Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

UN environment programme | Evaluation Office

General Information

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Implementation Plan

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
Rec-No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level (Please select from the drop-down list)	Type of Recommendation (Please select from the drop-down list)	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance (Please select from the drop-down list)	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
1	Challenge: Governance Mechanisms Risk Weakening Without Continued Support in Conflict-Affected Contexts: While the governance structures established under WEK II, such as the Technical Committee, the Catchment Management	Ensure continued support for existing governance mechanisms by securing funds, streamlining processes, and strengthening policies to maintain effective coordination across national, state, and community levels. This will ensure the	Important	Project	Government and development partners (EU) and UNEP	to be determined when a ceasefire and peace agreement are in place	Partially Accepted	UNEP acknowledges the importance of continued support to governance mechanisms, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings where institutional structures are at	UNEP will maintain active engagement with donors and implementing partners in the area to identify opportunities for strengthening and sustaining support to

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	Agency (CMA), have been effective in managing water resources, livelihoods, and natural resource disputes, their sustainability remains uncertain in the absence of continued support. The CMA, represented by governments, technical teams, and communities, is a vital institution fostering inclusiveness, collaboration, and transparency. However, the ongoing conflict in Sudan, where everything has collapsed at governmental institutions, poses a significant threat to its long-term functionality and the sustainability of integrated natural resource management outcomes. Without adequate financial resources, policy backing, and consistent coordination across national, state, and community levels, these governance mechanisms risk weakening.	sustainability of governance structures like the CMA and their ability to manage resources effectively in fragile contexts.						heightened risk of erosion. The recommendation to sustain coordination mechanisms such as the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is well noted and aligns with UNEP's broader approach to environmental governance and resilience-building. However, the ongoing conflict in Sudan—particularly the escalation of hostilities in North Darfur—presents significant constraints to immediate re-engagement. With no clear timeline for the cessation of hostilities or the restoration of safe operational conditions, it remains uncertain when UNEP will be able to return to support field-based governance structures. UNEP remains committed to the principles of inclusive and accountable natural resource governance and will continue to monitor the situation closely. Should the security and political context allow, UNEP stands ready to re-engage with national and local counterparts to revitalize and	the governance structure.

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								strengthen coordination platforms such as the CMA. In the interim, options for remote engagement, technical backstopping, or support through regional mechanisms will be explored where feasible, subject to funding availability and access constraints. UNEP reiterates that the sustainability of governance mechanisms in conflict-affected areas will require long-term, flexible support—linked not only to recovery planning but also to peacebuilding and institutional resilience frameworks. Continued donor engagement and coordination with humanitarian and development partners will be essential in this regard.	
2	Challenge: Sustainability of Water Infrastructure and Livelihood Activities Under Threat Due to Weak Governance and Limited Financing. The water infrastructures established under WEK II have begun delivering critical water and livelihood services to communities. However, the current conflict and political instability risk weakening governance and reducing	Secure sustainable financing mechanisms, including government budgets, development partner support, and innovative user-based contributions, to ensure the maintenance of water infrastructures and agricultural value chain activities. Strengthen local capacities and market linkages to enhance	Important	Project	Government and development partners (EU) and UNEP	to be determined when a ceasefire and peace agreement are in place	Partially Accepted	UNEP fully recognizes the critical importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability of water infrastructure and livelihood interventions, particularly in fragile environments where governance is weak and financing mechanisms are	UNEP will explore the possibility of allocating core budget resources to provide remote technical support, alongside community mobilization and engagement, to ensure their effective participation and contribution.

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	communities' capacity to manage and repair these facilities. Local governments face strained budgets, making it challenging to provide necessary support. Without dedicated funding from governments, development partners, or innovative financing mechanisms such as user-based contributions, the maintenance and continued use of these infrastructures are uncertain. Similarly, the project's promising agricultural value chain initiatives face risks due to limited financing, technological gaps, weak enterprise management, and insufficient market access, threatening the sustainability of these achievements.	enterprise management and long-term sustainability.						limited. The recommendation to secure diversified and sustainable financing—ranging from government allocations and donor contributions to user-based models—provides a practical and forward-looking approach that UNEP supports in principle. However, the current context in Sudan, especially the ongoing conflict in North Darfur, presents significant barriers to implementing this recommendation in the short term. The war has severely disrupted local governance, undermined community structures, and made on-the-ground engagement impossible. Furthermore, the duration and trajectory of the conflict remain highly uncertain, and at this stage, it is not possible to determine when or under what conditions UNEP may be able to safely resume its operations and re-engage with communities and institutions in the region. In the interim, UNEP	

