

UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024

Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE THIS PIR

1. *Instructions in blue are directed to Task Managers / Administrative Officers*
2. *Instructions in red are directed to Project Managers and Executing Agencies*
3. When filling up the respective cells, use the Normal style from the template. The text will look like this.
4. *Fields in green are new additions since last year's PIR.*

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1. Project details

This entire table is to be prepared by Task Managers

Identification Table	GEF ID.: 5815	Umoja WBS: SB-008258
	SMA IPMR ID: 34757	Grant ID: S1-32LDL-000045
	Project Short Title: <i>Urban EbA Asia</i>	
Project Title	<i>Building climate resilience of urban systems through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Asia-Pacific region.</i>	
Duration months	<i>Planned</i>	<i>48 (24 month extension approved by the PSC due COVID 19 delays)</i>
	<i>Age</i>	<i>66/48</i>
Project Type	<i>Full Size Project</i>	
Parent Programme if child project		
Project Scope	<i>Regional</i>	
Region	<i>Asia Pacific</i>	
Countries	<i>Bhutan Cambodia Lao PDR Myanmar (suspended)</i>	
GEF Focal Area(s)	<i>Climate Change</i>	
GEF financing amount	<i>US\$ 6,000,000</i>	
Co-financing amount	<i>Planned US\$ 94,190,417</i>	
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	<i>25 January 2017</i>	
UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	<i>16 June 2017</i>	
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	<i>November 2017</i>	
Date of Inception Workshop, if available	<i>May 2018</i>	
Date of First Disbursement	<i>28 December 2017 (date of first sub-allotment, given internal execution)</i>	
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024	<i>4,650,738.76 USD</i>	
Total expenditure as of 30 June 2024	<i>Actual expenditures (\$2,868,422,52)+ Commitment(\$1,782,316.24)</i>	
Midterm undertaken?	<i>Ongoing</i>	
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken		

Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	
Completion Date	<i>Planned – original PCA</i>
	<i>Revised – Current PCA</i>
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	Q3 2025
Expected Financial Closure Date	2026

1.2. Project description

'Building climate resilience of urban systems through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region (Urban EbA Asia)' is a four-year, regional project of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), implemented by UNEP Ecosystem Division and executed by the Asia and the Pacific Office (ROAP) in partnership with National Environment Commission and Thimphu Thromde in Bhutan, The Department of Climate Change of the General Secretariat of the National Council of Sustainable Development (NCSA) in Cambodia, Department of Climate Change (DCC) in Lao PDR, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) in Myanmar, and UN-Habitat.

The aim of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of poor urban communities in Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to climate change impacts using Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), with interventions in selected municipalities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Bhutan and Myanmar. Project activities are being implemented under three main components.

Component 1: Activities under this Component strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of city management authorities to plan and implement EbA. This will support improved decision-making on climate change adaptation within urban areas in the Asia-Pacific region, thereby promoting resilient urban development. In collaboration with UN-Habitat under this component a training tool on decision-making is being developed

Component 2: Under Component 2, urban EbA interventions on-the-ground are demonstrated in the selected municipalities Thimphu (Bhutan), Kep (Cambodia), Phongsaly and Oudomxay (Lao PDR) and Mandalay (Myanmar). These on-the-ground interventions will increase the capacity of urban communities living in vulnerable areas within the pilot cities to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Component 3: Activities under Component 3 promote the generation, dissemination and management of knowledge – including the information and tools developed within Component 1 – on urban EbA in each pilot city and across the broader Asia-Pacific region, thereby supporting upscaling of the urban EbA approach.

*As of February 2021, all project activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice following a coup by the military and UNCT Principles of Engagement. These principles include the following:

UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (UNAFPs) will continue to deliver:

- principled, needs-based humanitarian assistance and protection services to crisis-affected people
- under the strategic framework of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan;
- support that directly contributes to and accelerates the COVID-19 public health response.

UNAFPs will pause, until further notice, all programs and activities aiming at strengthening government institutions; policy advice. Following a programme review, UNAFPs may continue programming outside the 2021 HRP and the Covid-19 public health response if a clear case can be made that they meet any or a combination of the below criteria:

- the benefits of programming accrue primarily and directly to the people or local communities
- without discrimination;
- programming supports the strengthening of the rule of law;
- programming supports the protection and promotion of human rights;
- programming contributes to preserving, to the extent possible, the democratic space.

UNAFPs will ensure that programming does not pose a risk of:

- legitimizing the de facto authorities;

- having a potential negative impact on human rights;
- fuelling conflict dynamic;
- presenting potential negative reputation for the UN given current circumstances.

1.3. Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	<i>Climate Change Division</i>
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency(ies)	<i>Asia and the Pacific Office, UNEP</i> <i>National Environment Commission and Thimphu Thromde (Bhutan)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Department of Climate Change of the General Secretariat of the National Council of Sustainable Development (NCSD) (Cambodia)</i> • <i>Department of Climate Change (DCC) (Lao PDR)</i> • <i>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) (Myanmar)</i>
Names of Other Project Partners	<i>UN-HABITAT</i>
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	<i>Jessica Troni</i>
UNEP Task Manager(s)	<i>Atifa Kassam</i>
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	<i>Bwiza Wameyo-Odemba</i>
UNEP Support/Assistants	<i>Linda Choge and David Ocholla; Ruth Mutinda</i>
EA Manager/Representative	<i>Mozaharul Alam</i>
EA Project Manager	<i>N/A</i>
EA Finance Manager	<i>Mohamed Elharati</i>
EA Communications Lead, if relevant	

2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW and UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)	<i>Thematic: Climate action</i>
PoW Indicator(s)	<i>Strategic objective 1: "Climate stability".</i> <i>PoW 2022-2023 Indicators:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i) Number of national, subnational and private-sector actors that adopt climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies with UNEP support</i> <i>(ii) Amounts provided and mobilized in \$ per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025 with UNEP support</i> <i>(iv) Positive shift in public opinion, attitudes and actions in support of climate action as a result of UNEP action</i>
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)	
UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages	Bhutan: UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028:

