

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

ANNEX 4 – PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	October – December 2012
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DESCRIPTION

ENRTP Priority	This project contributes directly to Expected Result 4 of the SCA (related to ENRTP Priority 3 – Support for Mainstreaming) : Enhanced environmental mainstreaming into development policies, planning and decision making.	EC Directorate General	DEVCO
Programme of Work	Disasters & Conflicts		
Project's Title	Promoting Improved Ecosystem Management in Vulnerable Countries for Sustainable and Disaster-Resilient Development		
Location	Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America & Caribbean Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Sudan		
Total duration	36 months		

Responsible Entity	DEPI / Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Muralee Thummarukudy
EC Project Manager	Jozias Blok

Date of EC Approval:	October 2012		
EC Allocation (EUR):	€2,500,000		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	November 2012		
Amount (USD)	\$3,333,333	Exchange Rate:	USD 1 = €0.75
Total Expenditures (USD)	\$182,565	Total Expenditures (EUR)	€136,924

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Summarize: i) the status of implementation of the project at the time of reporting (global overview on the project implementation since its start); ii) progress towards achieving the project's objectives; iii) performance remarks and highlights.

The project was officially approved by the EU on October 2012. The project was scheduled to begin in July 2012 but as the approval process, both within UNEP and EC took additional time, implementation started only in late October. The project is currently on track by the end of the reporting period (December 2012), with all key milestones achieved.

This reporting period focused on kick-starting country-level activities in each of the four pilot countries. Field-based demonstration activities are being further developed and finalized with national/local collaborating partners and implementing institutions. Preparations for the National Trainings on Ecosystem-based DRR for Sustainable Development in each of the four countries were also initiated. Global-level engagements involved strengthening and working with key partnerships to support collaborative initiatives.

Key highlights during this reporting period are as follows:

1. The Project inception workshop was held in November 2012 with all field project coordinators from Sudan, DR Congo, Afghanistan, and Haiti. Field project concept notes were presented and reviewed. The inception workshop aimed to establish a unified understanding of the overall Project objectives, scope, expected results and outputs and ensure coordination between the Geneva-based DRR team and field project coordinators.
2. A key component of the project is strengthening global partnerships on Eco-DRR. UNEP worked with the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) to formalize PEDRR membership guidelines and develop action plans for promoting Eco-DRR globally and regionally in the period 2013-2015. UNEP is also collaborating with the Center for Natural Resources and Development (CNRD) and the Global Universities Partnership for Environmental Studies (GUPES) in rolling out a Master's Elective Course on Eco-DRR.
3. UNEP is directly engaged in the development of a UN-wide Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction. UNEP has provided direct inputs and participated in the initial drafting of the UN Plan of Action on DRR, emphasizing the importance of investing in disaster prevention and utilizing integrated approaches (such as ecosystem-management solutions) to achieve disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

Summarize main implementing challenges, if any, and strategy/actions which have been adopted to address them. List potential risks (internal and external) that may jeopardize the implementation of activities and/or the achievement of outputs and outcomes; please explain which actions have been planned to mitigate the identified risks.

Despite a delay in the project approval process, the project has been able to deliver on its key milestones. The project team anticipated the delay and therefore focused on achieving a set of milestones that could be delivered on time. Also, the project team began implementing a number of activities – e.g. developing field project concept notes, undertaking country risk profiles, and organizing the PEDRR Retreat – while the project approval process remained ongoing.

The Project team in Geneva continues to regularly monitor the local security situation in each of the four pilot countries. Local security risk during the reporting period has remained relatively stable. One major constraint is gaining access to the field project site in North Darfur, Sudan, with long delays in obtaining permits. The Sudan field coordinator anticipated the delay and applied several months in advance; permission has now been granted and a field visit is scheduled in end of March 2013.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Provide for each outcome listed in the project document the description, the indicator, progress made/result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only).

