and Contributions | 145 | \$ 82,615 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 116,000 |
| | A3.2 Provide an ePortal and organize webinars to share and disseminate tools, approaches and other knowledge products emerging from the advances of the countries involved in the implementation of the project | | | | | | | | | Consultants and Experts | 105 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | General Operating Expenses | 125 | \$ 15,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 15,000 |
| Other General Operating Expenses | | | | | | | | | | General Operating Expenses | 125 | \$ 23,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 23,000 |
| External Evaluation | | | | | | | | | | Consultants | 105 | \$ 25,004 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Sub-Total | | \$ 25,004 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ 608,000 |

ANNEX VII. REVIEW TORS (WITHOUT ANNEXES)

Table 1. Project Identification Table

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UNDA ID: | UNDA 11 | 1819Q | |
| PIMS ID: | 02000 | 421.2B | |
| SDG(s): | Goal 1, targets 1.4, 1.5 and 1.b; Goal 2, targets 2.3, 2.4, 2.5; Goal 3, target 3.9; Goal 6, targets 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6; Goal 7, target 7.2, 7.3 and 7a; Goal 8, target 8.4; Goal 9, target 9.4, 9.5; Goal 11, targets 11.4, 11.6, and 11.a; Goal 12, targets 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7,12.8, and 12.a and 12.c; Goal 13, targets 13.3 and 13.b; Goal 14, targets 14.1 to 14.7, 14.a, 14.b and 14.c; Goal 15, targets 15.1, to 15.9 and 15.b. Goal 16, targets 16.7, 16.8 and 16.b; Goal 17, targets 17.14, 17.15, 17.17 and 17.19) | | |
| UNEP Sub-programme: | Subprogramme 4: Environmental Governance Subprogramme 7: Environment under Review | Expected Accomplishment(s): | EA (b): Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals EA (a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action. Indicator |
| UNEP approval date: | | Programme of Work Output(s): | SB 4: Output 1. Advisory services and capacity development to strengthen institutional capacity and policy and legal frameworks for effectively and inclusively addressing the |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | environmental dimension of Sustainable Development Goals SB 7: Output 5. Capacity development and indicator support to Sustainable Development Goal follow-up and review, including environmental inputs to United Nations reports and policy forums | |
| <i>Expected start date:</i> | January 2018 | <i>Actual start date:</i> | January 2018 | |
| <i>Planned completion date:</i> | December 2021 | <i>Actual completion date:</i> | December 2021 | |
| <i>Planned project budget at approval:</i> | \$608,000 | <i>Actual total expenditures reported as of :30.09.2021</i> | \$ 413,441.95 | |
| | | <i>Actual UNDA grant value:</i> | 502,334.96 (funds returned to UNDA \$105,665.04) | |
| <i>Expected co-financing: EF Funding</i> | \$37,528.41 | <i>Secured co-financing:</i> | \$37,528.41 | |
| <i>First disbursement:</i> | \$608,000 | <i>Date of planned financial closure:</i> | | |
| <i>No. of revisions:</i> | none | <i>Date of last revision:</i> | | |
| <i>No. of Steering Committee meetings:</i> | 6 | <i>Date of last/next Steering Committee meeting:</i> | Last: 23/09/2021 | Next: N/A |
| <i>Mid-term Review (planned date):</i> | n/a | <i>Mid-term Review (actual date):</i> | n/a | |
| <i>Terminal Review (planned date):</i> | 01/01/2022 | <i>Terminal Review (actual date):</i> | 00/01/2022 | |
| <i>Coverage - Country(ies):</i> | Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guyana, Colombia | <i>Coverage - Region(s):</i> | Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean | |
| <i>Dates of previous project phases:</i> | n/a | <i>Status of future project phases:</i> | n/a | |

Introduction

The UNDA 1819Q Project “Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals” aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of four countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia and Guyana) to develop national policies or strategies that include multi-sectoral priorities and build technical capacity to deliver on the

environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in a coordinated and integrated manner. The project implementation phase covers January 2018 to December 2021 and is in its final stages. The original secured budget from UNDA was \$608,000 and cofunding from UNEP EF and Norway (\$37,000). However, due to Covid-19 impacts in 2020 on holding in person capacity building activities, the project resorted to normative technical support and coordination prioritizing activities to support countries to respond to Covid-19 pandemic and recovery efforts related to agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The project management hence returned to UNDA remaining funds for an amount of \$105,665.04 in August 2021.

For countries to be able to achieve the ambitious results of the 2030 Agenda, the attainment of environmental goals is a pre-condition to achieving the 17 sustainable development goals. Therefore, countries need to be well equipped in understanding the environmental dimension of the goals and their linkages with other commitments; they also need to be able to translate this understanding into concrete measures to realize environmental objectives in an integrated manner.

This project aims to promote improved knowledge, understanding and institutional measures for the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with the other organizations will work in 4 countries to:

- Enhance technical capacities of national focal points in relevant ministries, including of development, finance, agriculture, fisheries and environment, to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in a coordinated, integrated and evidence-based manner;
- Enhance technical capacities of national statistical offices to regularly produce comprehensive sets of environment statistics, data and information that integrate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) related data; and,
- Share lessons learned and knowledge acquired by target countries with a wider set of countries through inter and intra-regional networking and cooperation thereby creating the basis of a South-South Cooperation case study on the use of integrated approaches for coherent policy planning and implementation.

This will result in better integration of global environmental objectives into national development and sectoral strategies, policies, and legislation relevant for the implementation and reporting on SDGs.

Considering the central role of MEAs in defining environmental goals, their provisions will inform the technical tools and support provided through this project, which in turn will help the target countries have a wider perspective on the multiplicity of the environmental goals they are called to achieve.

Ultimately, countries will be better equipped to respond to their responsibilities under Agenda 2030, including their capacity to report back at the global level on their progress toward achieving the sustainable development goals.

For countries to be able to achieve the ambitious results of the 2030 Agenda, transformational changes in the way national institutions make decisions, devise policies, legislate, and report on sustainable development issues are needed. Access to accurate information and knowledge, cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination both within and across institutions, as well as more inclusive mechanisms are necessary. The attainment of environmental goals is a pre-condition

to achieving the 17 sustainable development goals. Therefore, countries need to be well equipped in understanding the environmental dimension of the goals and their linkages with other commitments; they also need to be able to translate this understanding into concrete measures to realize environmental objectives in an integrated manner. While countries are committed to stepping up to this challenge, these efforts must be accompanied by the necessary technical skills and tools. Institutional practices and capacities need to evolve so that they are able to address environmental challenges while ensuring an integrated approach that accounts for the linkages between environment and other objectives, including in the economic, health and social spheres.