	<p>Outcome 3: By 2028, Bhutan’s environment remains sustainably managed and its people are more resilient to disaster risks and climate change. Higher level conditions the project is contributing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Bhutan’s environmental governance and natural resource management practices enhance the integrity of its ecosystems, biodiversity of its habitats and sustainability of its natural resources, and • If Bhutan ensures a healthy living environment (urban, rural) and secure food, water and energy systems, and <p><u>Cambodia: UNSDCF 2024-2028</u> Outcome 3: By 2028, people in Cambodia, especially those at risk of being left behind, benefit from a healthier, gender-inclusive natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 3.1: Natural resource management, conservation, preservation and restoration activities are enhanced. • Output 3.4: The adaptive capacity of systems and communities to climate change and disasters is strengthened. <p><u>Lao PDR-UN Sustainable Development Co-operation Framework 2022-2026 (aligned with 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan NSEDP Outcome 4)</u></p> <p>Strategic Priority 4: Environment, Climate Change and Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome : By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, and institutions will be better able to sustainably access, manage, preserve, and benefit from natural resources and promote green growth that is risk-informed, disaster and climate-resilient. <p><u>Myanmar: UNDAF 2018-2022 (published)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Principle: Sustainable Development and Resilience (Addressing the root causes of multidimensional poverty, their vulnerability and building capacities for resilience) <p>Planet Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people in Myanmar, especially those most affected by and vulnerable to climate and disaster risks, are more resilient to climate and disaster risk
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	<p>and benefit from more effective environmental governance and sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p>ii. Myanmar Climate Change Policy 2019 (MCCP), Climate Change Strategy and Myanmar Climate Change Master Plan 2018 to 2030 (MCCMP)</p> <p>Prosperity Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All people in Myanmar, especially the marginalised and vulnerable, benefit from increased opportunities to achieve prosperity through decent work, safe migration options as well as sustainable and resilient rural and urban development. <p>iii. Sustainable and resilient urban and rural spatial development</p>
<p>Link to relevant SDG Goal(s)</p>	<p>The goals relevant to the project are:</p> <p><u>SDG 11</u>: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;</p> <p><u>SDG 13</u>: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by taking current and future climate change scenarios into account during urban planning.</p>
<p>Link to relevant SDG Target(s)</p>	<p>The most relevant SDG targets associated with Goals 11 and 13 are:</p> <p><u>11.b</u>: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels</p> <p><u>11.b.2</u>: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</p> <p><u>13.1</u>: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p> <p><u>13.2</u>: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning</p> <p><u>13.3</u>: Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p> <p><u>13.b</u> Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</p> <p><i><u>13.b.1</u> Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</i></p>

2.2. GEF Core Indicators:

GEF Core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results.

Indicators	Targets – Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total target	
Indicator 1: Number of direct beneficiaries		1,920 households (50% female)	1920 households	<p>A review of household numbers gender disaggregated will be done before project end.</p> <p>Approximately 6,008 households</p> <p>In Bhutan approximately 278 households benefitted from training on Mushroom farming and waste management as well as training and provision of equipment for urban agriculture (seeds and other equipment) in 13 informal settlement areas. 28 households benefitted from low income housing activities. The project reported general success/ positive feedback from communities after urban agriculture activities.</p> <p>In Cambodia, there have been approximately 5,220 beneficiaries: Approximately 80 families benefitted from training on green mussels raising. Building of a guardhouse benefited 80 families, Crab Bank activities benefited 30 families, Fish Farm activities benefited 30 families, Tree Nursery activities benefited 5000 families in the whole province - as trees are provided to all the communities in Kep province</p> <p>In Lao PDR approximately 510 households in 7 villages of phogsaly district, Phongsaly Province benefited from urban garden activity as well as training provided, vegetable seed and basket, and 59 villages in Xay district,</p>

				<p><i>Oudomxay Provinces benefited from nursery housing activity.</i></p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended.</i></p>
<p><i>Indicator 2: Type and extent of assets strengthened and/or better managed to withstand the effects of climate change</i></p>		<p><i>8 areas in which investments in EbA are made to reduce vulnerability of urban communities</i></p>	<p><i>8 pilot areas (2 per city)</i></p>	<p><i>Thus far investments in 6 areas are complete.</i></p> <p><i>In Bhutan – 4 areas complete:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>1.5km of riverbank protection has been completed on River Thimpu, and</i> - <i>Slope stabilisation and planting took place in a region known as Zilukha</i> - <i>2.3km riverbank protection in the south of Thimphu has been completed.</i> - <i>Low income housing facility constructed in Babesa and Motithang.</i> <p><i>In Cambodia – 2 areas 90% complete</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>5 hectares of mangrove plantation is complete</i> - <i>Canal 1 (2,742m) completed.</i> - <i>Canal 2 (1,058m) completed.</i> - <i>Canal 3 (4,100m) completed.</i> - <i>Water gate has been rehabilitated.</i> <p><i>In Lao PDR - 4 areas 90% complete</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Drainage system improvement, landscape and tree plantation in Cheng and Nongmengda village, Xay district Oudomxay province, 1 Km length</i> - <i>Water storage for water capacity improvement and supply to the community with tree plantation of 5 ha in</i>

				<p><i>Phongsaly district, Phongsaly province</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Slope protection construction mixed with green by grass planting in Phongsaaath village, Phongsaly district, Phongsaly province</i> - <i>Improvement of Nongkhiew pond</i> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended</i></p>
<p><i>Indicator 5: Public awareness activities carried out and population reached</i></p>		<p><i>960 people</i></p>	<p><i>960 people</i></p>	<p>Current available number: 701</p> <p>A review of the number of people reached will need to be conducted, however, given the scope and reach of the global regional and national events this should be above the 960 target.</p> <p><i>Global awareness events include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gobeshona Global Conference 1 session: Building climate change resilience in cities and urban areas through Ecosystem Based approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in 2021 (75 attendees)</i> • <i>Innovate for Cities event: Building climate resilience in urban areas through Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) in 2021 (117 attendees, 54 views on Youtube as of July 2024)</i> • <i>The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference was attended by 64 participants. In addition, the recording of the conference session has been uploaded to the APAN Youtube channel where it has been viewed 133 times (as of July 2024).</i> <p><i>Cambodia conducted 1 awareness raising event and 1 training – which had 255 participants in total.</i></p>

				<p><i>Bhutan conducted 1 workshop with CSOs, NGOs and the private sector stakeholders (70 participants).</i></p> <p><i>Lao PDR conducted awareness raising activities 2 times in Phongsaly and Oudomxay province (120 participants in total)</i></p>
<p><i>Indicator 10: Capacities of regional, national and sub-national institutions to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures</i></p>		<p><i>4 institutions</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>Number of institutions reached through capacity building/ training: 6</i></p> <p><i>As at June 2023 UNHABITAT reported that a total of 140 stakeholders from the 4 countries were provided training on Urban EbA and the Decision making toolkit developed through the project.</i></p> <p><i>In Bhutan, officers trained were from the National Environment Commission Secretariat's (NECS) and the Thimphu Thromde Municipality/ administration.</i></p> <p><i>In Cambodia, most of the participants were from the Department of Climate Change and the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance</i></p> <p><i>In the case of Lao PDR, participants were from different divisions of Department of Climate Change (Climate Change Adaptation Division, Policy Division and Information Division) as well as provincial and city administration of both Oudomxay and Phongsaly provinces.</i></p> <p><i>The project is yet to complete a capacity score assessment – this will be done in the next reporting period.</i></p>