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								will continue to monitor the situation closely and maintain communication with regional and international partners to explore opportunities for remote technical support, regional engagement, or preparatory planning for future re-entry. Lessons learned and tools developed under earlier phases of the programme will be preserved and updated as needed, to ensure a rapid and informed response when conditions permit. UNEP remains committed to supporting sustainable environmental governance and resilience-building in Sudan, and acknowledges that long-term sustainability of infrastructure and livelihoods will ultimately depend on a stable governance environment, local capacity, and inclusive financing solutions—none of which can be fully addressed until conflict conditions abate.	
3	Challenge: Risk of Losing Valuable Learning and Scaling Opportunities Due to Limited Stakeholder Priority and Political Instability. The WEK II project	UNEP should prioritize scaling up the IWRM model and associated best practices from the project by: a) strengthening dissemination efforts	Important	Project	Government and development partners	48 months	Accepted	UNEP agrees with the recommendation and fully acknowledges the value of capturing, disseminating, and	As part of UNEP's broader commitment to scaling successful models, the recently launched project "Enhancing Food

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	successfully developed a replicable model of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) tailored for rain-fed regions, alongside evidence-based knowledge, a robust governance mechanism (CMA), gender-responsive approaches, and climate-resilient practices. However, the potential for scaling up and replicating these achievements is constrained by ongoing political instability, weak dissemination efforts, and insufficient prioritization by key stakeholders. Without proactive action, these valuable outcomes risk being underutilized, diminishing their broader impact within Sudan and similar fragile contexts.	through targeted knowledge-sharing platforms and capacity-building initiatives to promote the adoption of these approaches; b) leveraging its normative expertise to advocate for IWRM integration into national and regional policies, ensuring alignment with climate resilience and sustainable development goals; and c) collaborating with development partners, donors, and government agencies to secure resources and institutional commitments for replication in similar contexts within Sudan and beyond.						scaling successful integrated water resources management (IWRM) approaches, particularly in fragile and climate-vulnerable settings. The risks associated with political instability and shifting stakeholder priorities make it even more important to institutionalize best practices and ensure they are not lost.	Security and Resilience of Rural Communities in and around Dinder National Park" provides an important platform to integrate and expand on IWRM principles. The project aims to support vulnerable communities with sustainable food security and climate-resilient livelihoods, while conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services. Within this framework, water management will be addressed holistically, as a key component of natural resources governance and sustainable food systems. Building on lessons learned from previous IWRM interventions, UNEP will continue to leverage its normative role to promote the integration of IWRM into policy dialogues and programmatic frameworks at national and regional levels. Efforts will also be made to strengthen targeted knowledge dissemination and capacity development activities under ongoing and future projects, as well as to collaborate with

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									development partners, donors, and government institutions to support scaling and replication—within Sudan where feasible, and in comparable contexts across the region.
4	Challenge: Delayed Fund Authorization and Release from UNEP Headquarters Impedes Timely Implementation and Sustainability. Delays in fund authorization and disbursement from UNEP headquarters affected the timely execution of critical project activities, such as water spreading weir construction, water supply interventions and community centres. These delays not only disrupted project schedules but also escalated costs due to inflation and diminished community trust in the project's ability to deliver on its commitments. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts like North Darfur, timely execution is crucial for addressing urgent needs and maintaining momentum toward sustainable natural resource management outcomes. Prolonged inefficiencies in financial processes risk undermining project sustainability and long-term impact.	UNEP headquarters should enhance financial authorization and disbursement mechanisms by adopting streamlined processes and empowering field offices to manage timely fund releases. This will reduce delays, improve responsiveness to local needs, and ensure the continuity and sustainability of project activities.	Important	UNEP-wide	UNEP	12 Months	Accepted	The challenge is duly noted, and the recommendation has been shared with the relevant administrative and finance authorities at UNEP headquarters. UNEP acknowledges the importance of timely fund authorization and disbursement for effective project delivery, especially in fragile and time-sensitive contexts. UNEP remains committed to improving responsiveness to local implementation needs and will continue engaging with relevant HQ units to strengthen financial workflows and reduce administrative bottlenecks that impact project sustainability.	Efforts are ongoing to review and streamline internal procedures, and to identify opportunities for enhancing operational flexibility, including greater delegation of financial management functions to field-level offices where feasible.