The specific countries of focus - Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Guyana– have been selected based on a prioritization exercise. Criteria for the selection of countries included: demonstrated progress in the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, existing collaboration with UNEP on SDG related initiatives, and political will. UNEP worked with the countries through its regional offices for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean in collaboration with UNCT and statistics offices, SDG commissions, national and regional organizations, NGOs and scientific entities. After 4 years of project implementation a lot of progress was achieved with UNEP's support.

The project Terminal Review can benefit from the final country case studies developed to assess the impact of the project. Each of the four countries, Guyana, Colombia, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh have opted for a different approach to integrate the environment into sustainable development planning providing guidance and working closely with regional/national offices, national coordination and statistics offices, UNCT's, Resident Coordinators, local institutions, NGOs, academia, and SDGs commissions. During the 4 years many government elections and management changes occurred such as in Guyana, Burkina Faso and Colombia which impacted the project national workplans and alternative approaches needed to be sought with new governments.

In 2020 following Covid-19 outbreak, the UNDA Secretariat allowed project countries to use remaining funds to address Covid-19 related responses in terms of helping the government in addressing socio-economic and environmental related SDGs elements. Guyana, Colombia, and Burkina Faso have initiated desk studies in this regard with remaining budget, based on their priorities, political and socioeconomic circumstances. The workplans had also changed to meet the evolving national needs and respond to Covid-19 pandemic impacts.

In Burkina Faso, despite Covid-19, UNEP supported the decentralization efforts of the government and organized three national/sub-regional capacity building workshops in collaboration with IUCN and UNCT on integrating environmental issues, including targets related to multilateral environmental agreements and the SDGs, into public policy and local planning in February and March 2020. Globally, the pandemic has caused a devastating count of 243,637 deaths and more than 2.8 million confirmed cases as of 04 May 2020. This figure reflected the situation at the time. The pandemic has had a serious economic impact in African countries, including Burkina Faso, damaging the continent's growing middle class, and inducing severe vulnerabilities. The generalized lockdown during many months did not make it possible to the National Administration to adequately handle development processes, including to ensure a continuous implementation of existing development projects and programmes. Consequently, external financial resources intended to finance the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan PNDES could be reduced for the year 2020. Faced with such a situation, UNEP

reached an agreement with the national authorities of Burkina Faso to undertake a diagnostic study of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the national development plan (PNUDES) and the formulation of the PNDES-2 in order to propose workable recommendations for achieving the SDGs by 2030. In particular, the study will assess the COVID-19 impact on the country's potential to ensure integration of environmental sustainability and climate action in national policies and strategies.

In Guyana, with the support by UNEP office in Guyana, the country finalized the integration of environmental elements in the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) and joined the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) initiative led by UNEP. However, due to the change in government, the new administration has discontinued with the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS), which is no longer considered relevant to the new administration's national low carbon policies. In addition, the administration is now reviewing the work of the UN system in Guyana and its process of engagement. This has resulted in delays in the project's implementation, including the PAGE. The revised strategic objective in Guyana is to enhance the capacity of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Guyana Bureau of Statistics on environmental data and statistics, respectively.

The workshops on indicators and data conducted in February and August 2019 demonstrated the need for Guyana to strengthen its environmental statistics. In June 2020, a policy brief was produced for strengthening governance of environmental data and information in Guyana to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the GSDS vision 2040. In view of the situation with the new Government in respect of GSDS policies, the policy brief was updated to consider the Government's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). In 2019, a biodiversity task team was created in the government involving representatives from environmental agencies e.g. the EPA, as well as the Bureau of Statistics, and three meetings were held with this team to focus on biodiversity-related statistics. Remaining budget is redirected to supporting the country on its COVID-19 economic recovery response, and as part of the UN Country Team's Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) – Pillar 4: Macro-Economic Response and Multi-Lateral Collaboration – by integrating the environmental dimension into the national recovery monitoring system and also contributing to the rebuilding of environmental sector data and statistics to improve economic planning. The SERRP was shared with the Ministry of Finance, which leads the SDG work and COVID response in Guyana. The workstream is expected to restart in 2021 following the Government's review of UN system work in Guyana.

In Colombia, the guidelines on environmental responsibilities of municipalities and the SDGs (implemented with the UNEP EF additional funds) was finalized. The project has contributed to the preparation of an ongoing analysis on COVID-19's socioeconomic impact by the UN Country Team in collaboration with Fundacion Natura, focused on deforestation and mining which will be completed in 2021. Colombia has witnessed increased deforestation and illegal economic activities in natural resources due to movement restrictions that limited the presence of authorities in rural areas. But this work has been delayed because there is no clear methodology about how to assess the environmental dimension. UNEP is waiting for the government to release official data on deforestation and air pollution to determine if the environmental trends in the last 9 months could be associated with COVID-19 and to establish their differentiated local impact. LAC Office is also preparing a document for publication in the first quarter of 2021 that examines socioeconomic response and recovery to the pandemic, including the link with Colombia's nationally determined contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030. In addition, UNEP and the Stockholm Environment Institute used the results of the mapping of

interactions among twenty targets, clusters to advance synergies and institutional coordination to implement the SDGs, to further elaborate an analysis of implications for the new National Development Plan, specifically the Pact on Environmental Sustainability. This work was presented in July 2019 in New York, in a workshop on the integrated approach at the margins of the HLPF. Authorities changed in the National Department of Planning, which together with the Ministry of Environment, who acted as main counterparts for the UNEP's regional office in Panama in the project implementation. Only recently was the final SDGs mapping report and the interactions mapping tool transferred to the new government. Colombia now considers launching a platform for more structured stakeholder participation where they view the mapping tool as a way of structuring discussions with stakeholders.

In Bangladesh, UNEP signed an agreement with UNDP Country Office in 2020 on the UN reform, and support the development of Bangladesh's voluntary national review (VNR) and the national SDGs progress report including environmental elements while deepening the joint work on poverty-environment nexus. The experience of supporting the development of VNR in Bangladesh has prompted the Regional Office to engage in all 10 VNRs that are being prepared for 2021 in cooperation with the UN Country Teams. It is envisaged that UNEP will prepare strategic papers containing inputs that can feed into these VNRs, in line with the priorities identified by the UNEP's medium-term strategy. Promoting multi-sectoral cooperation that involves the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and other relevant Ministries would be helpful in accelerating SDGs implementation. UNEP also helped organize interagency meetings that provided training, among others on, SDG indicator 17.14.1 on policy coherence for sustainable development. UNEP and UNDP held a virtual workshop in October 15-17, 2020 during the HLPF/ASC week in Bangladesh to strengthen Generating Data/statistics and policy related integrated approaches focusing on climate change and disaster risk reduction in collaboration with Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). Bangladesh has registered a positive change for 15 out of the 93-environment related SDG through the World Environment Situation Room, where UNEP provides a country summary of all 93 indicators which make up the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

The Law Division worked with the Science Division to roll-out the Policy Coherence for sustainable development tool in the 4 countries and further develop the methodology of SDG indicator 17.14.1 and UNEP's role as the custodian agency in collaboration with OECD and an expert group. UNEP is continuing the work, including the planned publication of a methodology handbook in the first quarter of 2022. The Science Division developed the data drive and questionnaires to collect country data on SDG indicator 17.14.1 and plans to organize a series of information sessions on the methodology in different regions. The Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) for SDGs has been launched in 2020, while online training modules are under development for all SDGs indicators for which UNEP is the custodian.