2.3. Implementation Status and Risk

[complete the fiscal year and select: 1st PIR; 2nd PIR; Final PIR; select HS; S; MS; MU; U; HU; unknown; not rated to rate the progress towards outcomes and outputs in third and fourth lines; select H; S; M; L; to rate risks for the fiscal year you are reporting in the fifth line. Add more columns if needed]

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
PIR #	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS
Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	MS	MU	MS	S	S	S
Risk rating (section 4.2)	L	M	L	L	L	L

Summary of status/progress

Component 1: (Regional)

This reporting period, the project team has focused on amplifying delivery under Component 2. Planned outputs on the cost benefit analysis and policy briefs is planned for in the next reporting period. The Urban EbA decision making toolkit was finalized by UNHABITAT and was translated into the local language in Cambodia and Lao PDR (the powerpoint versions). A final Training of Trainer (ToT) event was organised back to back with the March 2023 PSC meeting held in Laos PDR. The training was designed for trainers and actors facilitating the planning and implementation of urban EbA action in their respective countries. It aimed to assist city management authorities and local government, as well as national government, practitioners, and the wider development community in integrating ecosystems based adaptation (EbA) into urban Development through the use of the Decision making toolkit. The regional training/ToT resulted in improved capacities of 25 participants from Bhutan, Cambodia, and Laos PDR on using the Urban EbA tool as well as in facilitating/training others on applying the steps of the developed Tool. Lastly, a refresher training for planners and decision-makers in Thimphu, Bhutan took place in May 2023. The training was aimed at teaching the processes and tools on integrating urban ecosystems-based adaptation (EbA) into development plans and investment programmes.

Following the above training, the Lao PDR PMU team used their knowledge and skills built through the training of trainers to conduct training of local and district level government officials in the two districts on mainstreaming EbA into local policies, and on the EbA guidelines. This is a positive follow up to training and capacity building efforts made by the project last year.

Component 2: (Country/City level)

In Cambodia, the national team made significant progress on implementing the EbA interventions selected and validated in prior reporting periods. These included mangrove reforestation and rehabilitation of Canals and a Watergate. The 5km stretch of mangroves as well as canal and watergate rehabilitation is completed. With regard to livelihood interventions, in prior reporting periods training was provided to fishermen on mussel raising. In this reporting period, support was provided to communities on 'Crab Banking', fish farming activities, and the building of a guard house. The guardhouse supports the community to oversee illegal fishing activities, and serves as meeting space for communities and an information hub for tourists. In total, these interventions have benefitted 220 households. The project team also set up a tree nursery in Kep city which was handed over to the local government to managed. The nursery provided 5,000 people with trees which were planted in their home gardens. As part of the handover, the agreement with local government is that the nursery will continue to provide trees to community members for free.

Lessons learned and reflections provided from the national team is that the Mangrove planting has been much harder to sustain. From recent monitoring exercises conducted (June 2024) – the team observed a 70% survival rate. The team view mangrove rehabilitation to be complex as soil quality and type of mangroves plays an important role in ensuring success. The lessons learned it that detailed assessments and protocols should be developed before doing mangrove restoration. One of the benefits/ successes from the mangrove restoration has been that local communities have invested their own funds in the restored areas (which includes the 5ha from the project) to build a tourist walk/site.

In Bhutan, all the EbA activities and livelihood activities have been completed from those selected - the protection/restoration of 1.5km of the Thimphu river, green treatment (at the base of the slope stone piling work to reduce further erosion/slides and rest of the slope is treated with biotic soil and native trees and grasses planted for enhanced slope erosion reduction) of the landslip at location called Zilukha; and 2.3km riverbank protection in the south of Thimphu - between Olarongchhu-Wangchhu confluence and Debsi bridge was completed. A draft Wangchhu Riverfront Protection Plan has been developed.

250 households benefitted from livelihood activities with included training on Mushroom farming and waste management, as well as training and provision of equipment for urban agriculture (seeds and other equipment) in 13 informal settlement areas.

This reporting period, the low-income housing project was completed - 12 units in Motithang and 16 units in Babesa, which together have benefitted 28 households from informal settlements. The Urban EbA project provided climate proofing support to these newly built housing units.

In Lao PDR, 4 EbA Interventions were selected to implemented following the VA assesments: (1 in Xay district-Oudomxay Province and 3 in Phongsaly district, Phongsaly Province. Procurement processes have been completed to start work on 3 out of the 4 interventions. With regard to livelihood interventions, a livelihood improvement plan was developed and endorsed by the National Steering Committee in Q2 2023. Targeted livelihood interventions include eco-tourism, urban homestead gardening, nursery and school gardening – in both provinces. Livelihood interventions are yet to fully start.

In Lao PDR, following the selection of 4 EbA interventions in previous reporting periods, work in two areas is completed:

1. Construction of one reservoir located in Sanesaly village, to store enough water (using and drinking) water for the community, and planting at the top of streams to protect the forest from dry land (reservoir construction area, watershed)
2. Slope protection construction mixed with green by grass planting by Increase green space and prevent landslides during the rainy season

The other 2 activities are 90 % complete:

3. Improve the drainage system by combining concrete structures with green structures and tree planting (increasing green space) in Cheng and Nongmengda village, Xay district, Oudomxay province. The tree planting along the canal is left to be done.
4. Improvement of Nongkhiew pond, cleaning took place to remove solid waste and dirt sediment, the next steps are to treat the wastewater, grow plants that can treat wastewater, such as lotus and vetiver grass. A pond management plan has been developed, waiting for endorsement from the district's government.

Regarding the livelihood interventions, a livelihood improvement plan was developed and endorsed by the National Steering Committee in Q2 2023. Targeted livelihood interventions include eco-tourism, urban homestead gardening, nursery and school gardening – in both provinces (expected to benefit approximately 500 vulnerable households). In Phongsaly, preparations for eco- and cultural tourism sites have been completed. The remaining tasks include providing eco-tourism and EbA (Ecosystem-based Adaptation) training for private entities such as hotels, restaurants, and travel agencies. Additionally, livelihood improvement initiatives for vulnerable households through homestead gardening and related activities have also been finalized. Moreover, the establishment of night market, to help vulnerable households sell their products, is completed, awaiting for an opening ceremony by the end of rainy season (by September). As a result, the overall livelihood improvement in Phongsaly is now at 95%. In Xay district, Oudomxay, the support for establishing green schools is nearly finished, with only one school under implementation. Eco-tourism promotion is 80% complete, pending training sessions. Another significant effort in Oudomxay involves improving livelihoods through homestead gardening and tree seedling. Currently, approximately 180 vulnerable households have benefited from the project through training in gardening and tree seedling, with the remaining households scheduled to receive training and benefits by August 2024. Overall progress in Oudomxay stands at 85%.