Outcome Description	Indicator	Progress Made/Result Achieved during current reporting period
1. Ecosystem-based DRR approaches integrated into national development policies, plans and programmes in order to maximize combined outcomes for disaster reduction, adaptation to climate change related risks, livelihood resilience and	Number of countries supported by UNEP that have incorporated ecosystem-based DRR measures as a component of their national development plans and/or programmes. Target: 4 countries	Each of the pilot countries have initiated preparations for conducting the National Training on Ecosystem-based DRR with the view to influence national-level dialogue on key issues related to Eco-DRR, e.g. the national water policy, integrated watershed

<p>sustainable development</p>		<p>management and integrated coastal zone management. National trainings will take place in second quarter of 2013, with the exception of DR Congo which will most likely take place in September 2013 due to conflicting schedules.</p> <p>In addition, the project team is exploring additional countries to deliver National Trainings on Eco-DRR, where UNEP is undertaking major ecosystem management and/or climate change adaptation projects (e.g. Nepal, Uganda).</p>
<p>2. Strengthened institutional capacities and partnerships, at national, regional and global level (including south south exchanges) to catalyze action and result in ecosystem-based DRR programmes or initiatives (sound environmental management for hazard mitigation and vulnerability reduction)</p>	<p>Ecosystem-based DRR programmes and initiatives are implemented through regional and global cooperation Target: 4 new initiatives on Eco-DRR developed and implemented at regional and/or global levels</p>	<p>Initial contacts and consultation meetings have been undertaken with the aim of catalyzing cooperation/collaboration with other regional and/or global networks to undertake Eco-DRR initiatives. These include consultations with UNISDR Regional Offices (Africa and Asia-Pacific), Climate and Development Knowledge Network, Center for Natural Resources and Development (CNRD), Global Universities Partnership for Environmental Studies (GUPES), Partners for Resilience, Global Climate Change Alliance.</p> <p>During this reporting period, 1 new initiative between the CNRD and GUPES networks has been established to develop and roll-out the Master's Elective Course on Eco-DRR targeting universities around the world for mainstreaming across various Masters Programmes. The Master's Course on Eco-DRR will be formally launched at the World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) in Morocco in June 2013.</p>

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Provide for each output listed in the project document the description, indicators and progress made/any result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only)

Provide brief information on main activities undertaken; reason for modifications of planned activities (if applicable) and list of activities which were planned but not implemented, explaining the reasons.

Kindly include as annexes, any supporting documents which can be provided to the donor as means of verification for each of the outputs achieved and other relevant activities' documentation (if files can be downloaded, please provide below the link).

Output Description	Indicators	Progress made/results during current reporting period
<p>A) Field-based demonstration initiatives are conducted in 4 vulnerable countries (Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and DR Congo) to demonstrate Ecosystem-DRR linkages</p>	<p>Number of case studies/pilot projects completed that apply ecosystem-based approaches/interventions for DRR</p> <p>Target: 4</p>	<p>Each of the four pilot countries has developed project concept notes describing project objectives, scope and range of proposed field interventions.</p> <p>These project concept notes have been developed based on existing UNEP knowledge and building on UNEP activities in these countries, in consultation with key stakeholders in-country (government partners, local NGO partners, etc).</p> <p>A monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework template has also been developed to support pilot countries to assess their progress and expected changes/results/impacts as well as document lessons learned.</p> <p>The next reporting period will focus on finalizing the scope of field interventions and the MEL frameworks tailored towards each country.</p>
<p>B) Enhanced institutional and technical capacities at national, regional and global levels to implement Eco-DRR initiatives /projects</p>	<p>Percentage of trainees who demonstrate marked improvement in their understanding of and ability to apply Eco-DRR concepts and practices, according to training evaluations and surveys</p> <p>Target: 80%</p>	<p>UNEP initiated French translations of the National Training Course on Eco-DRR to facilitate delivery in Haiti and DR Congo. Both the French and English versions of the Training Course will be packaged and disseminated at the ISDR Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in May 2013.</p> <p>UNEP is working with CNRD and GUPES to formally launch the Master's Course on Eco-DRR and deliver a training session geared towards University Instructors at</p>

