

# PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS FOR 10<sup>TH</sup> AND 11<sup>TH</sup> TRANCHE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Project Title</b>       | Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe |
| <b>DA Project Code</b>     | 1819AE.   |
| <b>Executing Entity</b>    | UNECE   |
| <b>Reporting Period</b>    | 03/18 – 12/18   |
| <b>Implementation Rate</b> | 4.7%  |
| <b>Important Issues</b>    | -   |

## 1. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

The project began slowly but consultants to support the implementation have now been recruited and all national focal points nominated, so implementation is expected to accelerate in 2019. National focal points have been officially nominated in four target countries (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). For Bosnia and Herzegovina, four focal points were nominated which represent the current division of environmental responsibilities in the country.

Four international consultants have been recruited to carry out activities related to EA1 “Enhanced national capacities of the selected countries of South-East Europe to assess the most critical aspects and priority needs in their environmental governance and policies”. (a) Reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from environmental performance reviews (EPRs) vis-à-vis SDGs and targets and (b) need assessments for Albania, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were drafted and submitted to the UNECE secretariat.

## 2. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

Table 1 – Review of Performance Indicators

| Expected Accomplishment   | Indicator of Achievement at the start of the project (T0)  | Indicator of Achievement at the time period considered (T1) <sup>1</sup>  | Comments   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>EA1:</b> Enhanced national capacities of the selected countries of South-East Europe to assess the most critical aspects and priority needs in their environmental governance and policies.</p>   | <p><b>IA 1.1:</b> Five target countries identified policy gaps between current conditions and desired achievement of relevant SDGs</p> | <p><b>A1.1:</b> Develop five (one per target country) reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets</p>  | <p>Three reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets and need assessments are drafted, but not yet reviewed by the Secretariat (Albania, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). One is currently in preparation (Serbia).</p> |
|   |  | <p><b>A1.2:</b> Undertake need assessments (one per target country) to determine and address gaps identified in the reviews between current conditions and desired achievements of relevant SDGs;</p>   |  |
|   |  | <p><b>A1.3:</b> Organise five (one per target country) workshops to present and validate the results of the reviews and needs assessments;</p>  |  |
| <p><b>EA 2:</b> Increased national capacities of the selected countries of South-East Europe to develop and integrate evidence-based coherent environmental policies into sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies aimed at contributing to the achievement of relevant SDGs and</p> | <p><b>IA 2.1:</b> Five target countries developed and endorsed priority national action plans/policy packages based on the EPRs.</p>   | <p><b>A 2.1:</b> Develop national action plans/policy packages for implementing recommendations coming from EPRs in line with relevant SDGs in the five beneficiary countries in consultation with inter-ministerial coordination groups;</p> | <p>Will be reported later</p>  |
|   | <p><b>IA 2.2:</b> Five target countries presented reports on the</p>   | <p><b>A 2.2:</b> Organize five national validation workshops to review</p>  | <p>Will be reported later</p>  |

<sup>1</sup> Projects in their first year of implementation (11<sup>th</sup> tranche) are exempt from providing information in this column if it is difficult to provide estimates due to the projects short implementation period.

|              |  |  |                        |
|--------------|--|--|------------------------|
| 2030 Agenda. | implementation of<br>SDG-related<br>recommendations<br>resulting from the<br>EPRs.   | the respective national<br>action plans/policy<br>packages with inter-<br>ministerial<br>coordination groups<br>and relevant<br>stakeholders and<br>discuss their<br>implementation;   |                        |
|              | <b>IA 2.3:</b> 80 per cent of<br>recommendations<br>from EPRs either<br>implemented or<br>incorporated into<br>national action<br>plans/policy packages<br>based on the national<br>priority needs | <b>A 2.3:</b> Organise<br>subregional policy<br>seminar to exchange<br>experience on<br>implementation of<br>national action<br>plans/policy packages;   | Will be reported later |
|              |  | <b>A 2.4:</b> Organise<br>concluding subregional<br>event to present an<br>overview of the<br>environmental<br>challenges in the<br>South-East Europe<br>region, share best<br>practices and discuss<br>follow-up of the<br>national action<br>plans/policy packages<br>aligned with the<br>implementation of the<br>2030 Agenda at all<br>levels. | Will be reported later |

Table 2 – Review of Activities and Status

| Activity  | Activity Status  | Comment   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>A1.1:</b> Develop five (one per target country) reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i><br>---<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i> | <i>In progress</i><br><br>Reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets (Albania, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) were submitted the secretariat. One is currently in preparation (Serbia).<br><br><i>Not yet started</i><br><br>The activity related to Bosnia and Herzegovina will start in spring 2019. |

