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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport

Nineteenth session
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Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Other business

Funding project in support of the work of the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. This document provides a project concept note which could be established with availability of necessary funding (seed funding at the beginning) to support the work of the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport.

2. Experts are Invited to discuss the project concept note as well as possible sources for funding.

Project Concept Note

Title:	Enhanced adaptation of transport systems to climate change
Start date:	01/10/2020
End date:	01/12/2025
Budget:	US$ 249 800
Beneficiary Countries:	countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern Europe as well as all concerned UN member States
Cooperating entities within the UN System:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the European Commission, the regional commissions of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other relevant Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
Other Implementing partners:	Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

I. Background

A. A brief description of the development challenge the intervention intends to address.

Extreme weather events, some of which are increasing in intensity and frequency, as well as slower onset climate changes (for example, sea level rise) and cumulative effects can result in transportation infrastructure damages, operational disruptions, and pressures on supply chain capacity and efficiency. Understanding the potential impacts from climate change is helpful to identifying transport assets at risk and the needs for adaptation to prevent damage and/or disruption and related socio-economic consequences.

This project is to support the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport (Group of Experts) to serve as a platform to collect, integrate and disseminate knowledge on climate change impact assessment and adaptation needs for inland transport.

The project is to establish the necessary analytical basis to facilitate local or regional assessments, leading to the identification of specific transport assets at risk, and of the most suitable adaptation measures.

B. Reference to the UNECE intergovernmental legislation calling for action

The Strategy until 2030 of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee calls for action on the adaptation of transport assets to climate change. This work is needed to prevent damage and/or disruption on the transport systems which otherwise may lead to adverse economic and social effects.

This work is managed by the Group of Experts which reports to the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5). The long-term programme of work of WP.5 contains as one of key cluster transport and climate change adaptation.

The Group of Experts has been established by the Inland Transport Committee at its 82nd session (Geneva, 25-28 February 2020) in order to continue and further expand the work of the preceding Group of Experts on Climate Change Impact and Adaptation for Transport Networks and Nodes. The establishment of the Group was approved by EXCOM at its meeting on 20 May 2020 (decision No.11) and endorsed by EXCOM at is meeting on 10 July 2020.

The project support also the implementation of the Paris Agreement, within the field of actions to deal with the impacts of climate change.

C. How the intervention links to the overall normative and analytical work of UNECE and UNECE comparative advantage in this area.

This project contributes to achieving the results of a climate resilient transport infrastructure and to an overall goal of making inland transport connectivity and mobility sustainable of the Strategy until 2030 of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee.

This work in a medium to a long-term is key to the further development United Nations Infrastructure Agreements such as:

- European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR);
- European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC);
- European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC);
- Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations, and
- European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)

The results of the work of Group of Experts on the integration of climate change considerations in transport planning and operational process are of particular importance to the infrastructure agreements and possible future alterations as to the standards the various infrastructure should meet to be climate change resilient.

D. Explanation how the project activities will contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This project contributes to achieving the result of a climate resilient transport infrastructure and to an overall goal of making inland transport connectivity and mobility sustainable. This is to contribute to attaining the Goal 9, as well as to help deal with the impacts of climate change, thus contributes to attaining the Goal 13.

The work on ensuring resilient transport infrastructure is key to preventing consequences for humans, who due to events caused by climate change on the transport network may lose access to markets supporting their subsistence. This work thus attempts to ensure that any negative impacts from climate change on infrastructure are decreased and so its possible consequences to humans. As this work focuses on key networks connecting cities as major development hubs through rural areas, it is to ensure that nobody is left behind, on contrary that everybody stays connected thanks to climate change resilient infrastructure and continues to have access to markets supporting their subsistence and wellbeing.

E. Information on beneficiary countries and target audience (senior government officials, national experts, representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia, etc…). Specific demand and requests for support from beneficiary countries should be emphasized

Beneficiary countries are countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern Europe as well as all concerned UN member States. The project targets transport experts from ministries of transport in charge of transport infrastructure management.