		<p>the World Environmental Education Congress in June 2013.</p> <p>UNEP is also working to upload the National Training Evaluation form as well as the Master's Course Evaluation form into an on-line platform (i.e. survey monkey) to facilitate quick synthesis of evaluation results and establish a centralized database.</p>
<p>C) Awareness raised on Eco-DRR concepts and practice at global and regional events targeting DRR, CCA and Ecosystem Management communities</p>	<p>Number of policy and outcome documents from global and regional fora with direct UNEP engagement that include references to promoting integrated ecosystem management and DRR approaches</p> <p>Target: 5 policy or outcome documents from regional and global fora</p>	<p>UNEP has directly engaged in the development of the UN-wide <i>Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience</i>. This Plan of Action aims to mainstream disaster risk reduction across all UN programmes, funds and specialized agencies. UNEP has been supporting UNISDR and been involved in the initial drafting stages of the Plan of Action, emphasizing the importance of reducing underlying drivers of risk (such as ecosystem degradation) and investing in integrated solutions (such as ecosystem-based solutions) to reduce risk.</p> <p>UNEP is also working together with the PEDRR Advocacy Group (IUCN, TNC and WWF) to develop policy advocacy briefs that will be used in key fora related to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction.</p>
<p>D) Knowledge products on Eco-DRR developed and disseminated widely to a global and national audience</p>	<p>Number of implementation guidelines and toolkits on Eco-DRR developed: Target: 4</p> <p>Increased media coverage on Eco-DRR. Target: 10 media articles or public references to Eco-DRR linked to UNEP-supported events or activities</p>	<p>UNEP has initiated work with an international consultant to develop National Guidance on Mainstreaming Eco-DRR in National Development Planning.</p> <p>A Literature review on the cost-effectiveness of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction is also underway, with the view to propose initial guidance on how to undertake economic assessment of ecosystem services for disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>UNEP has developed a template</p>

		<p>for developing country environment and disaster risk profiles, which will be used to develop profiles for all 4 pilot countries. The aim is to then share the template and influence how international donor agencies (e.g. World Bank, EU) undertake country profiling in vulnerable countries.</p>
<p>E) Partnerships working on Eco-DRR at national, regional and global levels are established and strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of national-level partnerships established to work on Eco-DRR: Target 4 (one in each UNEP pilot country) - Number of new Eco-DRR collaborative initiatives/activities (workshops, brown bag lunches, literature reviews, discussion papers, etc) undertaken with other partnerships and networks at regional and/or global levels. Target: 4 new initiatives at regional and/or global levels 	<p>UNEP convened a 2-day strategic planning retreat with the Partnership on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), of which UNEP is a core and founding member. 11 out of 14 partners were able to attend the meeting held at IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. The retreat resulted in the formal approval of PEDRR membership guidelines and establishment of a small secretariat to be housed in UNEP and IUCN offices. This retreat also laid the groundwork for UNEP's global and regional advocacy and capacity building efforts, which will be undertaken in collaboration with PEDRR partners in order to leverage on each other's resources and expertise and widen PEDRR's influence and impact.</p> <p>A list of key global and regional fora (for 2013-2015) where UNEP together with partners can promote Eco-DRR has been developed (to be updated on a continuous basis).</p> <p>Collaborative activities being planned include a PEDRR international workshop on Eco-DRR (for 2014), rolling-out of Master's Course on Eco-DRR through GUPES network and other regional/global university networks, and regional trainings on Eco-DRR (e.g. Pacific region).</p>

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Provide: i) any remark on the overall budget based on the financial report for the current reporting period; ii) indicate if there is a delay in spending the funds, please clarify reasons; iii) mention resources to be mobilized yet, if any; ii) additional resources leveraged by UNEP and/or partners as a result of the project

Project funds have been operational as of first week of November 2012. Expenditures only reflect activities undertaken between November-December 2012. The recruitment of international consultants commenced during the reporting period, with starting dates in January 2013 (and is therefore not reflected in the present expenditure report). The recruitment of the Project Coordinator (P3, Geneva) was initiated but there has been a delay; a project management consultant has therefore been recruited through UNOPS Geneva during the interim period.

UNEP is also collaborating with other partners to leverage additional resources, for instance in rolling-out the Master's Course and planning national and regional trainings.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

Summarize: i) activities scheduled – including any key milestones*¹ and lead responsibilities; ii) main outputs to be achieved in the upcoming reporting period and iii) forecast of expected expenditures.