Lessons learned from livelihood improvement in Lao PDR have been that 1) households are enthusiastic to join the ecotourism activities; 2) Urban gardening and tree seedling, identifying vulnerable households and

explaining to the targeted villages is time consuming. Nevertheless, once the villages and households understand the objectives of the project, they fully cooperated. Trained households in both Oudomxay and Phongsaly can reduce their expenditure on vegetable consumption. Some households incorporated the knowledge received from trainings with their indigenous knowledge to grow some high-price vegetables during rainy season. Green schools in Oudomxay have made students and teachers more engaged and excited about the products from the gardening activities and the knowledge gained of tree seedlings. In Phongsaly, people are excited with the night market, because this will be the first night market in the town.

Component 3: (Regional & City level)

A regional event titled “Advancing climate resilience in cities and urban areas: Drawing insights from urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation projects in Asia” was hosted at the 4th Gobeshona Global Conference on March 6, 2024, in collaboration with UNEP Global Adaptation Network (GAN) and the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) to showcase the EbA approaches and learning from the project. Representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR presented the project approaches and lessons learned at the virtual event that was attended by 64 participants. In addition, the recording of the event has been uploaded to the APAN Youtube channel where it has been viewed 133 times (as of July 2024).

In Cambodia, in this reporting period two awareness raising/training workshops were conducted in Dec 2023 in Kep City. This was in addition to the two local awareness-raising workshops that were conducted previously to educate the public about the importance of the protection, conservation, and development of the environment, as well as the importance of infrastructure rehabilitation and alternative livelihood options for coastal communities in Kep province.

On the outputs related to long term research, two national universities (Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Royal University of Phnom Penh) were selected, and legal agreements signed to conduct long-term research programmes. 7 students were selected to study at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. One PhD student completed his research and the 6 other masters students’ research is on-going.

In Bhutan, one seminar was organized by the Royal University of Bhutan to disseminate the study of the findings from the 6 post graduate students, along with academic supervisors and stakeholders such as Thimphu Thromde, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, United Nations Development Programme, Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation, Faculty and students from both recipient college. The daylong seminar was attended by 45 participants. Previously, the team organized a seminar on EbA interventions at the Bhutan Climate Roundtable organized by the Department of Environment and Climate Change on 24-25 May 2023. 70 participants from Private sector, CSO, National and International NGO, Corporate sector and civil service.

With regard to the long-term research outputs, the Royal University of Bhutan was selected as the only relevant university. A multidisciplinary team consisting of expertise of different relevant disciplines was established and the concept note for engagement was finalized. The formal legal arrangement through the SSFA between UNEP and RUB was signed. 6 students were selected for the research paper and have completed as well as present their research.

In Lao PDR, the project has worked closely with the GCF project “Building resilience of urban populations with ecosystem-based solutions in Lao PDR”, and provided inputs to the EbA knowledge portal that was developed <https://eba.retechsole.com>. This knowledge portal aims to be the main EbA knowledge portal for Lao PDR. Secondly, 3 training workshops took place this reporting period – two trainings provided by the PMU to relevant local and district officials and one training provided by the national university team leading the long-term research (please refer to outcome reporting for more details)

The long-term research output has been led by the National University of Laos namely Faculty of Environmental Science and a legal agreement with UNEP was signed. 7 master students were selected and supported by the project to conduct various EbA research within Phongsaly and Oudomxay Provinces, respectively. 4 students have completed their tenure, and 3 students are currently still studying.

In Myanmar, a coup was staged on February 1st 2021, deposing the democratic elected government by the military. Based on the UN Principles of Engagement in Myanmar all communications with government partners has been halted to this point, which also has led to a halt in project activities on the national level in Myanmar. All activities under this project with Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.

Rating towards outcomes:

The rating towards project outcomes is Marginally Satisfactory as the project is advancing towards reaching its objectives and expected results. Significant progress has been made on reaching targets under outcome 2. The project team will need to concentrate efforts on verifying and measuring against project indicators in the next reporting period.

Rating towards outputs:

The overall rating towards project outputs is Satisfactory. The project has delivered several outputs under outcome 1 and has made significant progress in delivering outputs under component 2 (country interventions). The project team will need to focus on delivering the rest of the regional awareness raising outputs as well as the cost benefit analysis in the next reporting period. To fully collect lessons learned and review feedback from the national interventions, and to adequately reflect these into regional awareness and knowledge sharing outputs, an additional extension of 6 months (up to June 2025) will be sought.

Overall risk rating:

The overall risk rating is Low. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and related risks has decreased, however, the two-year delay caused by Covid 19 has significantly impacted the implementation schedule of the project. Political instability in Myanmar remains an issue, and the project will seek GEF sec support on cancelling the remaining portion of this project.

2.4. Co-financing

<p>Planned Co-finance Total: <i>(total only)</i></p> <p>Actual to date: <i>Complete (in \$ and %). State the date for which this value is valid)</i></p>	Planned total co-finance: US\$ 94,190,41:	
	Organization/Entity	Amount (USD)
	UN-Habitat	1,896,417
	UNP-UNEP PEI	2,500,000
	Thimphu Thromde (Bhutan)	1,500,000
	Provincial Hall of Kep (Cambodia)	1,000,000
	Phongsaly and Oudomxay province governments (Lao PDR)	2,274,000
	Mandalay City Development Committee (Myanmar)	78,970,000
	National Council for Sustainable Development (Cambodia)	50,000
	Total	94,190,417
<p>Actual to date: <i>Complete (in \$ and %). State the date for which this value is valid)</i></p>	<p>Actual to date (30 June 2024): \$ 2,066,087</p> <p>Cambodia – \$ 1,050,000 Lao PDR – \$ 353,439 Bhutan – \$ 521,648 UNEP – \$ 141,000</p>	
<p>Justification of progress</p>	<p>In-kind co-financing of 1,050,000 USD has been realised in Cambodia which 50,000 USD is the cost related to office space of the Ministry of Environment staff support and utilities and the other 1,000,000 USD is the cost related to the support of Kep authorities and interventions.</p>	

	<p>A total of USD 521,648.4 has been co-financed altogether by Bhutan - Thimphu Thromde for the low income housing initiatives and technical support provided to the project</p> <p>The in-kind contribution from Lao PDR, \$83,000 per annum with a total of USD 332,000, was calculated from the working hours of provincial and ministerial staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. In addition, the co-financing project in Oudomxay province has been implemented and \$21,439 has been invested.</p> <p>Regional co-financing leveraged includes the in-kind contribution from the UNEP Regional Coordinator and Regional Office. The consultation, as well as the participation/ contribution during the national workshops and meetings, and lastly support from APAN in terms of time from the communications lead – worth 1,300USD - the approximate amount is \$141,000.</p> <p>Co-financing from Myanmar will not be realised following suspension of activities. The UNEP -UNDP PEI project was also completed before the start of this project. Lastly, UNHABITAT have been requested to provide co-financing figures which will be added to reporting in the next year.</p>
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2.5. Stakeholder engagement