The preceding Group of Experts in its final report (see ECE/TRANS/283) of the 2015-2019 mandate recommended that especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition are encouraged to engage in the work on transport adaptation to climate change.

F. The lessons learned and achievements from past activities in those countries, and/or complementary activities which are currently ongoing.

The work undertaken by the preceding Group of Experts in its final report (see ECE/TRANS/283) suggests that many countries do not have suitable information for analysing climate change impacts that have affected or would be expected to affect their transport asset. It concluded that mainly selected countries from the European Union but also Canada have started building capacities on transport systems adaptation lately, while the major focus of climate change efforts of countries in general was given to climate change mitigation. This is the reason for which, the preceding Group of Experts requested wide dissemination of the results of its work (as contained in ECE/TRANS/283) in order to draw attention worldwide on the importance but also urgency of the work on transport adaptation to climate change.

The work of the new Group of Experts, which this project is to support, is to create awareness and understanding of the urgency of work in analysing the impacts from climate change on inland transport infrastructure and operations and in identifying adaptation measures, as well as to obtain support for such work at all levels.

The work is also aimed at further expanding the knowledge base on the assessment of climate change impacts on transport systems and on the identification of most suitable and cost-effective adaptation measures.

G. A brief description of how a gender perspective will be integrated to the project/ intervention and how project/ intervention address SDG5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

The project will actively encourage female personnel from ministries of transport in charge of transport infrastructure management to acquire skills in climate changes impact assessment on transport systems.

H. Implementation partners (national, regional and international), if any.

The partners are: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the European Commission, the regional commissions of the United Nations, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and other relevant Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

II. Impact

The project is to create the awareness of decision-makers and transport experts, from both the public and private sectors on approaches, tools and methodologies which exist or can be developed to analyse the risks that climate change poses to inland transport systems including infrastructure and operations. As part of the project, and further to it, assessment of transport infrastructure will be carried in an increasing number of countries to identify potential impacts of climate change that may cause damage to and/or disruption on that infrastructure. A database on infrastructure adaptation measures will be developed which will be available to national experts and assist them in identifying the most suitable adaptation measures for prevention of damage and/or disruption and apply them. Overall, the project will contribute to

- Developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all (Target 9.1 of Goal 9), and
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (Target 13.2 of Goal 13),

The progress can be measured though the following indicators:

- 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport and further assessment if decreases are not subject to disruption on infrastructure
- 13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications, and further assessment of how the national adaptation plans address transport systems

III. Relationship to the Strategic Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals

The project is directly linked to the objective of the Subprogramme 2 “Transport” “to improve sustainable inland transport by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, for both freight transport and personal mobility” of the UNECE programme budget for 2020 and proposed programme budget for 2021. This project contributes to achieving the result of a climate resilient transport infrastructure and to an overall goal of making inland transport connectivity and mobility sustainable of the Strategy until 2030 of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee. More specifically, the project is to contribute to attaining the Goal 9 and the Goal 13.

IV. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

The project is supporting countries work dealing with the adaptation to impacts of climate change in the field of transport.

In VNRs 2019 countries reported on the challenge of building and modernizing resilient infrastructure, particularly in light of natural hazards. Countries also refer to focus on adaptation measures to prevent and manage and disasters hydro-meteorological disasters, especially in coastal areas. In VNRs 2018 countries highlighted the importance of scenario and modelling work done at the national level for tackling climate change adaptation.

This project is focused to help the development and modernization of resilient infrastructure by offering scenarios for climate change and assessment of impacts, which is to help design the adaptation measures to prevent among others hydro-meteorological disasters.

V. Objective

The objective of the project is to enhance adaptation of transport systems to climate change by supporting activities of the Group of Experts.

VI. Expected accomplishments

EA1. Increased understanding of UNECE member States and other concerned UN member States on the need for adapting transport systems to climate change and improvement of their knowledge on the ways for assessing transport assets vulnerabilities to climate change.

EA2. Raised awareness of the broader audience of the work of UNECE on transport and climate change adaptation.

EA3. Improved capacities of policy makers and experts to use tools for adapting transport systems to climate change.

