MONITORING REPORT FOR THE LEARNING GRANT FOR ARMENIA
July 8, 2024 – January 8, 2025

Date submitted to AFB Secretariat: January 7, 2025
Implementing Entity: "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" State Agency of the Ministry of Environment
Country: Republic of Armenia
Adaptation Fund Grant I.D: N/A
Grant Type: Learning Grant
Project Title: LEARNING GRANT (Support for capturing and disseminating practical lessons from adaptation interventions in Armenia)
Project Description: Project aims to collect, structure, and disseminate knowledge, transfer practical solutions to local communities through strengthened capacity of EPIU related to innovative land, water, and forest management strategies in the view of adaptation to climate change in Armenia. Integral to this mission is the assimilation of insights from two pivotal EPIU-implemented projects funded by the Adaptation Fund.
Project Sector: Knowledge and learning

Project activities performed within the reporting period	
Formation of project staff	a) a project coordinator has been selected, b) a specialist was selected, who is responsible for collecting the results and best practices of 2 projects financed by the AF, drafting the prototypes of the matrix, the knowledge collection guide, the Atlas and the communication strategy, organizing discussions on the prorotypes with stakeholders to build up the ToRs for respective procurement procedures, c) a specialist in "Collection, analysis of scientific studies on adaptation to climate change, development of training plans" was selected.
Development of a work plan and implementation schedule	The project coordinator and specialists developed a work plan and implementation schedule (Annex 1). The work plan and implementation schedule were initially discussed with the staff of the "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" State Agency and revised based on suggestions.
Project Inception workshop	The Project Inception workshop of the project was organized on July 24, 2024. The workshop was attended by 14 participants from the Ministry of Environment, the National Agrarian University of Armenia, the Armenian State University of Economics, as well as the "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" State Agency. The participants of the workshop mentioned that the program is up-to-date, because the level of awareness in the marzes is very insufficient regarding the many programs and scientific developments being implemented.
Development of technical tasks	a) "Mapping of actors including gender factors, interests of vulnerable groups and communities, development and implementation of a curriculum for knowledge exchange within the framework of 2 programs financed by the Adaptation Fund". b) "Design the guideline for gathering information". c) "Gathering insights and practical knowledge from stakeholders, practitioners and beneficiaries on two projects funded by the Adaptation Fund through interviews and field visits",

	d) "Development of a communication strategy and action plan as part of the Atlas to strengthen the capacity of EPIU SA". e) Concept drafts for the matrix format and selection rationale (A1.D1), information collection guide (A1.D4), Atlas and communication strategy (A3.D1) were developed to clarify through discussion the best options that would form the basis for the development of the terms of reference, the purchase request and for the organization of tenders for the procurement of these works.

Proposed Learning Activities	Task	Expected output of the activities	Progress (include completion Date "month & year"[1])	Comments/Explanation (also explain any deviation from initial plan)
A1. Identify, collect and systemize scientific knowledge and lessons learned related to adaptation measures implemented within the framework of 2 implemented AF-funded projects, as well as local knowledge, good practices and farmers adaptation strategies form selected Armenian provinces.	Task A1.1. Develop comprehensive matrix to include specific sections for knowledge and innovative solutions derived from the Artik City project and the project focusing on communities adjacent to "Khosrov Forest" and "Dilijan" National Park. This matrix will continue to cover climate change adaptation in water, soil, forest management, and crop production in a systematic manner.	A1.D1. A comprehensive matrix incorporating specific learnings from the Artik City project and the project focused on communities near "Khosrov Forest" and "Dilijan" National Park.	In progress	Multiple matrix formats were developed by the project staff and discussed with EPIU SA staff. The option approved by all was selected (link) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J598kJS7G2wkCJfCT1e3uYyqky35DGDV/view?usp=sharing The rationale for the selection was presented (link). https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1B6lHHcTzjVheceIve_hfufLKEPesdzor/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103225713585379764258&rtpof=true&sd=true The relevant sections of the matrix are continuously updated with information on the 2 projects financed by the Adaptation Fund. In particular, the following reviews were carried out within the framework of the "Strengthening land-based adaptation capacity in communities adjacent to protected areas in Armenia" project: · Creation of alternative incomes for the population, improvement of living conditions and reduction of anthropogenic pressure on the environment, · Sustainable management of water resources, · Increasing adaptation of natural and agricultural ecosystems to the negative consequences of climate change,

