

Turkey

Improvement Plan

Thematic window: Environment and Climate Change

Programme Title: Enhancing the Capacity of Turkey to Adapt to Climate Change

**JOINT PROGRAMME IMPROVEMENT PLAN
AS OF
APRIL 2011**

Evaluation Recommendation No. 1

Place greater emphasis on MDG 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) and MDG 1 (eradicate extreme poverty), addressing in this way the UN core value of focusing on the most vulnerable groups, which are also the most vulnerable to climate change.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

A special session was dedicated to the discussions on “gender perspective in the grant projects” in second grantees meeting of the CBA Grants Programme in Seyhan River Basin. Experts from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department of Women Farmers, and UNEP Expert Ms. Nuran Talu participated and made presentations on “climate change and gender” which was followed by a discussion session with the grantees.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Ensure application of concrete gender equality practices and involve strategic partners, e.g. related NGOs in NAS processes, experts on gender mainstreaming and relevant expertise existing in UN network	Till the end of JP	JP Core Team	The team is already evaluating the outcomes of the JP in general, and the grants programme with special emphasis on MDG1 and MDG3. A meeting with UNFPA was held and their experiences were discussed	ON-GOING		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 2

Ensure that the communications strategy of the JP not only shares the experiences and lessons of the JP, but also focuses heavily on communicating and promoting the MDGs.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

All the UN Agencies in the country are already focusing on communicating MDGs. The added value that we can bring to these efforts is to look at the MDGs with a climate change (adaptation) perspective.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Climate change (adaptation) messages will be linked to MDG related information in the communications activities of the JP.	Till the end of JP	ESD Programme Communications Expert	-	ON-GOING		

The Communications Strategy will also document best practices and experience in synergizing with other related projects.	Till the end of JP	ESD Programme Communications Expert		ON-GOING		
Evaluation Recommendation No. 3						
<p>Improve M&E frameworks (both the overall framework as well as that of the Grants Programme) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Focusing more on impact-oriented indicators (not only on deliverables and products) so as to enable gauging the impact of the JP related to the stated outcomes and on the MDGs, ii) Ensuring that the right expertise is involved in technical monitoring of the grants projects to ensure they achieve their objectives and do not have unintended negative environmental consequences, and, iii) Ensuring the JP receives credit where due for the positive impacts resulting from the JP, including those that may not have originally been envisaged. 						
Response from the Joint Programme Management						
Recommendations are welcome						
Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Ensure applying impact-oriented indicators (so as to enable gauging the impact of the JP related to the stated outcomes and on the MDGs)	Till the end of JP	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert	-	The issue was discussed with Patrick Gremillet, Management Practice Coordinator UNDP, Europe and the CIS, Bratislava Regional Centre. Recommendations were received and necessary actions are taking place.		
Involve technical expertise from partner UN Agencies and other institutions (NGOs, Universities, Research Institutions and similar) in technical monitoring of the grants projects to ensure they achieve their objectives and do not have unintended negative consequences if any	Till the end of Grants Programme implementation, including post-grant program evaluation	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert	Already FAO expertise is used for monitoring agriculture related Grants Projects	COMPLETED		

Develop new set of indicators to ensure that JP receives credit where due for the positive impacts resulting from the JP, including those that may not have originally been envisaged.	Till the end of JP, including post-grant programme evaluation	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert	-	An independent evaluation is being carried out for the whole Grants Programme, and the recommendation will be considered for the final reporting of JP		
Ensure inclusion of new indicators by final reporting period.	Before the final reporting period	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert		ON-GOING		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 4

Ensure grant activities supported by the JP do not have unintended negative environmental impacts.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The issue has been looked into and it has been concluded that there is no negative environmental impact.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Involve FAO in the technical monitoring of the agricultural grants	Till the end of Grants Programme implementation including post-grant program evaluation	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert	Already FAO expertise is used for monitoring agriculture related Grants Projects	COMPLETED		
Involve more biodiversity/ecological expertise, when necessary, in the monitoring of grant projects	Till the end of Grants Programme implementation, including post-program evaluation	JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert	-	COMPLETED		
Involve socio-economical expertise, when necessary, in the monitoring of grant projects	Till the end of Grants Programme implementation, including post-program evaluation	JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert	-	COMPLETED		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 5

There are numerous NGOs in Turkey with environmental expertise, and their participation on the PMC and TAC and in the technical monitoring and backstopping of some of the grants should be encouraged.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

A catalogue of all relevant NGOs is available and these NGOs are consulted regularly.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Consult PMC for invitation of NGOs, when necessary.	Till the end of JP	JP Manager	Issue was discussed with PMC and when necessary involvement of NGOs as resource bodies will be considered.	COMPLETED		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 6

Even though no further grants will be given during the JP, it is important to modify the existing criteria for grants selection and for technical monitoring to ensure that it serves as the best model possible (especially because the MoEF has indicated its interest in adopting the model).