The Law division is responsible for developing the case studies through an international consultant who was hired for this purpose as well as organizing the interregional workshop held October 26-28, 2021 and e-platforms to share lessons learned. The methodology used for developing the case studies in four distinct short publications is attractive for national and international experts, policymakers, project developers, and anyone interested in SDG implementation. The publications aim to highlight good practices, ideas and innovations which came with the implementation of the project and include recommendations for strengthening implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs. The approaches used, activities and achievements vary by country while some lessons learned are similar among some countries.

The case studies and resources on the integrated approach will be finalized at the Project webpage: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/supporting-2030-agenda/unep-action>. And the interregional meeting documents, presentations, reports and tools will be shared through the meeting website: <https://www.unep.org/events/workshop/interregional-workshop-unda-1819q-project-towards-coherent-implementation>

The implementing partners in the project included Ministries of Environment, planning, finance and economics, and bureaus of statistics in the Governments of Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guyana and Colombia, relevant SDG regional/national offices UNDP, UNCTs, Resident Coordinators, and NGOs working on SDGs such as Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), CEPEI, Fundación Natura in Latin America and IUCN in Burkina Faso and PEI in Bangladesh.

The need for integrated policy making and collaboration has consistently been noted as key for sustainable development well before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda; the fully integrated nature of the sustainable development goals makes this even more critical. However, many countries have limited human resources and technical capacity to perform the complex tasks required to fully implement and report on their international environmental commitments in an integrated manner, in the context of the wider sustainable development agenda.

The project focused on strengthening the capacities of national institutions in Guyana, Colombia, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh towards the coherent and integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental dimension of the SDGs. The integrated approach was applied through enhanced National policies by aiming to including multi-sectoral priorities delivering on the environment in integrated manner. Priority sectors and approaches were selected based on national priorities and needs. The work on national policies was linked to enhanced Environmental statistics and data produced that integrate SDGs and MEAs-related data.

Based on its mandate under UNEA 2/5, to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNEP was requested and enhance its activities in support of the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in various ways, including through national level support to enhance institutional and human capacities and policy and legal frameworks. Therefore, UNEP in collaboration with the United Nations agencies supported the 4 countries to enhance their abilities to entrench environmental priorities and global environmental goals into integrated action to achieve SDGs. Lessons learnt from the experiences of these countries will be shared broadly for the benefit of other countries. At national level it worked closely with UN Country teams and partners through its regional offices. UNEP's strengthen also lies in its custodian role of 25 SDG indicators, and supporting countries in data generation, management and uptake on SDG implementation and how it can be improved. The interest of UNEP is to address data gaps and ways for filling them and the important role of UNEP when it comes to the 25 environment-related indicators for which it acts as the custodian agency

The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean just applied a Covid-19 recovery tracker methodology to countries in the region to get a full picture to which extent the recovery commitments by countries have become a reality. The investment in green recovery options is very low and estimated to be at only around 2% in the region, compared to the global level estimated to be around 19%. A lot of the investment is locking in negative development trajectories. UNEP has a potential for convening stakeholders because it has a high credibility and is perceived to be comparatively neutral.

One of the most significant challenges for environmental data collection, processing, and reporting in Guyana today is the fact that a 'silo' approach is taken in which agencies are not effectively collaborating and sharing data. Some successful ways to mainstream the environmental dimensions of the SDGs across the national policy instruments are: Inter-ministerial collaboration, National advisory councils for Sustainable Development, Increased awareness among agencies about the data that should be collected and reported for the SDGs environmental dimensions, incorporated environmental statistics into bureau of statistics mandate.

The UN reform is a great opportunity for enhancing SDG implementation. The idea of issue-based coalitions can increase coherence of work, including at regional level where interregional cooperation should also be strengthened, and this project is a good example of how this can be done.

The importance of interagency cooperation and coordination and the importance of inclusive communication, going beyond those who are already aware about the environmental dimension. The strength gained from the cooperation with UNDP in Burkina Faso and Bangladesh was an example of how interagency cooperation can amplify efforts.

The project emphasized the importance to work across ministries, particularly with the ministries of economy and finance. Concepts of green growth or green economy need to be part of the Covid-19 recovery. Projects need to have outputs which strengthen institutions even more, and parliamentarians should be involved in such projects. All that will continue to require strong efforts by UNEP on capacity development.

SDGs touch everyone and everything, therefore, the Terminal Review could be beneficial for every country, entity, institution, stakeholder working on SDGs. Based on project, the stakeholders were identified in the original prodoc as follows, however the entities that were involved in the project implementation were less. These final partners are found in the case studies.

Bangladesh: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Bureau of Statistics National Statistical Office (NSO), General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission, Line Ministries related to Agriculture, Forests, Tourism, Fisheries, Gender, etc.

Burkina Faso: Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (SP-CNDD).

Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (including MEA focal points), National Office for Statistics, Economic and Social Council (ESC), Local Authorities and district Assemblies

Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development including national Directorates in charge of State budget and planning, National Assembly (through the Sub-Committee on Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change)

Colombia: President's office and the High Council for Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Statistical Office (NSO), Other members of the National SDG Commission (National Planning Department, Morfa, Move,

Department of Social Prosperity, International Cooperation Agency), Other line ministries, National Environmental Forum (civil society)
National Environmental Network of Sustainable Universities, Chambers of Commerce and private sector associations (such as ANDI – Industry Development National Association)

Guyana: Office of the Presidency – Department of the Environment (DOE), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), The Cabinet and the GSDS inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder advisory committee (Chair: The President and/or the Prime Minister, with representatives of all Ministries, the private sector, labour organizations and other major groups including indigenous peoples, religious organizations and the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, National Statistical Department, National Research Centres and Academic Institutions (such as University of Guyana, IWOKRAMA, Government Technical Institute, Guyana Industrial Training Centre, National Agriculture Research Institute, Institute of Applied Science and Technology). Note the GSDS in the new government was cancelled and overtaken by the old reduced carbon strategy.

Review Purpose

In line with UNDA performance assessment requirements, the UNEP Evaluation Policy²⁶ and the UNEP Programme Manual²⁷, the Terminal Review (TR) is undertaken at completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project. The review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN Environment and [main project partners]. Therefore, the review will identify lessons of operational relevance for future project formulation and implementation.