				· Repair of inter-field roads and construction of watering points in pastures. Within the framework of the "Artik city closed stone pit waste and flood management" pilot project, the following reviews were carried out: · Improvement of degraded agricultural landscapes, · Prevention of floods, · Increasing the adaptability of the quarry landscape, · Strengthening and disseminating knowledge on adaptation measures. Other information on adaptation is regularly collected, developed and will supplement the relevant sections of the matrix.
	Task A1.2. Extend the identification process to include units within the selected universities and other relevant institutions that have directly or indirectly contributed to or learned from the two AF-funded projects, alongside their ongoing climate change adaptation measures.	A1.D2. A comprehensive list of identified university units and other stakeholders with direct involvement or influence from the AF-funded projects.	In progress	The following works are performed by the project specialist: a) Exploring the peculiarities of the studies related to adaptation to climate change by the 3 universities included in the project or the participation in the 2 projects financed by the AF. b) Collecting information about universities and scientific institutions that participated in Adaptation Fund projects or are related to adaptation activities. c) Identification of specific units (faculties, institutes, centers) that are involved in climate change adaptation projects. d) Studying research, programs and other initiatives through websites and other available means. e) Identifying the participation of relevant specialists, lecturers and researchers in adaptation programs through surveys and meetings.

				f) Coordinating, analyzing and summarizing the collected results about the programs implemented by the institutions or related to them. The specialist submitted 3 reports on the work carried out. 5 university institutions and 10 scientific centers have been singled out, the work of which is related to adaptation problems to a greater or lesser extent.
	Task A1.3. Establish communication channels between the identified universities units in order to collect scientific studies, reports, publications, or any relevant documentation.	A1.D3. Expanded contact information and communication channels encompassing stakeholders from the AF-funded projects.	In progress	The following works are performed by the project specialist: a) Organization of discussions with selected universities, other institutions and their divisions in order to clarify the channels of information collection and exchange.

Task A1.4. Design the guideline for gathering information to specifically focus on insights, practices, and strategies inspired by the learnings from the AF-funded projects, while also maintaining the collection of local knowledge from selected provinces.	A1.D4. A guideline and the list of identified actors in the selected provinces.	In progress	The project specialist developed the concept of information collection guide reference (link) . https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xWwpvcu 77Uv7nWNZy0- 8pOLfc2AKRIKm/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=1032257 13585379764258&rtpof=true&sd=true The discussion of the concept of the information collection guide with the staff of the Project and the EPIU SA is ongoing. A questionnaire for collecting information has been developed (Link). https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WjeKsG4hsy 3bnsuz81jcQh- fhsRxx8Ve/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=1032257135853 79764258&rtpof=true&sd=true The content orientation of the questionnaire has also been developed (Link). https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HRmuObI _dNZO- m9bG2FAoD8nVpYknp73/edit?usp=sharing&ouid= 103225713585379764258&rtpof=true&sd=true
Task A1.5. Conduct interviews and field visits, with a particular emphasis on extracting insights and practical knowledge from stakeholders, practitioners, and beneficiaries who have been part of or influenced by the two AF-funded projects.	A1.D5. Well-rounded compilation of documentation, case studies, reports, and research results, emphasizing learnings from the Artik City project and the project near "Khosrov Forest" and "Dilijan" National Park, alongside other relevant materials.	Not started	