Response from the Joint Programme Management

When compared to the existing criteria of UNDP CBA Project (related document can be found on http://sdnhq.undp.org/gef-adaptation/projects/websites/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=206), 28 different evaluation parameters used for Grants selection are considered adequate. Believing that there is always room for improvement, it should be noted that these criteria were developed by thoroughly reviewing and adapting the SGP, EU, UNDP and other donor agency guidelines and criteria. More specific reference by the Evaluator to the statement of a need for modification of existing criteria for grants selection will be highly appreciated.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Criteria used for Grants evaluation will be discussed with MoEF experts.	Till the end of JP.	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert	Issue will be discussed with MoEF	ON-GOING		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 7

The best practice would be to require formal written technical reviews (following a standard outline) from all TAC members reviewing grant proposals.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

Minutes of meeting with detailed comments on each grants proposal by TAC members exists, and can be submitted to the Secretariat, if required. JP Team did not understand why there is such a recommendation.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
No action considered.						

Evaluation Recommendation No. 8

Greater field presence in the pilot area by JP team members, especially the Regional Project Coordinator, the M&E Expert for the Grants Programme, and the Communications Strategy Coordinator. The Regional Project Coordinator should be based in Adana (instead of Ankara).

Response from the Joint Programme Management

It is believed that this recommendation should be re-visited by the Evaluator and the Secretariat.

The issue of having RPC in Adana was discussed with the evaluator (stating solid logical justifications to her), reminding the fact that RPC is not solely responsible for grants but also other UNDP activities like the work with ITU, capacity building and public awareness activities, early warning pilot study, strategy processes, as well as relations with non-JP institutions like WHO, World Bank, etc. beyond the context of the JP PRODOC. Additionally the RPC provided and will provide support to the National Adaptation Strategy development process, which is coordinated by UNEP. The evaluator should also mention this fact, we believe. Additionally, as almost 50% of the Grants Projects' life cycles have passed and we reached the stage to discuss with MoEF and other national/regional authorities the next steps and replication of the program in other areas, permanent residence in Adana doesn't seem to be logical and feasible. Also as the Basin is more than Adana, keeping the impartiality is essential in our relations with particularly government partners in Kayseri and Niğde. Plus, logistically the driving distance from Adana to Pınarbaşı is 6 hours (7.-5 hours from Pınarbaşı to the lagoons where Bird Research Society is implementing its grant project at the outlet of Seyhan River), as we experienced together with the evaluator, and driving to Kayseri from Ankara is 3 hours. Moreover travel time from Ankara to Adana is 1 hour by plane.

The JP team did not have any difficulty in communicating and working with these institutes, and will not have any difficulty in the future. Please note that there are two other provinces and two more development agencies in the Basin, besides Adana.

Contradictory to the recommendation, but in line with abovementioned facts, on page 21 of the Evaluation Report, the Evaluator states that "It is, however, recognized that the RPC will continue to be based in Ankara (where he is) as he is not solely responsible for grants but also other activities like the work with ITU, capacity building and public awareness activities, early warning pilot study, strategy processes, as well as relations with non-JP institutions like WHO, and the World Bank. Additionally the RPC provided and will provide support to the National Adaptation Strategy development process to feed the lessons learned on the ground into the national strategy which is coordinated by UNEP. "

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Sufficient presence in the field will be ensured by the JP Team	Till the end of JP	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert, Communications Expert	In total 230 man/day monitoring visits were held to the Seyhan River Basin	COMPLETED		
Evaluation Recommendation No. 9 Greater presence of the JP Manager in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.						
Response from the Joint Programme Management Recommendation is welcome.						
Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
JP Manager will make the MoEF his base of operations for at least part of the regular work week.	Till the end of JP	JP Manager	Every Monday, a staff meeting is organized at MoEF Climate Change Department and JP Manager participates, and will spend additional time at MoEF premises till the end of JP	The Climate Change Department of MoEF has moved to a new office space and a cubicle for 4 project staff from all UN(DP) climate change related projects/programmes is made available. Thanks to this development, greater presence will be ensured.		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 10