With a view to ensuring that the review generates evidence that is useful in determining the project's performance and in informing future programming, the review should have a clear plan for utilization of its results. Concrete and actionable recommendations with identified people/position-holders are critical for the review (Table of Recommendations (Annex 4). Clear lessons learned with a potential of replication and of wider application describing the context from which they are derived and those contexts in which they may be useful should also be presented in the review report..

The users of the review results may use the outcomes in formulating the design of follow-up and relevant projects on strengthening the environmental dimension of SDGs through integrated approach tools led by UNEP which are not available yet. This includes designing more results-based theory of change and identifying more concrete areas for action. The users of the review are categorized as follows:

- a) those who have been involved in implementing the project including technical UNEP staff active in similar areas of work in UNEP divisions, Law and Science Divisions and regional offices and heads of branches;
- b) The Policy and Programmes Division who was not directly involved in the implementation of the project, nevertheless being the principle division in UNEP overseeing the SDGs portfolio and the UN Reform, including the Project Review Committee (PRC)

²⁶ <http://www.unep.org/eou/StandardsPolicyandPractices/UNEPEvaluationPolicy/tabid/3050/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

²⁷ http://www.unep.org/QAS/Documents/UNEP_Programme_Manual_May_2013.pdf . *This manual is under revision.*

- c) The UNEP Evaluation Office overseeing the revision of effectiveness of past and future projects
- d) All partners and parties who were expected to participate in, or benefit from, the work, including country focal points in the relevant ministries, NGOs, UN agencies and specialized organizations
- e) other countries in the regions that can benefit from upscaling best practices in SDGs implementation with a focus on the environment and building back better from Covid-19,
- f) Other organisations implementing work with UNDA funding.

Review Scope, Objectives and Questions

4.1 All review criteria will be rated on a six-point scale. The set of review criteria are grouped in nine categories: (A) Strategic Relevance; (B) Quality of Project Design; (C) Effectiveness, which comprises assessments of the attainment of outputs, achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact; (D) Financial Management; (E) Efficiency; (F) Monitoring and Reporting; (G) Sustainability; and (H) Factors Affecting Project Performance. (Those criteria marked in bold are of particular importance to the Development Account.) In addition, the UNDA requires an assessment of a project's performance with regard to: the SDGs, Partnerships, Human Rights and Gender and Innovation.

4.2 The Review will address the following evaluation criteria, in accordance with the UNEG definitions, Norms and Standards (see also Ratings Table in Annex 1). These criteria are common to both UNDA and UNEP:

Relevance: Extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country-needs, global priorities and partners' and donors' policies

Efficiency: Measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time etc) are converted to results. It is most commonly applied to the input-output link in the causal chain of an intervention

Effectiveness: Extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance. Effectiveness assesses the outcome level, intended as an uptake or result of an output.

Impact: Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.

Sustainability: Continuation of benefits from a development intervention after major development assistance has been completed. The probability of continued long-term benefits. The resilience to risk of the net benefit flows over time.

4.3 The following criteria are required by UNEP: financial management; monitoring and reporting and a number of factors affecting performance (see Ratings Table in Annex 1)

4.4 The following criteria are required by UNDA (see also UNDA Project Evaluation Guidelines, Oct 2019):

SDGs: This includes attention to the SDGs and related targets and indicators of those SDGs relevant to the project concerned as well as attention to the principles of 'Leaving no one behind'.

Partnerships: Partnerships typically refer to joint/collaborative implementation of projects among the United Nations Development Account Implementing Entities, other UN agencies as well as sub-regional, regional and global level stakeholders. Direct beneficiaries of projects are not, however, referred to as implementing partners.

Human Rights and Gender Equality: This requires explicit attention to the principles of equality, inclusion and non-discrimination as part of the evaluation. It should consider the specific

vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups including women, youth and children and those living with disabilities.

Innovation: It is important for the Review to pay attention to the extent which, and the ways in which, innovation has been a feature of the project. As with other criteria, this can be done as part of the UNEG evaluation criteria or as a separate criterion.

4.5 The UNEP Evaluation Office can provide, on request, a number of tools, templates and guidance notes that support evaluative work. These can be requested from Cecilia Morales (cecilia.morales@un.org)

From 2020 UNDA requests that two COVID_19 related questions are addressed:

What adjustments, if any, were made to the project as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 situation, and to what extent did the adjustments allow the project to effectively respond to the new priorities of Member States that emerged in relation to COVID-19?

Three of the 4 countries used remaining funds in 2020 to conduct assessments regarding Covid-19 socio economic impacts related to the environment and SDGs. These studies are still underway at the time this document is prepared but will be made available to the Terminal Review. In Burkina Faso: Diagnosis and analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the integration of environmental aspects of Sustainable Development in sectoral policies, Regional Development Plans (PRD) and in Communal Development Plans (PRD) in support of the formulation of PNDES was undertaken. The analysis proposed workable recommendations for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

In Colombia: COVID-19's socioeconomic impact by the UN Country Team is being assessed in collaboration with Fundacion Natura, focused on deforestation and mining.

In Guyana: COVID-19 economic recovery response is being sought by integrating the environmental dimension into the recovery monitoring system. A study is being conducted on Foundations for a post-COVID 19 recovery: Improving cooperation and quality standards for development of environmental statistics in Guyana. The objective is to develop indicators for monitoring whether environmental sustainability is at the heart of post-COVID recovery and rebuilding efforts. The outcome also has relevance for and can be linked to monitoring measures for the UNCT's Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) intended to help Guyana in its post-COVID recovery effort.

How did the adjustments affect the achievement of the project's expected results as stated in its original results framework?

The UNDA project was forth thinking and proactive in adjusting to Covid-19 and this allowed UNEP to plan and rethink its role in strengthening the environment in suitable development. The adjustments of the project shifted the expected results of the project due to the pandemic and impacts on holding face to face trainings and capacity building. However, the challenges posed by COVID-19 were addressed through tailored country needs, flexibility and adaptive management. The project provided support to the Covid-19 response of the partner countries through sustainable development related policy assessments and aiming at healthier environment and human well-being. The project fostered cross-institutional collaboration on data and policies and allowed for testing tools for integrated approaches including by integrating health related SDGs.

Covid-19 recovery is a challenge, also for project implementation because of the shift of resources away from environmental projects. Many environment ministries are highly affected by that, which makes it even more difficult to take an integrated approach. This project has shown

how environment is linked to health and other issues and that each SDG is in fact related to the environment. This is a message to be taken from this project.