	Task A1.6. Populate the matrix with all gathered knowledge, ensuring that insights from the AF-funded projects are distinctly highlighted alongside other best practices		In progress	Currently, the matrix is supplemented only on the basis of the analysis of existing documentary materials.
A2. Initiate a collaborative learning process to specifically include steps and timelines for integrating key insights from the AF-funded 2 projects. Establish a platform for the exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned.	Task A2.1. Develop a collaborative learning plan and outline the steps and timeline for integrating and validating lessons learned from the implementation of 2 AF-funded projects and experience-based information into a synergic content package.	A2.D1. A detailed learning plan, incorporating integration strategies for lessons from the AF-funded projects.	Not started	
	Task A2.2. Mapping of actors by having gender consideration and concerns of the most vulnerable groups and communities to design the knowledge/content atlas.	A2.D2. An extended actors' map, now including participants and stakeholders from the AF-funded projects.	Not started	
	Task A2.3. Engage identified actors and establish a multidisciplinary facilitated platform for the systematic exchange and collaborative learning between the actors representing		Not started	

	project beneficiaries, universities and experts.			
	Task A2.4. Collaboratively analyse the gathered research results and experience-based information to identify suitable solutions as well as key findings and trends. Identify knowledge gaps and determine areas where additional research or information is needed to enhance the collective understanding.		Not started	
A3. Develop an Atlas for adaptation to climate change in Armenia agriculture which provides an overview of innovative solutions, successfully piloted within the framework of 2 AF-funded projects, related to the climate change adaptation in the fields of water, soil, forest management	Task A3.1. While developing the Atlas, incorporate tailored-made factsheets that not only address farmers, researchers, and decision-makers but also specifically highlight the innovative solutions and best practices derived from the 2 AF-funded projects. These factsheets aim to boost the impact and implementation of the gathered knowledge, with a strong emphasis on applicability in rural areas.	A3.D1. The Atlas, which now includes a comprehensive Communication Strategy for EPIU, enriched with dedicated sections on the learnings and best practices from the 2 AF-funded projects.	In progress	A prototype of the Atlas was developed by a project specialist and is currently being discussed with all stakeholders (link). https://drive.google.com/file/d/176GN8Q3UGJ7j3n2OlqdUuLL7_PERLCDC/view?usp=sharing

and crop production.				
	Task A3.2. In strengthening the capacity of EPIU, develop a specific Communication Strategy as part of the Atlas. This strategy should not only deliver knowledge and innovative solutions to farmers in selected rural areas but also emphasize how the learnings from the AF-funded projects can be applied to enhance climate adaptation in Armenia. The strategy should facilitate EPIU's endorsement and dissemination of these insights to key stakeholders.		In progress	A prototype of the Communication Strategy has been developed by the project specialist, which is currently being discussed with all stakeholders (Link). communication Collage .pptx - Google Презентации:
A4. Organize dissemination events and field days to showcase 2 AF-funded projects' best practices and success stories to practitioners and workshops to exchange experiences and present the information about adaptation to climate change	Task A4.1. Utilize the enriched Atlas, which includes dedicated sections on learnings and best practices from the 2 AF-funded projects, to organize four dissemination events in each province (eight in total). These 8 2-day events are aimed at farmers, women, youth, experts, municipal decision-makers and other practitioners, focusing on practical applications of the knowledge and solutions highlighted in the Atlas. Each event will target one of the mentioned groups (farmers and practitioners, with specific focus on women inclusion; youth; researchers and experts; decision makers and policy influencers) and will include	A4.D1. Detailed lists of participants and comprehensive event agendas for each dissemination event, workshop, and round-table discussion, ensuring that each session is tailored to effectively convey the integrated knowledge from the Atlas, including the insights from the 2 AF-funded projects.	Not started	

for researchers and decision-making actors.	in its agenda a day for round table discussions, exchange of experience on best practices, and a field day, which will involve a visit to AF-funded project sites to illustrate the results of best practices' implementation on the ground. The first day of each event will be built on the basis of a target group-specific approach considering the group's knowledge and experience with the discussed topics. It is envisaged to provide the inclusiveness of the dissemination events via inviting the representatives of the targeted groups from the neighbouring regions, which together with the targeted regions often complain about poor engagement in climate change related projects. For this purpose among others it is planned to exploit diverse methods of participant engagement – official municipal channels, connections of the partnering universities, public call, etc. Among deliverables of the activity: · a report will be developed summarizing the outcomes of the implementation of dissemination events, which will be further circulated via respective platforms, university pipelines, etc.			