Stronger partnerships between several UN agencies and Ministries.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The Joint Programme team makes regular presentations to UN agencies updating them on the ongoing activities. The JP team also shares all relevant materials with stakeholders and counterparts.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Closer communications will be established between UNIDO, TTGV and MoIT	Till the end of JP	UN Agency focal points and JP Manager	A joint mission to Seyhan River Basin was held with MoIT experts	ON-GOING		
Closer communications will be established between FAO and MARA	Till the end of JP	UN Agency focal points and JP Manager	There are increased number of joint meetings and workshops	ON-GOING		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 11

Find ways of ensuring true joint initiatives between UN agencies participating in this joint programme.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

Partner agencies already cooperating and supporting each others' activities e.g. evaluation and selection of grant projects, numerous joint meetings at national and Seyhan Basin level, strategy development process as well as capacity building activities

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
UNDP and FAO to collaborate in the grants programme (currently managed exclusively by UNDP) in the area of technical monitoring of the agricultural grants (which form a large part of the whole grants programme).	Till the end of Grants Programme implementation, including post-program evaluation	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, M&E Expert, FAO focal person	Already FAO expertise is used for monitoring agriculture related Grants Projects	COMPLETED		
All UN Agencies will support the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) Process (currently managed exclusively by UNEP)	Till the end of JP	JP Manager, UN Partner Agencies focal persons	Already active participation to NAS processes taking place	ON-GOING		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 12

Ensure Outcome 4 is revised significantly to reflect realities and to ensure that it represents a truly strategic approach, or discard it altogether.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

Climate change has already been integrated into the 2011-2015 United Nations Development Cooperation Strategy (UNDCS).

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Recommendation will be discussed with the RC Office and UNCT to identify if there is a need for adopting any measures.	October 2010	JP Manager	-	-		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 13

Encourage more private sector involvement in the JP.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

One of the components of the Joint Programme is implementing pilot projects on water use efficiency with the private sector. In this sense the private sector is involved in the JP. The results of these studies are also shared with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Disseminate the outcomes of UNIDO pilot projects on water-use efficiency in Seyhan River Basin for attracting the interest of private sector	Till the end of JP	JP Manager, JP Regional Project Coordinator, UNIDO Coordinator		ON-GOING		
Inviting key private sector representatives to NAS process	Till the end of JP	JP Manager, UNEP Coordinator		ON-GOING		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 14

The JP should adopt a catalytic role in helping (thru its grant project and thru its communications strategy) to open the door to UN agencies and others that could help to follow up in the longer-term on working with local partners and communities to achieve the MDGs in the tent village communities which represent some of the most vulnerable populations in the country.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

Recommendation is welcome

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Seek opportunities for involving partner and non-partner UN Agencies to the on-going work in Seyhan Basin	Till the end of JP	JP Manager	With the leadership of RC, first steps taken to involve UNICEF, WHO and ILO to the work carried out targeting tent villages.	ON-GOING		
Invite Prof. Dr. Fatih Köksal from the Çukurova University Tropical Diseases Research and Application Centre to prepare a concept project for a mobile school facility in the tent villages. Also include the British Council in this initiative.	Till the end of JP	JP Team				

Evaluation Recommendation No. 15

Regarding the PMC:

- (a) Encourage more active participation by PMC members
- (b) Consider holding PMC meetings in the MoEF instead of in the UN House
- (c) Include the SPO, an environmental NGO and a representative of a women's group on the PMC
- (d) Invite the Foreign Relations Department of the MoEF to be an observer at PMC meetings
- (e) Ensure the natural disaster element of the JP is adequately represented on the PMC

Response from the Joint Programme Management

Recommendations will be shared with PMC in the first PMC Meeting

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
Carry these recommendations to PMC and ask for endorsement/approval	First PMC Meeting	JP Manager		APPROVED COMPLETED		

Evaluation Recommendation No. 16

Rename the so-called "environment information management system" (EIMS) to reflect what it is really intended to be (portals, network). The same applies to the "eco-efficiency center".

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The "names" are changed, but the recommendation on "reflecting what these really intend to be" needs to be clarified by the Evaluator, as the Terms of References of the EIMS and the Center are very explanatory to the counterparts.

Key actions	Time frame	Person responsible	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
"Environment Information Management System" is renamed as "Climate Change Information Management System" and no further action will be taken.			-	After further discussions, the name of the EIMS is revised as Flood and Drought Information Management System		

<p>The formal name of the “eco-efficiency center” is “National Eco-efficiency and Clean Production Center”, same with various examples developed by UNIDO worldwide, and no further action will be taken.</p>				COMPLETED		
---	--	--	--	------------------	--	--