Date of project steering committee meeting	<p><i>13th -14th March 2023 Laos PDR</i></p> <p>Planned PSC meeting to take place in Q4 2024</p>
Stakeholder engagement	<p>The project has actively sought to engage a variety of stakeholders, starting from the city authorities where the project will take place to ensure close coordination with city planning officials. For the inception workshop, city officials from Myanmar and Bhutan came to attend and provide city-specific feedback and during the three inception missions to the countries (Bhutan, Laos, Cambodia) visits were undertaken by the project manager together with national level officials to the municipalities where interventions would take place and meetings were set up with municipality-level officials so that their views were heard too.</p> <p>Further stakeholder engagement has happened throughout the project. The country-level Inception Workshops in Cambodia, and Lao PDR has helped identify key stakeholders in piloted municipalities and other agencies working on urban and sustainability issues in the country/and or region (e.g. GGGI is active in Kep directly in Cambodia and in Myanmar GGGI is in charge of a GCF readiness project focusing on sustainable urban interventions).</p> <p>This reporting period, national level PSCs in participating countries took place to ensure broader engagement of all country level stakeholders in execution of the project. Review of annual workplans and quarterly progress review meetings with partner governments and agencies has been taken place to ensure achievement of the project goals and objectives. 2 project steering committee meetings in Bhutan took place to review project progress and provide updates.</p> <p>In Cambodia, a national steering meeting was conducted in Kep City. The purpose of this meeting was to update the project's progress, review the work plan and budget plan, and prepare the project completion plan (Exit Strategy).</p>

	<p>The meeting recognised the positive outcome of the project and agreed to follow the project completion plan once developed.</p> <p>In Lao PDR, 3 stakeholder consultation workshops/ trainings have taken place. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eba training workshop (conducted by the PMU) for different sectors involved in the project from 2 provinces, (Provincial office of Natural Resources and Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, Education, Public work and transport and planning office) - the objective of the training was on mainstreaming of EbA into local policy and planning. The team used the EbA guidelines produced by UNHABITAT and TOT tools (from the 2023 TOT conducted) as well as lessons learned from the two provinces to then provide training to local government. 35 participants (15 females) - Training on EbA and safeguards (conducted by the PMU) for both construction and livelihood improvement activities for two provinces attending by all related counterparts from provincial level , 30 participants (17 females) - A training was conducted by National University of Engineering of Lao (FEN) who are implementing the long-term research component of the project. The aim of the training was to provide basic concept knowledge and technical skills on Urban EbA development e.g: Urban planning, urban environment management, urban green space, green infrastructure, stakeholder engagement and collaboration, urban design and planning for sponge cities, to local/ provincial government. <p>Beneficiaries of the trainings include members from the Environment sector, public work and transport sectors, water supply sector, information, culture and tourism sector in the 2 provinces and also office of Environment, public work and transport, water supply, information, culture and tourism in 2 districts. The training was well received, and all participants found it to be useful and informative.</p> <p><i>In prior reporting periods, 2 awareness raising and stakeholder meetings took place in Kep province to highlight the various project interventions. In Bhutan, a seminar was organised to sensitize CSOs, NGOs and private sector on project activities, as well as 2 community level trainings on livelihood interventions.</i></p> <p><i>At the regional level the training of trainers workshop that took place back to back with regional PSC meeting. The training was designed for trainers and actors facilitating the planning and implementation of urban EBA action in their respective countries. It was designed to assist city management authorities and local government, as well as national government, practitioners, and the wider development community in integrating ecosystems-based adaptation (EbA) into urban development.</i></p> <p><i>The regional training/ToT engaged with 25 practitioners from Bhutan, Cambodia, and Laos PDR on using the Urban EBA decision making tool (developed through the project) as well as in facilitating/training others on applying the steps of the developed Tool.</i></p> <p><i>The Vulnerability Assessments in Bhutan, Lao PDR and Cambodia included several rounds of stakeholder consultations with local and national stakeholders.</i></p>
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2.6. Gender

<p>Does the project have a gender action plan?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Gender mainstreaming</p>	<p>The importance of gender mainstreaming in EbA action has been emphasized from the start of the project, notably in the inception meeting, where a session was held on the project's gender strategy, where UNEP's Gender and Environment Officer for the Asia and the Pacific Office presented detailed examples on how to include gender into projects as well as a case study from Lao PDR on time use and how this varies between men and women.</p> <p>The regional project team have emphasized with the country level managers that they need to focus on gender equality and ensure that they engage with women's/ marginalized groups during workshops and consultations for the project.</p> <p>For example, during the organization of Consultation Workshop on the Initial Results of the Vulnerability Assessment in Cambodia in June 2020, PMU has extended their invitation to Woman's organization in order to increase participation from female and other sensitive groups. It was an indicator and a good example for other partner countries to follow this initiative.</p> <p>Another example is from the training needs assessment for capacity building workshop conducted by UN-Habitat in Myanmar where 74% of the respondents were female.</p> <p>The online training sessions conducted by UN-Habitat on the decision-making tool also tried to emphasize a gender-balance. The first training for Cambodia and Lao PDR had 45% female participation and the 1st training for Bhutan had a 50:50 gender balance. The 2nd joint training organised in June 2021 had 20 female representatives out of 49.</p> <p>The training of trainer's event that took place in Laos PDR in March 2023 had 43% female attendants.</p> <p>Due to very limited budget availability, a detailed gender analysis could not be carried out.</p> <p>To facilitate inclusion of gender considerations, for example, gender considerations were included in Lao PDR for the beneficiary selection criteria of livelihood interventions. Similarly, Cambodia and Bhutan focussed on ensuring 50% women as beneficiaries. For example, they provided mushroom and composting training to women settlements in the north and south of Thimphu</p> <p>Lessons learned from livelihood interventions in Cambodia have been that while they provided training on mussel raising to both men and women and encouraged female participation, traditionally male members of the household tend to go to sea to conduct mussel raising or crab banking, and female members of the household then sell these at the local markets. Women were actively involved in monitoring of illegal fishing activities (under the guardhouse activity), and a majority of the beneficiaries that received trees from the nursery were women who planted them in their home gardens.</p>