(i) Activities scheduled

Output Description	Milestones
A) Field-based demonstration initiatives are conducted in 4 vulnerable countries (Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan and DR Congo) to demonstrate Ecosystem-DRR linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks for each pilot country Finalized economic assessment methodology for each pilot country based on the proposed field interventions Completed baseline assessments for each pilot country – including general country profiling (and capacity assessments), community baseline assessments and remote sensing baseline analysis Completed partnership agreements and contracting agreements to implement field activities Implementation of field activities initiated in at least 2 pilot countries
B) Enhanced institutional and technical capacities at national, regional and global levels to implement Eco-DRR initiatives /projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of National Training on Eco-DRR in Haiti, Afghanistan and Sudan by June 2013; Preparations for delivery of training in DR Congo on September 2013 National Training identified in one other additional country where UNEP is implementing climate change adaptation / ecosystem management projects Awareness-raising session on Eco-DRR conducted with Regional Coordinators of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Database on all trained trainers and participants on Eco-DRR established and training evaluations uploaded to an on-line platform
C) Awareness raised on Eco-DRR concepts and practice at global and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement in key regional/global fora related to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and/or the post-2015

¹ A milestone is not equal to a summation of tasks or activities. Rather it represents the achievement of a feasible project management stage and be strictly answerable as yes or no answer.

<p>regional events targeting DRR, CCA and Ecosystem Management communities</p>	<p>framework on disaster risk reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raised on Eco-DRR at the ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2013) through PEDRR side events, high level panel discussions and a marketplace booth; Launching the PEDRR book entitled “The Role of Ecosystems in Disaster Risk Reduction”, and the PEDRR National Training on Eco-DRR • Awareness raised on mainstreaming Eco-DRR in education at the World Environment Education Congress (June 2013), targeting universities from around the world ; Launching the Master’s Course on Eco-DRR • Continuing to engage in the finalization of the UN Plan of Action on DRR • Development of concept notes on a Regional Training on Eco-DRR in the Latin American & Caribbean Region and Pacific Region
<p>D) Knowledge products on Eco-DRR developed and disseminated widely to a global and national audience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review on the economic valuation of ecosystem-based DRR completed • Country environment and disaster risk profiles for each of the pilot countries completed
<p>E) Partnerships working on Eco-DRR at national, regional and global levels are established and strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of policy advocacy briefs developed for UNEP and its partners to use in different global/regional fora related to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction and climate change agenda • Establishment of a PEDRR Secretariat supported by UNEP and strengthening of PEDRR’s communication links to social media • Development of concept note on PEDRR’s 2nd International Workshop on Eco-DRR • Additional collaborative initiatives with other global partners/networks outlined

VISIBILITY:

Describe communication, visibility and outreach activities undertaken at project level, if any.

UNEP finalised the project brochure and is now developing a communications strategy to more effectively disseminate the project’s main messages, achievements and lessons learned and reach a wider audience. This will include revamping the UNEP DRR website, undertaking production of short video clips in each of the pilot countries as an advocacy and teaching tool, and establishing links with social media through PEDRR networks. A database of UNEP/PEDRR contacts will also be established for targeted dissemination of publications, event announcements and other related communications. UNEP will strive to have all communication materials translated into local languages where UNEP is undertaking pilot projects. French translations of materials (including training materials) have been completed and are being formatted for printing.

FINAL REMARKS:

Describe: i) lessons learned during project design and implementation; ii) stakeholder participation and level of engagement/satisfaction; iii) where applicable, outline any links and synergies developed with other projects; iv) main issues and recommendations for the attention of the donor; v) overall observations on project performance and whether the projects has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

Despite initial delays in the project approval process, the project remains on track in delivering against specified milestones. One of the main reasons for this is the considerable amount of investment UNEP has already placed in cultivating, supporting and collaborating with other global partners and networks. Also, the decision to work in the four countries where UNEP is physically present has made it relatively easy to identify field-level activities and potential partners. The start-up phase of the project therefore has taken place relatively quickly and smoothly.

Overall, there is high level of interest and support being expressed by PEDRR partners to continue working with UNEP in advancing the Eco-DRR agenda in global and regional fora. The main challenge will be to select the most strategic set of engagements both at global and regional levels where UNEP and PEDRR's impact can be multiplied faster and wider.

UNEP will continue to explore and build synergies with other partners and networks and begin to identify concrete collaborative opportunities in 2013.

ANNEXES:

Please list supporting documents included as annexes, if any.

1. Eco-DRR Project Brochure (English version)
2. National Training on Eco-DRR brochure (English version)
3. Master's Elective Course on Eco-DRR brochure
4. PEDRR membership guidelines and Action Plans (2013-2015)

UNEP/MEA Project Manager: Muralee Thummarukudy

Signature: _____

Date of Submission: _____

13 March 2013