



CLIMATE CHANGE MARKER

Introduction & User's Guide



THE UN-HABITAT CLIMATE CHANGE MARKER

INTRODUCTION

The overall goal of the Climate Change Marker is to strengthen programmatic synergies while ensuring that project outcomes reach all intended beneficiaries, particularly persons in vulnerable situations. As a result, an effective integration of cross-cutting issues will also increasingly enable the replication and up-scaling of projects.

While mainstreaming of the climate change is a responsibility for all staff-members, project managers retain primary responsibility for ensuring mainstreaming throughout the UN-Habitat project cycle. The Climate Change Planning Unit stands ready to provide advisory services upon request.

The Climate Change Marker **is a mainstreaming tool** that serves two main purposes:

- **Quality assurance.** It assures the quality of projects at the level of the Project Advisory Group (PAG), and thus increases accountability and transparency through its monitoring function.
- **Capacity-building.** It builds the capacity of UN-Habitat to integrate cross-cutting issues in the project cycle by providing guidance and sharing knowledge, including through staff self-assessment.

At the project planning and design stage, a self-assessment rating should be recorded in the Projects Accrual and Accountability System (PAAS) by the project manager prior to submitting the Project Document to the PAG for review and approval. Projects rated '0' (i.e. blind rating) will be disallowed to move to the UMOJA stage to access funding.

FAMALIARISING YOURSELF WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE MARKER

1. **At what stage should I familiarise myself with the Climate Change Marker?** Read through the User's Guide before beginning a project proposal to familiarise yourself with the requirements.
2. **Where can I find the Climate Change Marker?** It is available on the Intranet under Cross-cutting Issues and PAG pages and on PAAS.

CLIMATE CHANGE MARKER: USER'S GUIDE

The present marker system is intended primarily for use by UN-Habitat staff members to ensure that, during formulation, their projects adequately address issues of climate change.

Users should refer to the attached matrix as they prepare Concept Notes and Project Documents. The matrix follows the structure of Project Documents, and is designed primarily to be used at that stage of project formulation and approval¹. Users should first review their draft project documents in light of the Marker matrix. Then may then wish to revise those drafts to result in higher scorings. Users should then assign project documents an overall marker number per the matrix. Finally, they should include the results of such self-assessments when they submit project documents for review by the UN-Habitat Project Advisory Group (PAG) at the global or regional levels.

As shown, users can rate projects as: (0) blind, (1) sensitive, (2) aware, or (3) transformative in addressing issues of climate change (for further discussion of each level, see below). The assignment of higher numbers than would otherwise obtain is a sign of increased attention to such matters during project formulation. At the same time, the PAG is likely to request drafters to revise project documents that are rated '0', blind, to ensure at least a minimal level of attention to this cross-cutting issue. Over time, using records of those numbers, UN-Habitat can track its progress in mainstreaming climate change considerations into its projects. Eventually, bearing in mind baseline data, the Agency may set targets for the percentage of projects that achieve higher rating levels.

Users wishing to further understand how their project concepts could better address issues of climate change are welcome to contact UN-Habitat's Climate Change Planning Unit. One initial reference document is "Cities and Climate Change: An Introduction", available from the Unit; other materials may be forthcoming. Project formulators can also discuss project concepts during periodic meetings of the agency-wide Climate Change Technical Support Team, which are open to all. At least some projects can be lightly redesigned to make climate benefits more explicit and measurable. For example, city-level projects designed primarily to improve urban air quality may also lead to reduced emissions of greenhouse gases, a climate 'mitigation' benefit. In other cases projects that seek to buttress the resilience of cities to confront various shocks and stresses may also yield climate 'adaptation' results. In such cases, project documents can be reformulated to make the climate benefits more explicit.

Per UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan (2014-19), climate change is one of four cross-cutting topics that the Agency seeks to mainstream in its activities. More specifically, the present marker system is developed per the Agency's Climate Change Strategy (2014-19). In line with that Strategy, during the present trial phase (beginning August 2015) the climate change markers are intended only for use by project formulators. In the future, however, it is possible that project documents will be 'marked' by the climate change team or focal points (see Climate Change Strategy for more background). This already is the case for the other three cross-cutting issues (human rights, gender and youth). The Climate Change Planning Unit welcomes feedback on use of the marker system, which can be refined over time; please contact Robert.kehew@unhabitat.org.

¹ Users will need to apply the attached Marker matrix flexibly when reviewing Project Concepts – a step in project formulation recently reintroduced by the Programme Division. See "Project Concept Development Template" (8 July 2015).

CLIMATE CHANGE MARKER

CODE	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA
0	Climate change blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Addressing climate change is <u>not</u> a specific Expected Accomplishment or sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project, <u>and moreover</u> ✓ The concept note or project document under review does <u>not</u> discuss climate change
1	Climate change aware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ While addressing climate change is <u>not</u> a specific Expected Accomplishment or sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project, ✓ The concept note or project document <u>does</u> provide at least a minimal amount of discussion of climate change considerations
2	Climate change sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Addressing climate change is a sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project, <u>and</u> ✓ The concept note or project document systematically analyses the inter-linkages between the issues addressed by the project and climate change, <u>and</u> ✓ The project contains at least a handful of actions, indicators and/or targets related to the reduction of greenhouse gases and/or adaptation to climate change, e.g., measures to help build the resilience of populations that are vulnerable to climate change impacts, based in part on community engagement
3	Climate change transformative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Addressing climate change is an Expected Accomplishment of the project, with a corresponding set of actions, indicators and/or targets, <u>and</u> ✓ The project contains implementation and monitoring measures related to the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and/or adaptation to climate change that reflect global standards and/or state-of-the-art practices, <u>and</u> ✓ The project seeks to have a transformative effect on how climate change is addressed at either the operational and/or the normative levels, with explicit mechanisms for replicating, upscaling and/or sharing of tools and lessons learned from city-level activities, and evaluating project outcomes