EA4. Increased understanding of policy makers and experts on how to integrate climate change considerations in transport planning and operational processes thanks to availability of dedicated guidance material.

VII. Indicators of achievements

IA1.1 At least five new countries are aware of the urgency to adapt transport system to climate changes as confirmed by their active participation in the work of the Group of Experts or by including transport adaptation to climate change in national adaptation plans.

IA1.2 At least five more countries acquired the knowledge on assessing the transport assets vulnerabilities to climate change as confirmed by starting national projects on transport adaptation to climate change.

IA2.1. Information on the work of the Group of Experts is promoted and their knowledge tools are disseminated during at least three international conferences in the field of climate change adaptation/transport systems resilience.

IA3.1. Database on adaptation measures is populated with at least 100 measures and available online.

IA4.1. Dedicated guidance material for integrating climate change considerations in transport planning and operational processes is developed and applied by at least ten countries.

VIII. Main activities

A1.1. Participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in meetings of the group of experts between 2020 and 2025;

A1.2. Conducting vulnerability assessments of a specific transport asset to climate change and extreme weather events (for example, assessment of natural and anthropogenic factors modifying the risks to transport assets, evaluation of individual characteristics of the asset, impact modelling and assessment of cause-effect relationships between climate parameters and impacts on the infrastructure, cross-sectors and intermodal analysis).

A2.1. Participation of UNECE staff in international conferences on the topics of transport systems resilience and adaptation to climate change.

A3.1. Creation of a knowledge database on characteristics of vulnerable transport infrastructure and dedicated cost-effective adaptation measures.

A4.1. Elaboration of guidance material for integration of climate change considerations in transport planning and operational processes

IX. Risks and mitigation actions

Risks	*Mitigating action*
International conferences are cancelled due to COVID	Virtual sessions aimed at sharing Group of Experts' tools will be organized
Limited response from countries in providing data for the creation of the database	The experts of the Group of Experts will liaise with infrastructure managers to collect required data. Consultant will be hired to actively engage infrastructure managers from countries absent in the Group of Experts to collect required data.
Limited access to experience and practices in integrating climate change considerations in transport planning and operational processes	The Group of Experts which involves numerous experts from countries and international organisations will collect the experience and practices. In addition, the Group will be supported by a consultant.

X. Monitoring and Evaluation

The UNECE intervention manager will be responsible for regular monitoring of the activities' implementation. The progress will be reported annually by preparing the progress reports. The final report will be prepared upon completion. The reports, materials and information related to the intervention will be shared on Activity Monitoring Tool (PMT). In addition, a questionnaire will be developed by the project manager to evaluate the impact, effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the project. The questionnaire will be circulated regularly, after meeting and/or additional events in which the experts from beneficiary countries will participate.

Annex

Budget

Code	*Object class*	*Activity/ Purpose*	*Units*	*Cost per unit (USD)*	*Total amount per object class (USD)*
010	Staff and other personnel costs *(consultants)*	A1.2. Conducting vulnerability assessments of a specific transport asset to climate change and extreme weather events	6 international consultant x 1-month	4 000	24 000
			10 national consultants x 1-month x $2,500	2 500	25 000
		A3.1. Support to the development of the database.	1 international consultant x 5 months	5 000	25 000
		A4.1 Support to the development of guiding material	1 international consultant x 3 months	5 000	15 000
010	Staff and other personnel costs *(consultant travel)*	A1.2. Conducting vulnerability assessments of a specific transport asset to climate change and extreme weather events - travel	6 missions	2 000	12 000
160	Travel of Staff	A1.1. Participation of UNECE staff on meetings of the group of experts if held outside of Geneva	Five missions	2 000	10 000
		A1.2. Participation of UNECE staff in international conferences on the topics of transport and adaptation to climate change	Five missions	2 000	10 000
160	Travel of meeting participants	A1.1. Participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in meetings of the group of experts between 2020 and 2025	Travel of 50 experts	2 000	100 000
Budget Sub-Total					**221 000**
13% UN Programme Support Cost					**28 800**
Total budget *					**249 800**