UNDA advises that additional COVID-19 sub-questions could include:

1. How relevant were the activities added in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

The activities were carefully selected by the country in close collaboration with UNEP through its Covid-19 support blocks building back better. By supporting the country on its COVID-19 economic recovery response, and as part of the UN Country Team's Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) – UNEP supported the countries through Block Pillar 4: Macro-Economic Response and Multi-Lateral Collaboration – by integrating the environmental dimension into the national recovery monitoring system and also contributing to the rebuilding of environmental sector data and statistics to improve economic planning. The SERRP was shared with the Ministry of Finance, which leads the SDG work and COVID response in Guyana. How coherent with the initial project design are the COVID-19 related activities, added in April 2020? The COVID-19 related activities had to be selected according to country priorities in addressing a dangerous pandemic. The activities were not planned but had to be developed in closed coordination with UNEP Secretariat who was developing its strategy and the country according to the pandemic situation. UNEP needed to coordinate with the UNCT's and other entities and sectors affecting human health in a coherent manner. The funding was directed to support activities built into country socioeconomic impact assessments. The results are not yet known but this project has contributed to the first of its kind studies, whose results will recommend a way forward for UNEP and the countries and sending a strong message to other countries.

2. What were the specific challenges to the COVID-19 expected accomplishment and activities?

Globally, the pandemic has caused a devastating count of 243,637 deaths and more than 2.8 million confirmed cases as of 04 May 2020. This figure reflected the situation at the time. The pandemic has had a serious economic impact in African countries, including Burkina Faso, damaging the continent's growing middle class, and inducing severe vulnerabilities. Colombia witnessed increased deforestation and illegal economic activities in natural resources due to movement restrictions that limited the presence of authorities in rural areas. Additionally, the generalized lockdown during many months did not make it possible to the National Administration to adequately handle development processes, including to ensure a continuous implementation of existing development projects and programmes. Therefore, with studies still assessing more impacts, it is early to give specific challenges but by the time the TR ends in 2022, there will be more results to share by the countries.

3. What are the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 related activities? Could they be replicated?

Through the COVID-19 related restrictions, the possibility of holding virtual meetings and workshops was realized saving on project costs. However, some trainings were not possible due to internet challenges and travel restrictions. While the results of these Covid-19 activities are still pending, lessons can be further derived from the Covid-19 studies which will be made available.

Some analysis was shared by Guyana and can be replicated in other countries:

Because of the COVID shutdown, Guyana's economy continued to be affected through the last quarter of 2020. Real GDP growth in the first half of 2020 was 45.6% largely because of oil and gas production. The impact is particularly evident in Guyana's non-oil economy. Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries are projected to decline in the 2nd half of 2020 by 0.1% - 2.3%, with the largest declines projected for forestry (-11.8% to -15%). But whilst the COVID 19 pandemic will have short and medium-term impacts on growth, it will not fundamentally transform the structure and composition of Guyana's economy, a major part of which will remain heavily dependent upon the extraction or conversion of natural resources. Yet as Guyana aims to capitalise on its new-found oil wealth, and initiate a speedy recovery from COVID, it is currently unable to gather exactly the national environmental statistics that are necessary to understand and manage natural resources. This is the challenge that the UNEP aims to address through the project.

The non-oil extractive sectors depend on the country's natural resource base. While activities are slowed by COVID restrictions and the sectors come to terms with operating in a COVID world, a unique opportunity has arisen for instituting change. Specifically, the time has come to address weaknesses in the systematic collection of environmental data and related statistics management.

The Review may also address up to 6 additional strategic questions. These can be based on the following, or original questions may be posed:

Strategic Questions specific to the project

1. How effective was the integrated approach taken in each country for the implementation of the project to strengthen the environmental dimension of SDGs, useful for other countries to draw lessons from?
2. How did the project enable to strengthen the environmental dimension of national policy instruments and enhance policy coherence at national and subnational levels? How
3. How effective was the project implementation in improving data generation, management and uptake on SDG implementation?
4. How did the project set the pace for the future work on SDG data and policy and enhancing UNEP's role in UN reform?
5. How effective was the project in communicating results to the inner and outer audience through outreach and e-platforms?
6. How did the project make effective use of funds saved during the pandemic to support the countries' recovery responses through SDG implementation?

Methodology of the Review

The full methodological approach to this Review, including the rationale behind the selection of countries to be visited and sampling of respondents for qualitative and quantitative data gathering, will be outlined by the Review Consultant in the Inception Report.

Review findings and judgements should be based on sound evidence and analysis, clearly documented in the review report. Information will be triangulated (i.e. verified from different sources) as far as possible, and when verification is not possible, the single source will be mentioned (whilst anonymity is still protected). Analysis leading to evaluative judgements should always be clearly spelled out.

As this is a summative assessment of performance particular attention should be given to learning from the experience. This means that the consultant needs to go beyond the assessment of "What" the project performance was and make a serious effort to provide a deeper understanding of "Why" and "How" the performance was as it was. This should provide the basis for the lessons that can be drawn from the project.

In attempting to attribute any outcomes and impacts to the project intervention, the consultant should consider the difference between what has happened with, and what would have happened without, the project. This implies that there should be consideration of the baseline conditions, trends and counterfactuals (i.e. similar contexts/places where the project has not been implemented) in relation to the intended project outcomes and impacts. It also means that there should be plausible evidence to link such outcomes and impacts to the actions of the project, or to provide an analysis of the contribution made by the project to the intended change process.

The Review will be carried out using a human-rights based and gender sensitive approach with disaggregation of data and respondents by sex, ethnicity, age, disability and other relevant vulnerability criteria. Ethical concerns and how to address these, including the fact that human rights, gender and the principle of 'leaving no one behind' as part of the review will be guiding principles in how the Review is conducted.

Organisation of the Review

The Terminal Review will be an in-depth review using a participatory approach whereby key stakeholders are kept informed and consulted throughout the review process. Both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods will be used as appropriate to determine project achievements against the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts. It is highly recommended that the consultant maintains close communication with the project team and promotes information exchange throughout the review implementation phase in order to increase their (and other stakeholder) ownership of the review findings. Where applicable, the consultant should provide a geo-referenced map that demarcates the area covered by the project.

6.2 The findings of the review will be based on the following:

A desk review of:

Relevant background documentation, inter alia:

Project document and appendices (UNEP and UNDA ProDocs)

Project design documents (including minutes of the project design review meeting at approval);

Annual Work Plans and Budgets or equivalent, revisions to the project (Project Document Supplement), the logical framework, theory of change and its budget;

Project reports such as annual progress and financial reports, progress reports from collaborating partners, consultant ToRs, SSFAs, meeting minutes, relevant correspondence, terminal project report and any other monitoring materials etc.;

Project outputs: workshop and meeting reports, steering committee meetings reports, concepts, agendas, participants lists, policy papers, briefing notes, info documents, emails, assessments, resources, case studies, tools, guides, methodologies, power points websites, ,

Mid-Term Review of the project;

Interviews (individual or in group) with:

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UNEP Divisions: Science Division collaboration for Component 2 Ludgarde Coppens Ludgarde.coppens@un.org and Dany Ghafari, dany.ghafari@un.org

Policy and Programmes Division collaboration for Component 1 Angela Mwandia, angela.mwandia@un.org

Corporate Services Division, (UNDA Focal Point), Joanne Maina, joanne.maina@un.org

Project partners, including [\[list\]](#); focal points in relevant ministries of environment, planning, finance, economy, agriculture, energy, water..etc, SDG commissions and offices, statistics offices in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guyana and Colombia, UNCTs and RCs, regional/national coordination mechanisms, ministerial bodies, and statistics commissions, UNCT's, Resident Coordinators, local institutions, NGOs, academia, and SDGs commissions and UNDP offices Relevant resource persons; Regional coordinators

Representatives from civil society and specialist groups (such as women's, farmers and trade associations etc). and NGOs Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), CEPEI, Fundación Natura), UNEP Poverty Environment Institute (PEI).