2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

<p>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of</p>	<p>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? No</p>
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Environmental and social safeguards)	<p>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</p> <p><i>If yes, describe the specific safeguard risks that were identified in the SRIF/ESERN.</i></p>
New social and/or environmental risks	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p> <p>Maintenance and Sustainability: Ensuring the long-term maintenance of EbA projects can be challenging. For example, urban parks and green spaces require ongoing care and resources, which can be a strain on local governments and communities if not adequately planned and funded.</p> <p><i>If yes, describe the new risks or changes.</i></p>
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts (to be filled in by TM and EA)	<p>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p>
Environmental and social safeguards management	<p>Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR have finalized their Vulnerability Assessments. The climate related vulnerabilities were analysed by 1) applying climate modelling, 2) considering socio-economic and gender aspects and 3) assessing the current status of the biodiversity. Close interaction with all relevant stakeholders also formed a part of the assessment as well as of the follow-up processes, during which the most suitable EbA interventions for each pilot city was then defined. This close cooperation with relevant stakeholder is important to align the GEF and the country's requirements in regard to Environmental and Social Safeguards.</p> <p>Laos PDR used the UNEP SRIF tool to screen all EbA and livelihood interventions selected – this was conducted in March 2023. In addition, safeguard monitoring materials were prepared, shared and training undertaken of the provincial implementation team of both provinces (Oudomxai and Phongsaly). The provided materials included a contractor environmental and social management plan (CESMP), GRM standard and guidelines including GRM contact information of GRM committee from village to provincial assembly level, site inspection checklist, E&S logbook and contractor monthly report. These materials are used to track the contractor's performances and suggestion on performance improvements, if necessary, as well as the guideline to receive the assistant from government sector if any. Bhutan and Cambodia used their own country level environmental and social safeguard regulations regarding screening of EbA and livelihood interventions. Meetings are held in the target areas to sensitise communities on the GRM.</p> <p>An environmental and safeguard assessment was undertaken in Kep, Cambodia using national regulations before the construction of canals and water gate started.</p> <p>For Bhutan, an Environmental impact assessment was conducted before activities started as activities need to comply with the national Environment standard covering biodiversity, land, forest and impact on income. Further assessments on water quality were also required to be conducted.</p>

2.8. Knowledge management

Knowledge activities and products	
	<p>The project team have participated in several regional and global knowledge sharing initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6th APAN Forum in October 2018, 2. Gobeshona Global Conference 1 session 'Building climate change resilience in cities and urban areas through Ecosystem-based approaches to Adaptation' in 2021, 3. 7th APAN Forum in 2021 4. A session titled Building climate resilience in urban areas through ecosystem-based adaptation in Innovate4Cities conference held from 11 -15 October 2021 showcased the urban EbA toolkit developed under the project and shared its applicability in different country contexts in Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Representative of UN-HABITAT shared the toolkit developed under the project and representatives of Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR presented on application of the toolkit and use of the toolkit in their respective country contexts. 5. The project also collaborated with 3rd Asia Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM) held on 25 – 29 October 2022. Urban Forestry Development Project by Thimphu Thromde, Bhutan was presented a case study by national technical expert of Bhutan and UNEP also contributed in opening and closing plenary of the event through representation of UNEP ROAP senior management. 6. The project had a session at the Southeast Asia and East Asia window of the Resilience Hub at COP 26. Through the session - Risks and Resilience in Southeast Asian Cities: Use of EbA as the approach for adaptation and development; UNEP and country representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR shared experiences of promoting ecosystem-based adaptation for reducing risks and enhancing resilience in urban contexts. 7. Gobeshona Global Conference 4 session 'Advancing climate resilience in cities and urban areas: Drawing insights from urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation projects in Asia' in March 2024. In this event, the project representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR shared learning from the projects. <p>Knowledge products developed through the project include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A series of information briefs were developed in early phase of the project to help explain and define EbA in cities as well as illustrate concepts and practices of urban EbA. This included the identification of case studies of where Urban EbA has been employed in other municipalities in the Asia and the Pacific region, breaking these down between the four different ecosystems represented in this study, i.e. hilly, mountainous, dryland and coastal. Altogether this has resulted in 5 different information briefs. https://cityadapt.com/en/publications/ 2. A decision making toolkit to integrate urban EbA into development planning, has been developed by UNHABITAT. The project team is in the process of publishing the decision-making toolkit. 3. Project webpage and factsheet at UNEP site: https://www.unep.org/urban-ecosystem-based-adaptation-asia-pacific 4. In Laos the project has worked closely with the GCF project "Building resilience of urban populations with ecosystem-based solutions in Lao PDR", and provided inputs to the EbA knowledge portal that is currently

	<p>under design - demo https://eba.retechsole.com this knowledge portal aims to be the main EbA knowledge portal for Lao PDR.</p> <p>5. In Cambodia, the assessment reports related the projects were uploaded onto the national website - https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh/. In addition, these reports were printed and sent to the local authorities of uses and references.</p> <p>This reporting period the project has focussed energies on national level implementation. A regional knowledge sharing workshop is planned for in Q4 2024.</p>
<p>Main learning during the period</p>	<p>Learning from project interventions is ongoing. In this reporting period the team focussed on national implementation. Below is an updated list of learning from the project.</p> <p>Collated lessons learned from EbA implementation in country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The selection of Urban EbA interventions was an iterative and multistakeholder process. As the concept of EbA is relatively new to city level authorities – hard infrastructure activities were often selected as the highest priority. Negotiations to include soft/green interventions to support hard infrastructure was needed in several cases. - It would have been beneficial for the decision-making tool kit and training to have started before country level VIAs started. Documents should also be available in local languages in order to better build capacities on local government partners. - Cooperation with local authorities is very important for the success of project implementation. - A proper channel of communication between stakeholders and project partners is important to get project updates and changes in the project implementation. - New tools like follow up e-learning courses on urban EbA, and funding mechanisms for EbA would be beneficial for continuity of the project progress. - Tailoring EbA interventions to the specific context (e.g. socio-economic, ecological, cultural) of the target area is essential for the success and sustainability of EbA implementation. - It was noted by Bhutan that funding mechanisms to fund EbA would be beneficial for continuity of the project <p>On building stakeholder capacities on Urban EbA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pilot countries have different levels of knowledge on the urban EbA concept as well as expertise in project development and implementation. Bringing countries and cities together has been useful to facilitate cross and joint learning during trainings and visits to actual sites of possible projects. - National and local actors benefit from the strengths of each other in pursuing Urban EbA actions. The enabling policies and technical know-how from national entities provided guidance to local urban actors while the latter provided the nuanced climate impacts on the ground that should inform decision-making. Local urban actors likewise provided practical strategies for successful project interventions whilst also facilitating the engagement of communities and other stakeholders more active on the ground. - Participatory training makes learning more engaging. Setting a limit on the number and length of PowerPoint presentations in training courses, conferences, and workshops can be very useful. Employing new learning and