#	Sections of Project Document*	CLIMATE CHANGE <i>BLIND (0)</i>	CLIMATE CHANGE <i>AWARE (1)</i>	CLIMATE CHANGE <i>SENSITIVE (2)</i>	CLIMATE CHANGE <i>TRANSFORMATIVE (3)</i>
2	Situational Analysis				
2.2.	Central Issue Addressed	<u>No</u> discussion of climate change considerations	A <u>minimal</u> amount of discussion of climate change	Climate change is a <u>secondary</u> issue addressed. Country- and/or city-level situations are described and inter-linkages are analysed.	Climate change is the <u>central</u> issue addressed. Country and city-level situations are described, w/ particular attention at city level to <u>marginalized populations</u> . Inter-linkage analysed.
2.3.	Purpose (also see “Expected Accomplishments”, below)	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions or adapting to climate change is <u>not</u> a purpose of the project.	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions or adapting to climate change is <u>not</u> a purpose of the project.	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapting to climate change is a <u>secondary</u> purpose or co-benefit of the project.	Setting cities on a low-carbon and/or climate-resilient development path-way is a <u>primary</u> purpose. The “co-benefits” to local beneficiaries of reduced GHG emissions (e.g., improved air quality) are clearly articulated.
2.4.	Alignment	The project is <u>not</u> aligned with Local, National, Regional or Global climate change priorities.	The project is <u>not</u> aligned with Local, National, Regional or Global climate change priorities.	The project is at least <u>minimally</u> aligned with one of the following: Local, National, Regional or Global climate change priorities.	The project is <u>strongly</u> aligned with Local, National, Regional and/or Global climate change priorities.
3	Implementation Strategy				
3.1.	Implementation Strategy	The implementation strategy does <u>not</u> address climate change.	The implementation strategy does <u>not</u> address climate change.	The implementation strategy integrates at least a <u>small number</u> of budgeted steps, strategies or methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapting to climate change.	The implementation strategy sets forth a <u>coherent set</u> of budgeted steps, strategies and methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/ or adapting to climate change.
3.4.	Project Risk Register – Environmental	<u>No</u> consideration of climate-related natural disasters, or emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs).	<u>May</u> include some consideration of climate-related natural disasters and/or GHG emissions, but with <u>no</u> corresponding strategy for reducing those risks.	For any risks identified related to climate-related natural disasters or GHG emissions, the project has proposed a strategy that promises to <u>adequately reduce</u> those risks.	For any risks identified related to climate-related natural disasters or GHG emissions, the project has proposed a strategy that promises to <u>adequately reduce or eliminate</u> those risks.

3.5. Environmental Analysis	No consideration of potential impacts that may increase vulnerability to climate change-related impacts, and/or result in increased GHG emissions.	Some consideration of potential impacts that may increase vulnerability and/or result in increased GHG emissions, but with no corresponding identification of environmental and social safeguards or efforts to preserve the “ecological environment”	Adequate consideration of potential impacts that may increase vulnerability, and/or result in increased GHG emissions, with at least some efforts to put in place environmental and social safeguards and/or “preserve the ecological environment” (phrase from Project Document template)	Adequate consideration of potential impacts that may increase vulnerability and/or result in pollution/GHG emissions, along with a full set of environmental and social safeguards and/or measures to “preserve the ecological environment”
3.10. Knowledge Management	No knowledge management strategy related to climate change	No knowledge management strategy related to climate change	At least a minimal knowledge management strategy related to climate change, e.g., documentation of operational-level experiences	The project provides explicit mechanisms for replicating, up-scaling and/or sharing of tools and lessons learned, with an emphasis on sharing operational lessons at normative level
6 Logical Framework				
Expected Accomplishments (Objectives)	Addressing climate change is not a specific Expected Accomplishment or sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project.	Addressing climate change is not a specific Expected Accomplishment or sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project.	Addressing climate change is a sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project.	Addressing climate change is an Expected Accomplishment of the project.
Activities	The proposed activities do not address climate change.	The proposed activities do not address climate change.	The project contains at least a small number of activities that seek to reduce greenhouse gases and/ or promote adaptation to climate change.	The project has in place a coherent set of activities that seek to reduce greenhouse gases and/ or adapt to climate change as part of broader sustainability agenda.
Indicators	No climate change related indicators.	No climate change related indicators.	The project may contain at least 1-2 indicators related to measuring reductions of greenhouse gases and/ or adaptation to climate change.	The project contains a clear set of indicators to measure reductions of GHG emissions and/ or increased resilience that reflect global standards and/or state-of-the-art practices.

*Note: Number and section title is per “Project Development Template” (May 2012) provided by Project Office in June 2015 (selected sections only). Users will need to apply the present matrix flexibly when reviewing Project Concepts; see “Project Concept Development Template” (8 July 2015).

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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LINKS AND FURTHER READING