Surveys: Case studies from the four countries

Field visits: None due COVID restrictions

Other data collection tools: The tools that were used to enhance environmental SDGs were tested in the countries to generate new data; these are the Stockholm Environment Institute SEI tool, SDG indicator 17.14.1 methodology tool, The Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) for SDGs.

The consultant will prepare:

Inception Report: (see Annex 2)

Preliminary Findings Note: typically in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, the sharing of preliminary findings is intended to support the participation of the project team, act as a means to ensure all information sources have been accessed and provide an opportunity to verify emerging findings.

Draft and Final Review Report: (see Annex 3)

Table of Recommendations: (see Annex 4)

The consultant will submit a draft report to the Project Manager and revise the draft in response to their comments and suggestions. The Project Manager will then forward the revised draft report to other project stakeholders, for their review and comments. Stakeholders may provide feedback on any errors of fact and may highlight the significance of such errors in any conclusions as well as providing feedback on the proposed recommendations and lessons. Any comments or responses to draft reports will be sent to the Project Manager for consolidation. The Project Manager will provide all comments to the consultant for consideration in preparing the final report, along with guidance on areas of contradiction or issues requiring an institutional response.

The final version of the Review Report will be assessed for its quality by the UNEP Evaluation Office using the guidance in Annex 3 and this assessment will be annexed to the final Terminal Review report.

At the end of the review process, the Project Manager will complete the Recommendations Implementation Plan (see Annex 5) and request their line manager to provide the narrative management response. The uptake of recommendations will be monitored and reported on through the updating of the table at regular intervals.

Tentative schedule for the review:

| Milestone | Proposed dates March 1 2022- June 30 2022 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Inception Report | March 30, 2022 |
| Review Mission | NA |
| Telephone interviews, surveys etc. | April 1-30 2022 |
| PowerPoint/presentation on preliminary findings and recommendations | May 15 2022 |
| Draft Review Report including a clear plan for utilization of the review results to Project Manager | May 30 2022 |
| Draft Review Report shared with UN Environment colleagues | June 15 2022 |
| Draft Review Report shared with wider group of stakeholders | June 20 2022 |
| Final Review Report | June 25 2022 |
| Final Review Report shared with all respondents | June 30 2022 |

The consultant will work under the overall responsibility of the Project Manager Diane Klaimi in consultation with the Fund Management Officer Catherine Karuiru the Head of Unit/Branch Tita Korvenoja and the UNDA representative at UNEP [Joanne Maina].

The consultant will liaise with the Project Manager on any procedural and methodological matters related to the Review. It is, however, the consultant's individual responsibility to arrange for their visas and immunizations as well as to plan meetings with stakeholders, organize online surveys, obtain documentary evidence and any other logistical matters related to the assignment. The UN Environment Project Manager and project team will, where possible, provide logistical support (introductions, meetings etc.) allowing the consultants to conduct the review as efficiently and independently as possible.

The consultant will be hired for 4 months spread over the period [01 March 2022 to 30 June 2022] and should have: an advanced university degree in environmental sciences, international development or other relevant political or social sciences area; a minimum of 5 years of technical / evaluation experience, preferably including of using a Theory of Change approach and a broad understanding of [environmental management and sustainable development]. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this consultancy, fluency in spoken English is a requirement and proficiency in French or Spanish] is -desirable, along with excellent writing skills in English. Working knowledge of the UN system and specifically the work of UNEP is an added advantage. The work will be home-based with possible field visits.

The consultant will be responsible, in close consultation with the Project Manager, for overall quality of the review and timely delivery of its outputs, described above in Section 11 Review

Deliverables, above. The consultant will ensure that all evaluation criteria and questions are adequately covered.

Contractual Arrangements

7.1 Review Consultants will be selected and recruited by the Project Manager under an individual Special Service Agreement (SSA) on a “fees only” basis (see below). By signing the service contract with UN Environment/UNON, the consultant certifies that they have not been associated with the design and implementation of the project in any way which may jeopardize their independence and impartiality towards project achievements and project partner performance. In addition, they will not have any future interests (within six months after completion of the contract) with the project’s executing or implementing units. All consultants are required to sign the Code of Conduct Agreement Form.

7.2 Fees will be paid on an instalment basis, paid on acceptance and approval by the Project Manager of expected key deliverables. The schedule of payment is as follows:

7.3 Schedule of Payment for the consultant:

| Deliverable | Percentage Payment |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Approved Inception Report | 30% |
| Approved Draft Main Review Report | 30% |
| Approved Final Main Review Report | 40% |

7.4 Fees only contracts: Air tickets will be purchased by UN Environment and 75% of the Daily Subsistence Allowance for each authorised travel mission will be paid up front. Local in-country travel will only be reimbursed where agreed in advance with the Project Manager and on the production of acceptable receipts. Terminal expenses and residual DSA entitlements (25%) will be paid after mission completion.

7.5 The consultant may be provided with access to UN Environment’s information management system and, if such access is granted, the consultant agrees not to disclose information from that system to third parties beyond information required for, and included in, the Review report.

7.6 In case the consultant is not able to provide the deliverables in accordance with these guidelines, and in line with the expected quality standards by UN Environment, payment may be withheld at the discretion of the Head of Unit/Branch until the consultant has improved the deliverables to meet UN Environment’s quality standards.

If the consultant fails to submit a satisfactory final product to UN Environment in a timely manner, i.e. before the end date of their contract, UN Environment reserves the right to employ additional human resources to finalize the report, and to reduce the consultant’s fees by an amount equal to the additional costs borne by the project team to bring the report up to standard.