	<p>interactive means like Menti and Kahoot can be useful although challenging for some who are not oriented to new technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given the Covid-19 pandemic, the capacity development approach and activities adjusted to an online or web-based scheme. While it supported in maintaining engagement with partners as well as sustaining learning, not all learn best through this modality. Several in person refresher trainings were needed once COVID 19 restrictions eased. - Limited/slow internet connectivity has also proven to be a challenge in some virtual settings limiting engagement and learning. <p>Feedback from UNHABITAT on the decision-making tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While a simple and practical process can be considered given the relatively new concept of urban EbA for most, it was helpful to situate the tool's recommended 'steps' with the existing local planning and decision-making processes in each country/city. This notes that urban EbA decision-making need not start from "zero" but in fact can be elaborated from ongoing processes or initiatives. - The decision-making tool required simple checklists and reminders that users can easily refer to at any point of the development planning process including that of the NAP. - The decision-making tool on Urban EbA with the inclusion of cases and good practices from countries in the region. 'Cases' were therefore included to supplement the technical and process inputs in the tool to enhance learners' appreciation and potential application.
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2.9. Stories to be shared

Stories to be shared	<p>For Cambodia, the canal and watergate rehabilitation have positively impacted the local communities. The project team have reported that the canal has shown to mitigate flooding in the area. Communities are happy that they can have water for farming, animal raising, and other daily uses. The solar streetlights along the canal make the communities safer at night, and makes the area more social and lively as the local communities are seen to relax along the canal in the evenings.</p> <p>In Loas PDR, the team have noted that the ecosystem has regenerated from the on-going interventions in Nongkhiew pond, Phongsaly District. Some migrated birds during winter can be found after the improvement of the pond and local people are using the pond for recreational and exercise purposes.</p>
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3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

*Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the **UNEP Task Manager**¹ will make an overall assessment and provide ratings of:*

- (i) Progress towards achieving the project Results(s)- see section 3.1*
- (ii) Implementation progress – see section 3.2*

Section 3.3 on Risk should be first completed by the Project Manager. The UNEP Task Manager will subsequently enter his/her own ratings in the appropriate column.

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives)

[copy and paste the CEO Endorsement (or latest formal Revision) approved Results Framework, adding/deleting outcome rows, as appropriate]

¹ For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
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² Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

<p>Outcome 1: Technical and institutional capacity of city management authorities to integrate urban EbA into development planning strengthened.</p>	<p>1. Institutional capacity score of city authorities in Thimphu, Kep, Pongsaly and Oudomxay and Mandalay to effectively identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA in urban areas.</p>	<p><i>Bhutan – 3.5 Cambodia – 6.1 Lao PDR – 5.1</i></p>		<p><i>By project completion, city authorities (in 5 institutions) have achieved an increase in capacity score by at least 2 steps.</i></p>	<p>80%</p>	<p>The project is yet to complete a capacity score assessment – this will be done as part of a results verification exercise.</p> <p>Overall progress made:</p> <p>UNHABITAT reported that a total of 140 stakeholders from the 4 countries were provided training on Urban EbA. Capacity was built in the following institutions:</p> <p>Bhutan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thimpu Thromde (Urban planning, Infrastructure and environment Division) - National Environment Commission <p>Lao PDR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - Pongsaly province - Oudomxay province <p>Cambodia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) - Kep city administration <p><i>Previous reporting:</i></p> <p>To build institutional and technical capacity of city management authorities, the designed toolkit related trainings were conducted on four specific modules and eight steps – module A on getting started (context analysis, stakeholder analysis and initial engagement), module B on assessing vulnerability and risks (planning, data collection and analyses), module C on objectives and decision making (envisioning and setting objectives and identification, analysis and shortlisting on adaptation actions) and module D on implementation (development of implementation strategy, M&E and</p>	<p>MS</p>
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					<p>mainstreaming of EbA in planning process). The staged approach of carrying out the capacity strengthening focused on setting up the primary knowledge base based on country contexts to analysing and prioritizing suitable EbA interventions for implementation with multi-stakeholder approach.</p> <p>These technical and institutional capacity building activities were carried out under Outputs 1.2 and 1.3 are being delivered under the agreement with UN-Habitat. Following up the training Needs Assessments in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar and two Capacity Building Trainings delivered in Cambodia and Myanmar in 2019 and in Laos in 2021, the urban EbA toolkit was drafted along with the training materials which were used in a series of 5 online training sessions. The draft tool was also presented and shared during the Innovate4Cities Conference. Three online training sessions on different modules of the toolkit were organized on 10 August, 28 September and 8 October 2021 respectively.</p> <p>As planned, 1 training per city/country was conducted and training reports were produced.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>City/ Country</th> <th>Training Date</th> <th>Total Trainees/Parax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Thimphu, Bhutan</td> <td>16-18 August 2021</td> <td rowspan="2">31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thimphu, Bhutan</td> <td>23-25 August 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kep, Cambodia</td> <td>05-06 December 2019</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kep, Cambodia</td> <td>08-09 June 2022</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phongsaly and Oudomxay, Lao PDR</td> <td>26-28 July 2021</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	City/ Country	Training Date	Total Trainees/Parax	Thimphu, Bhutan	16-18 August 2021	31	Thimphu, Bhutan	23-25 August 2021	Kep, Cambodia	05-06 December 2019	21	Kep, Cambodia	08-09 June 2022	36	Phongsaly and Oudomxay, Lao PDR	26-28 July 2021	32
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						<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Mandalay, Myanmar</td> <td>02-03 December 2019</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table> <p>The trainings targeted key government and related stakeholders involved in national and city level planning including focal agencies and ministries on climate change, urban planning and administration.</p> <p>The level of stakeholder varied between participating countries based on priorities in each country, availability of IT support services as most of the trainings were conducted within COVID19 related restriction period and language proficiency (trainings were delivered in English and local level proficiency specifically in city level were quite limited).</p> <p>In Bhutan, National Environment Commission Secretariat's (NECS) multiple divisions (Climate Change Division and Biodiversity and Land Division), different divisions of Thimphu Thromade (urban planning, infrastructure, environment, development regulatory, forestry) participated in the training programme. Participant profile varied between Chief Environment Officer to local level municipal inspectors with different disciplinary background – urban planner, forester, architect, administrator and academic).</p> <p>In Cambodia, most of the participants were from Department of Climate Change and Cambodia Climate Change Alliance and profiles varied from Director, Chief and Vice Chief of different units to field level officers. In case of Lao PDR, participants were from different divisions of Department of Climate Change (Climate Change Adaptation Division, Policy Division and Information</p>	Mandalay, Myanmar	02-03 December 2019	20
Mandalay, Myanmar	02-03 December 2019	20							

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
						<p>Division) as well as provincial and city administration of both Oudomxay and Phongsaly provinces. Profiles of participants varied from directors at central government, deputy directors, technical officers of both national and provincial governments.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.</i></p>	