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|---|---|--|
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| <p><b>A1.2:</b> Undertake need assessments (one per target country) to determine and address gaps identified in the reviews between current conditions and desired achievements of relevant SDGs;</p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p> | <p><i>In progress.</i></p> <p>To ensure that the needs assessment builds on and logically follows from the reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets, need assessments for Albania, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were submitted the secretariat. One is currently in preparation (Serbia).</p> <p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activity related to Bosnia and Herzegovina will start in spring 2019.</p> |
| <p><b>A1.3:</b> Organise five (one per target country) workshops to present and validate the results of the reviews and needs assessments;</p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p>            | <p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A1.3 will start after the finalization of A1.1 and A1.2.</p>   |
| <p><b>A 2.1:</b> Develop national action plans/policy packages for implementing recommendations coming from EPRs in line with relevant SDGs in the five beneficiary countries in consultation with inter-ministerial coordination groups;</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i></p>            | <p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A2.1 will start after A1.3, where the countries will decide on their national action plans/policy packages.</p>  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>A 2.2:</b> Organize five national validation workshops to review the respective national action plans/policy packages with inter-ministerial coordination groups and relevant stakeholders and discuss their implementation;</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i><br>---<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i> | <p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A2.2 will start after the drafting of national action plans/policy packages.</p>                    |
| <p><b>A 2.3:</b> Organise subregional policy seminar to exchange experience on implementation of national action plans/policy packages;</p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i><br>---<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i> | <p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A2.3 will start after all national action plans/policy packages are validated by the countries.</p> |
| <p><b>A 2.4:</b> Organise concluding subregional event to present an overview of the environmental challenges in the South-East Europe region, share best practices and discuss follow-up of the national action plans/policy packages aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i><br>---<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i> | <p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A2.4 will start after the completion of A2.3 activities.</p>  |

### 3. CHALLENGES/PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

**Table 3 – Challenges and Actions**

| Description of challenge   | Action(s) taken to solve the issue, if any   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b><br/> Context: Environmental competences are mostly in the entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska) and Brčko District. However, competencies related to international environmental agreements and processes are managed at the State level. The country nominated four national focal points: one for each entity (2), one for Brčko District and one at the state</p> | <p>An agreement was reached with the Assistant Minister at the State level to start activities related to IA 1.1 (A1.1 and A1.2) in spring 2019.</p> |

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|---|--|
| level. This setting requires more logistics, since a date to start activities has to be agreed by four national focal points and ECE. |  |
|   |  |
|   |  |

#### 4. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING

Table 4 – Financial Leveraging

| Donor | Purpose | Amount raised |         |
|-------|---------|---------------|---------|
|       |         | Cash (USD)    | In-Kind |
|       |         |               |         |
|       |         |               |         |
|       |         |               |         |

#### 5. REVISIONS

*No revisions have been made to the project.*

**[NEW, FOR FIRST PROGRESS REPORT (T11) ONLY] For 11<sup>th</sup> tranche projects, if the financial implementation rate is below 5%, please use this section to elaborate on how project implementation will be expedited to ensure that the project will be on track to achieve results and utilize 100% of the funds by end of 2021.**

The EPR Programme published three EPR and carried out two EPRs in 2018. This did impact the other tasks including the project implementation. The EPR Programme is now back to a cruise speed and the UNDA project has a priority in the EPR team. The EPR team expects to conduct more UNDA project activities in 2019 to compensate the lack of activities related to the UNDA project in 2018.

#### 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The project was presented to the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Review.

## 1. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Implementation Rate (%) 4.7 %

= Total Expenditure (D)/Total Budget (A)

| Object Class | Description   | A. Budget/Allotment (as per project document) (USD) | B. Revisions to allotments (if any) (USD) | C. Explanations of revisions to allotments (USD) | D. Total Expenditure (USD) |
|--------------|---|---|---|--|----------------------------|
| 015          | Other staff costs - <i>General temporary assistance</i>   |   |   |  |                            |
| 105          | Consultants and experts                                   | 152,000   |   |  | 20,000                     |
| 115          | Travel of staff   | 95,000  |   |  |                            |
| 120          | Contractual services                                      | 24,000  |   |  |                            |
| 125          | General operating expenses                                | 34,000  |   |  |                            |
| 130          | Supplies and materials                                    |   |   |  |                            |
| 135          | Furniture and equipment                                   |   |   |  |                            |
| 145          | <i>Workshops / Study tours</i> (Grants and contributions) | 165,000   |   |  | 2,083.41                   |
|              | Total   | 470,000   |   |  | 22,083.41                  |