	· 2 videos (one per region) will be developed showcasing the messages, outcomes of both the project and dissemination events, that will be further broadcast on television.			
	Task A4.2. Organize a scientific interdisciplinary workshop for researchers and experts from partner universities, as well as the broader academic community. This workshop will specifically emphasize the integration of insights from the 2 AF-funded projects into current academic and research endeavours. Task A4.3. Conduct a round-table discussion for relevant decision-makers. This session will present and discuss the information from the Atlas, with a special focus on the policy implications of the adaptation strategies and lessons learned from the 2 AF-funded projects in the context of climate change in Armenia.		Not started	
	Task A4.2. Organize a scientific interdisciplinary workshop for researchers and experts from partner universities, as well as the broader academic community. This workshop will specifically emphasize the integration of insights from the 2 AF-funded projects into current academic and research endeavours.		Not started	

	Task A4.3. Conduct a round-table discussion for relevant decision-makers. This session will present and discuss the information from the Atlas, with a special focus on the policy implications of the adaptation strategies and lessons learned from the 2 AF-funded projects in the context of climate change in Armenia.			
Overall comment on progress	The work of the first 6 months can be considered effective. The project staff has created sufficient foundations for the timely and high-level implementation of the activities envisaged by the project. In this regard, we highlight the development of working drafts of the matrix, the information collection guide, the Atlas and the communication strategy. This gave us the opportunity to organize discussions between both the team and EPIU staff. These discussions were effective and the options that will be the basis for the technical task, the development of the purchase request and the organization of tenders for the acquisition of these works were clarified. The rapid development of the final versions of the information collection guide and communication strategy will enable the implementation of several program outcomes. The rapid creation of a platform for gathering and disseminating knowledge is also emphasized, as a result of which it will be possible to inform as many members of the public as possible about adaptation programs and results.			

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"Learning Grant for Armenia"

WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

A1. Identify, collect and systemize scientific knowledge and lessons learned related to adaptation measures implemented within the framework of 2 implemented AF-funded projects, as well as local knowledge, good practices and farmers adaptation strategies form selected Armenian provinces.	
Task A1.1. Develop comprehensive matrix to include specific sections for knowledge and innovative solutions derived from the Artik City project and the project focusing on communities adjacent to "Khosrov Forest" and "Dilijan" National Park. This matrix will continue to cover climate change adaptation in water, soil, forest management, and crop production in a systematic manner.	August 2024 - December 2024
Task A1.2. Extend the identification process to include units within the selected universities and other relevant institutions that have directly or indirectly contributed to or learned from the two AF-funded projects, alongside their ongoing climate change adaptation measures.	August 2024 - January 2025
Task A1.3. Establish communication channels between the identified universities units in order to collect scientific studies, reports, publications, or any relevant documentation.	August 2024- February 2025
Task A1.4. Design the guideline for gathering information to specifically focus on insights, practices, and strategies inspired by the learnings from the AF-funded projects, while also maintaining the collection of local knowledge from selected provinces.	November 2024- January 2025
Task A1.5. Conduct interviews and field visits, with a particular emphasis on extracting insights and practical knowledge from stakeholders, practitioners, and beneficiaries who have been part of or influenced by the two AF-funded projects.	February 2025- March 2025
Task A1.6. Populate the matrix with all gathered knowledge, ensuring that insights from the AF-funded projects are distinctly highlighted alongside other best practices	August 2024 - December 2025
A2. Initiate a collaborative learning process to specifically include steps and timelines for integrating key insights from the AF-funded 2 projects. Establish a platform for the exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned.	
Task A2.1. Develop a collaborative learning plan and outline the steps and timeline for integrating and validating lessons learned from the implementation of 2 AF-funded projects and experience-based information into a synergic content package.	December 2024 - January 2025
Task A2.2. Mapping of actors by having gender consideration and concerns of the most vulnerable groups and communities to design the knowledge/content atlas.	January 2025 - February 2025