ANNEX VIII. QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE TERMINAL REVIEW REPORT

Review Title:

Towards coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, PIMS ID 02000 and UNDA ID 1819Q (2018 – 2021)

Consultant: José Antonio Cabo Buján

All UNEP/UNDA reviews are subject to a quality assessment by the UNEP Evaluation Office. This is an assessment of the quality of the review product (i.e. Main Review Report).

| | UNEP Evaluation Office Comments | Final Report Rating |
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| Substantive Report Quality Criteria | | |
| <p>Quality of the Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The summary needs to be a stand-alone section of maximum of four pages that is able to inform decision-making Needs to include <u>short</u> overview of the project, the purpose, scope and objectives of the review and the intended users Provide <u>key aspects</u> of the methodology and its limitations <u>Summarize</u> key findings, conclusions and recommendations and lessons learned | <p>Final report: Key elements of the project are presented. The key findings focus on Effectiveness, other evaluation criteria could have been mentioned. The responses to the strategic questions are not presented.</p> | 4 |
| <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brief overview of the project, including key parameters (e.g. two/three sentences on timeframe, funding envelope, geographic scope and objective) as well as the DA implementing entity(ies) and other collaborating UN entities/agencies Background to the review, including the reason for the review and the time frame of the review <p>Purpose and objectives of the review, and the primary users/audiences</p> | <p>Final report: The introduction presents all the necessary information.</p> | 5 |
| <p>Description of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background Project context, including the issues addressed by the project and the relevant key social, political, economic, demographic and institutional factors. Project objectives and expected accomplishments/results Project objectives and expected accomplishments (EAs) that were included in its results framework. Provide sufficient details on changes, if any, that were made to the project objectives and/or EAs during implementation, and the reasons for the changes. <i>Note that the project results framework should be included in the annexes.</i> Project strategies and key activities Actual project strategies and key outputs and activities, including any significant changes that were made during implementation, and the reasons | <p>Final report: The project strategies and key activities are not detailed (activities are only listed in Table 4 with no narrative).</p> | 4 |

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| <p>for those changes. The project strategy should include an explanation of how the project was designed to contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as the realization of human rights, with an emphasis on “leaving non one behind”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries and target countries Describe the project’s beneficiaries and target countries and/or regions. • Key partners and other key stakeholders Key partners (DA implementing entities, other collaborating UN entities/agencies and non-UN organizations, and national and/or local governments), and their roles in the project. • Resources Project budget (approved DA funding) and other human, financial and/or in-kind contributions (e.g., XB, RPTC and other resources that were mobilized by the implementing entities to support the project). For in-kind contributions, provide an estimated financial value, if available. • Link to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Key SDG targets the project intended to address. • Innovative elements (if applicable) DA projects are designed to help test new and innovative development approaches, allowing successful ideas to be scaled up and replicated broadly. If and as applicable, describe the specific new methodology and/or theory that was applied in the project. | | |
| <p>Review scope, objectives and questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and objectives Purpose and objectives of the review, the intended users/audiences, and the expected use of its results by each user/audience. In line with the DA Evaluation Framework, reviews are designed to promote both accountability for results and learning. Elaborate on how the review findings are expected to be used by the intended users/audiences to support each of these objectives, including on how the review report is planned to be disseminated to its intended audiences, and any knowledge gaps which the review was intended to help address. As currently designed, the primary users of the DA project reviews are the implementing entities themselves. In addition, the findings of the relevant 11th tranche project reviews will feed into the planned programme-level evaluation of the DA’s response to COVID-19, scheduled to be launched in late 2022, for which the primary users/audiences include the DA Steering Committee, the DA Programme Management Team and the management of the DA implementing entities. • Review scope, criteria and questions If the review involved reducing the scope (e.g., geographical coverage) and/or did not cover all the | <p>Final report: The necessary elements are presented.</p> | <p>5</p> |

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| <p>mandatory criteria for review reports (i.e., relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, and efficiency), explain the specific reasons (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic, which involved the travel restrictions and/or created the need to reduce burdens on stakeholders, adverse security conditions in participating countries).</p> <p><u>Note that the review TORs and the review matrix should be included in the annexes.</u></p> | | |
| <p>Methodology of the Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The methodological approach and rationale, including methods for data gathering and analysis and data sources (including stakeholder groups interviewed and/or surveyed disaggregated by gender, and if applicable, by special country designation, e.g., least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states), data availability and reliability • Sampling strategy for qualitative and quantitative data (primary and secondary) collection methods (e.g., surveys, interviews, field visits), and, if applicable, response rates • If applicable, the criteria used to select countries for field visits or in-depth assessments • Ethical standards applied, and if applicable, ethical concerns and how they were handled • How gender and human rights perspectives were integrated in the data collection methods and tools, and the data analysis techniques • Limitations to the methodology and how they were addressed <p><u>Note that the data collection instruments used for the review (e.g., interview guides, survey questionnaires), the list of individuals interviewed and the list of documents consulted should be included in the annexes.</u></p> <p><u>Note:</u></p> <p>Efforts to include the voices of different groups, e.g vulnerable, gender, marginalised etc) should be described.</p> <p>Ethics and human rights issues should be highlighted including: how anonymity and confidentiality were protected and strategies used to include the views of marginalised or potentially disadvantaged groups and/or divergent views. E.g. <i>‘Throughout the review process and in the compilation of the Final Review Report efforts have been made to represent the views of both mainstream and more marginalised groups. All efforts to provide respondents with anonymity have been made’</i></p> | <p>Final report:</p> <p>Table 6 and Annex I are not consistent: Table 6 mentions 34 people consulted while Annex I lists 20 people. Annex I seems to have omitted the Project Team and the Project partners. There is also limited information on how the beneficiaries were consulted and who they actually are (Training recipients and outcome implementors).</p> | <p>4</p> |

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| <p>Theory of Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagram of the Theory of Change with narrative description of the way in which change is expected to happen and how the project will contribute to the change, including identification of contributing conditions (those within the sphere of influence of the project = <i>drivers</i>; those outside the project's sphere of influence = <i>assumptions</i>) • Check that the project's effect on equality (i.e. promoting human rights, gender equality and inclusion of those living with disabilities and/or belonging to marginalised/vulnerable groups) has been included within the TOC as a general driver or assumption where there was no dedicated result within the results framework. If an explicit commitment on this topic was made within the project document then the driver/assumption should also be specific to the described intentions. | <p>Final report: The TOC is now consistent with the Project objectives and expected accomplishments/results section presented above. Despite feedback being given, the TOC seems to be mainly based on Assumptions and Drivers developed for in the TOC at design. Besides, these assumptions and drivers are not assigned to a results statement level (outputs to outcomes, outcomes to IS, IS to impact). The reflection on the reformulation or on additional assumptions and drivers could have been deeper. The same goes for the reformulation of the impact and Intermediate states.</p> | 4 |
| <p>Findings (substantial section of the Review Report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the review findings in relation to the review criteria and questions, as defined in the review TORs, with supporting evidence (organized by review criteria (See Annex 1 in the TOR)). Only the findings supported by sufficient evidence should be presented, reflecting systematic and appropriate analysis and interpretation of the data, and not subjective judgements of the review consultant. • Data analysed should be presented in a gender-disaggregated manner, as much as possible and when there are significant differences between genders. Gender analysis should be reflected in the findings. | <p>Final report:</p> | |
| <p>NOTES TO SUPPORT THE REVIEW REPORT ASSESSOR</p> | | |
| <p>Findings by Review Criteria</p> <p>A. Strategic relevance: This section should include an assessment of the project's relevance in relation to UN Environment's mandate and its alignment with UN Environment's policies and strategies at the time of project approval. An assessment of the complementarity of the project with other interventions addressing the needs of the same target groups should be included. Consider the extent to which all four elements have been addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alignment to the UNEP MTS, POW and Strategic Priorities 2. Alignment to UNDA Strategic Priorities 3. Relevance to Regional, Sub-regional and National Environmental Priorities 4. Complementarity with Existing Interventions Coherence | <p>Final report: This section meets minimum requirements</p> | 4 |
| <p>B. Effectiveness (i) Outputs and Project Outcomes: How well does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and</p> | <p>Final report: Limited details are given to the different outputs (number of participants to the</p> | 4 |

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| <p>evidence-based assessment of the achievement of a) outputs, and b) direct outcomes? How convincing is the discussion of attribution and contribution, as well as the limitations to attributing effects to the intervention.</p> <p>The effects of the intervention on differentiated groups, including those with specific needs due to gender, vulnerability or marginalisation, should be discussed explicitly.</p> | <p>workshops, gender ratio, etc). The evidence/sources of information are most of the time missing. Efforts have been made to assess the achievements of outcomes, even though there is no discussion of attribution and contribution, as well as the limitations to attributing effects to the intervention. Whereas "COVID-19-related cancellation of activities meant that some project funds were not executed" is mentioned in the Efficiency Section, there is no mention of such canceled activities in the availability of outputs section. The rating of the Achievement of outcomes needs to be reconsidered. Indeed all the outcomes are rated as Partially Achieved but the rating given in Satisfactory.</p> | |
| <p>(ii) Likelihood of Impact: How well does the report present an integrated analysis, guided by the causal pathways represented by the TOC, of all evidence relating to likelihood of impact?</p> <p>How well are change processes explained and the roles of key actors, as well as drivers and assumptions, explicitly discussed?</p> <p>Any unintended negative effects of the project should be discussed under Effectiveness, especially negative effects on disadvantaged groups.</p> | <p>Final report: This section meets minimum requirements.</p> | 4 |
| <p>C. Financial Management This section should contain an integrated analysis of all dimensions evaluated under financial management. And include a completed 'financial management' table. Consider how well the report addresses the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>adherence to UNEP's financial policies and procedures</i> • <i>completeness</i> of financial information, including the actual project costs (total and per activity) and actual co-financing used • <i>communication</i> between financial and project management staff and | <p>Final report: Financial data for Colombia and Guyana are aggregated in Table 19, which is not explained. Besides, since limited information are given about the canceled outputs, the financial data presented are hard to understand.</p> | 4 |
| <p>D. Efficiency To what extent, and how well, does the report present a well-reasoned, complete and evidence-based assessment of efficiency under the primary categories of economic efficiency, timeliness and partnerships including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of delays and no cost extensions • Time-saving measures put in place to maximise results within the secured budget and agreed project timeframe • Discussion of making use of/building on pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. | <p>Final report: The different elements of the efficiency criterion could have been more detailed but are understood properly. For instance, more details could have been given about the Connect Biodiversity or SUNRED projects. Sources of evidence are still missing.</p> | 4 |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which the management of the project minimised UNEP's environmental footprint. | | |
| <p>E. Monitoring and Reporting How well does the report assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring design and budgeting (<i>including SMART indicators, resources for MTE/R etc.</i>) Monitoring implementation (<i>including use of monitoring data for adaptive management</i>) Project reporting (<i>e.g. PIMS and donor report</i>) | <p>Final report: This section meets minimum requirements.</p> | 4 |
| <p>F. Sustainability How well does the review identify and assess the key conditions or factors that are likely to undermine or contribute to the persistence of achieved direct outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio-political Sustainability Financial Sustainability Institutional Sustainability (<i>including issues of partnerships</i>) | <p>Final report: Limited evidence is presented to assess the sustainability of the project.</p> | 3 |
| <p>G. Cross Cutting Issues To what extent, and how well, does the review report cover the following cross-cutting themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Development Goals Human Rights and Gender Equality Environmental, social and economic safeguards Communication and public awareness | <p>Final report: The covered cross-cutting themes are very briefly discussed.</p> | 4 |
| <p>Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements beyond the level of the individual review questions that are grounded in the analysis of the findings. They can be at the level of the review criteria or at the level of across criteria and related to cross cutting issues and provide added value to the findings <p><i>Note that the conclusions should reflect the consultant's professional, evidence-based opinion in relation to the main review questions and add value to the review results.</i></p> | <p>Final report: The overall rating of the project is missing in the narrative.</p> | 4 |
| <p>Lessons learned/Good practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of lessons that were learned in the implementation of the DA project and that are useful beyond the context in which they were learned, with sufficient substantiation to be of use to people who do not know the project A number of good practices that were tried out and produced results and that can be of use beyond the context in which they were tried out, with sufficient substantiation for these to be of use to people who do not know the project | <p>Final report: The template for Lessons Learned was not used which limits the use to people who do not know the project.</p> | 4 |
| <p>Recommendations</p> | <p>Final report:</p> | 4 |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of five to seven clear, practical, feasible and actionable recommendations directed to the intended users of the review and supported by the evidence presented in the Findings section around key questions addressed by the review. <p><i>Recommendations should identify the users/stakeholders to whom they are addressed to and should include responsible agency/agencies, time frame and aspects of implementation in order of priority</i></p> | <p>Recommendations follow the proposed template and are actionable.</p> | |
| <p>Report Structure and Presentation Quality</p> | | |
| <p>i) Structure and completeness of the report: To what extent does the report follow the UNEP/UNDA guidelines? Are all requested Annexes included and complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Stakeholder Comments (where appropriate) • List of individuals interviewed • List of documents consulted, including references • Detailed results framework of the project • Review Matrix • Data collection instruments/tools • TOR for the Terminal Review | <p>Final report: UNEP/UNDA guidelines were not fully followed. All the requested Annexes are included.</p> | 4 |
| <p>ii) Quality of writing and formatting: Consider whether the report is well written (clear English language and grammar) with language that is adequate in quality and tone for an official document? Do visual aids, such as maps and graphs convey key information? Does the report follow UNEP formatting guidelines?</p> | <p>Final report: There are many tables in the report with limited narratives explaining them.</p> | 4 |
| <p>OVERALL REPORT QUALITY RATING</p> | | 4.1 |

A number rating 1-6 is used for each criterion: Highly Satisfactory = 6, Satisfactory = 5, Moderately Satisfactory = 4, Moderately Unsatisfactory = 3, Unsatisfactory = 2, Highly Unsatisfactory = 1. The overall quality of the review report is calculated by taking the mean score of all rated quality criteria.