Task A2.3. Engage identified actors and establish a multidisciplinary facilitated platform for the systematic exchange and collaborative learning between the actors representing project beneficiaries, universities and experts.	January 2025 - October 2025
Task A2.4. Collaboratively analyse the gathered research results and experience-based information to identify suitable solutions as well as key findings and trends. Identify knowledge gaps and determine areas where additional research or information is needed to enhance the collective understanding.	March 2025 – December 2025
A3. Develop an Atlas for adaptation to climate change in Armenia agriculture which provides an overview of innovative solutions, successfully piloted within the framework of 2 AF-funded projects, related to the climate change adaptation in the fields of water, soil, forest management and crop production.	
Task A3.1. While developing the Atlas, incorporate tailored-made factsheets that not only address farmers, researchers, and decision-makers but also specifically highlight the innovative solutions and best practices derived from the 2 AF-funded projects. These factsheets aim to boost the impact and implementation of the gathered knowledge, with a strong emphasis on applicability in rural areas.	March 2025 – November 2025
Task A3.2. In strengthening the capacity of EPIU, develop a specific Communication Strategy as part of the Atlas. This strategy should not only deliver knowledge and innovative solutions to farmers in selected rural areas but also emphasize how the learnings from the AF-funded projects can be applied to enhance climate adaptation in Armenia. The strategy should facilitate EPIU's endorsement and dissemination of these insights to key stakeholders.	November 2024 – February 2025
A4. Organize dissemination events and field days to showcase 2 AF-funded projects' best practices and success stories to practitioners and workshops to exchange experiences and present the information about adaptation to climate change for researchers and decision-making actors.	
Task A4.1. Utilize the enriched Atlas, which includes dedicated sections on learnings and best practices from the 2 AF-funded projects, to organize four dissemination events in each province (eight in total). These 8 2-day events are aimed at farmers, women, youth, experts, municipal decision-makers and other practitioners, focusing on practical applications of the knowledge and solutions highlighted in the Atlas. Each event will target one of the mentioned groups (farmers and practitioners, with specific focus on women inclusion; youth; researchers and experts; decision makers and policy influencers) and will include in its agenda a day for round table discussions, exchange of experience on best practices, and a field day, which will involve a visit to AF-funded project sites to illustrate the results of best practices' implementation on the ground. The first day of each event will be built on the basis of a target group-specific approach considering the group's knowledge and experience with the discussed topics. It is envisaged to provide the inclusiveness of the dissemination events via inviting the representatives of the targeted groups from the neighbouring regions, which together with the targeted regions often complain about poor engagement in climate change related projects. For this purpose among others it is planned to exploit diverse methods of participant engagement – official municipal channels, connections of the partnering universities, public call, etc. Among deliverables of the activity: · a report will be developed summarizing the outcomes of the implementation of dissemination events, which will be further circulated via respective platforms, university pipelines, etc.	February 2025 – August 2025

· 2 videos (one per region) will be developed showcasing the messages, outcomes of both the project and dissemination events, that will be further broadcast on television.	
Task A4.2. Organize a scientific interdisciplinary workshop for researchers and experts from partner universities, as well as the broader academic community. This workshop will specifically emphasize the integration of insights from the 2 AF-funded projects into current academic and research endeavours.	September-October 2025
Task A4.3. Conduct a round-table discussion for relevant decision-makers. This session will present and discuss the information from the Atlas, with a special focus on the policy implications of the adaptation strategies and lessons learned from the 2 AF-funded projects in the context of climate change in Armenia.	October-November 2025
Final report preparation and submission to the Adaptation Fund	December 2025 - January 2026