<p>Outcome 2: EbA demonstrated in pilot cities to reduce the vulnerability of poor, urban communities.</p>	<p>1. Investments in EbA made in specific areas per city to reduce vulnerability of poor urban communities</p>	<p>0</p>		<p><i>By project completion: 5 areas (2 areas in Lao DPR and 1 area in Bhutan, Cambodia and Myanmar)</i></p>	<p>90%</p>	<p>EbA investments made in 4 municipalities/Provinces:</p> <p>Bhutan – Thimpu Thromde Cambodia – Kep province (Kep city) Lao PDR – Phongsaly Province & Oudomxay province</p> <p>Progress made on the interventions are as per below:</p> <p><u>Bhutan:</u> 100% complete Out of 17 interventions proposed based on the assessments, a rigorous multi-stakeholder engagement process and multicriteria analysis used for selection of the suitable EbA interventions for implementation – rehabilitation of degraded riparian zones and riverbeds using climate resilient species 1.5 km stretch of the Thimpu river, and slope stabilisation through plantation at the low income housing area identified for informal settlers. Lastly, 2.3km riverbank protection in the south of Thimphu.</p> <p>The river protection work has been completed as planned. Slope stone piling work to reduce further erosion/slides and slope treatment with biotic soil and native trees and grasses planted for enhanced slope erosion reduction) of the landslip at a location called Zilukha has been completed.</p> <p><u>Cambodia:</u> 100% complete Out of total 13 EbA interventions assessed, based on community consultations, multi-criteria analysis and validation by national stakeholders; three interventions were selected for implementation – Canal rehabilitation and water gate rehabilitation in Damnak Chambak, Sangkat OuKrasar, KepCity, KepCity for flood protection, and planting of five hectares of mangroves.</p>	<p>S</p>
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					<p>All interventions planned for in Cambodia have been completed. Please see GEF indicator reporting for details on figures.</p> <p><u>Lao PDR: 90% complete</u> Out of the 7 EbA interventions proposed and based on multi-stakeholder engagement and multicriteria analysis used for selection, 4 interventions were selected for implementation –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drainage System Improvement, Landscape and Tree Plantation in Jeng and Dongmengda village, Xay district, 3 km length 2. Construction of Water Supply Capacity Improvement with Tree Plantation in Preservation Area in Sansaly village, Phongsaly Province 3. Slope Protection Area in Phongsaath village, Phongsaly Province 4. Improvement of Nongkhiew pond <p>The construction work of 2 activities have completed: (1) construction of water supply capacity improvement with tree plantation in preservation area (5 ha) in Sanesaly village, Phongsaly province and (2) Slope protection area in Phongsaath village, Phongsaly province.</p> <p>For intervention number 1 drainage system improvement landscape with tree plantation in Cheng and Nongmengda village, Xay district, Oudomxay province is 90% complete - there is only tree plantation along the canal left to be done.</p> <p>For activity number 4 - improvement of Nongkhiew pond, cleaning took place to remove solid waste and dirt sediment, the next steps are to treat the wastewater, grow plants that can treat wastewater, such as lotus and vetiver grass. The management plan of the area has been developed and</p>
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Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
						<p>waiting for endorsement from the governance of Phongsaly district. A pond management plan has been developed, awaiting for endorsement from the district's government.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.</i></p>	

	<p>2.Number of beneficiaries from urban EbA interventions in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (and percentage of which are women)</p>	<p>0</p>		<p>1920 households benefitting from diversified livelihoods in the project (of which at least 50% are women).</p> <p>Original target included households in Myanmar hence this is to be reviewed.</p>	<p>1008 households</p>	<p>Total number of households reached by diversified livelihood activities is 1008 households.</p> <p>Verification of the exact number of households the project intends to reach will need to take place in each country:</p> <p>In <u>Bhutan</u> approximately 278 households benefitted from training on Mushroom farming and waste management as well as training and provision of equipment for urban agriculture (seeds and other equipment) in 13 informal settlement areas. 28 households were supported under the low income housing activities.</p> <p>In <u>Laos</u>, livelihood interventions have been selected based on the socioeconomic assessment these include: 1) Promoting eco-tourism in Oudomxay and Phongsaly (80% completed in oudomxay, while the work in Phongsaly 95% completed), 2) Urban gardening and tree seedling (the work in Oudomxay is 70% complete; the work in Phongsaly 100% completed); Livelihood interventions have benefitted 510 households thus far. The last main activity in Oudomxay is green schools which focuses on gardens and waste management. Four schools were selected in Oudomxay, with three completed and one, Huay Khoum High School, currently under implementation. The activities include establishing vegetable gardens to educate on eco-friendly gardening and reduce food costs for low-income teachers and students. In Phongsaly, the last main activity is the establishment of night market (where vulnerable households can sell their vegetables and other products). The activity is completed, awaiting for the opening ceremony (after rainy season) by September 2024.</p>	<p>MS</p>
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Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period <i>(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)</i>	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
						<p>In <u>Cambodia</u>, there have been approximately 220 beneficiaries: 80 families benefitted from training on green mussels raising. Building of a guardhouse benefitted 80 families, Crab Bank activities benefitted 30 families, Fish Farm activities benefitted 30 families.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.</i></p>	

<p>Outcome 3: Knowledge base for supporting the design of urban EbA interventions strengthened, and public awareness of the positive potential of urban EbA interventions to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts increased.</p>	<p>1. Percentage of community members at project intervention sites that are aware of climate change and urban EbA interventions (of which are women).</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<p><i>By project completion, at least 50% (per sample) of the community members at each project intervention sites – approx. 960 people are aware of climate change and urban EbA interventions (with at least 50% being female.)</i></p>	<p>60%</p>	<p>The exact number of people made aware is yet to be calculated.</p> <p>This reporting period 360 people were made aware/ trained through local awareness raising and training activities in the pilot cities.</p> <p>Progress includes:</p> <p>In Cambodia, 2 awareness raising/training workshops were conducted in Dec 2023 in Kep City with the following themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One awareness raising workshop on the importance of mangrove management and resilient infrastructure, aiming to understand mangrove restoration and its biodiversity, to conceptualize livelihood improvement through crab and fish raising, to explore the importance of climate resilient infrastructure, and the importances of marine debris management along the coastal area. The event reached 210 people who are the representatives of the department of climate change, kep authorities, local authorities, and local communities. 2. A training course on the maintenance of mangrove and infrastructure, aiming to understand sustainable mangrove management and restoration, to understand green mussel raising, to explore how to raise crab and fish, and to understand the concept and technical aspect on resilient infrastructure design. Training was attended by 40 people who are the management and staff of the 	<p>MS</p>
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						<p>department of climate change, local authorities, and local communities.</p> <p>In previous reporting periods two awareness-raising workshops were conducted to educate the public about the importance of the protection and conservation of the environment, as well as the importance of infrastructure rehabilitation and alternative livelihood options for coastal Communities in Kep province.</p> <p>In Bhutan, one seminar was organized by the Royal University of Bhutan to disseminate the study of the findings from the 6 post graduate students, along with academic supervisors and stakeholders such as Thimphu Thromde, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, United Nations Development Programme, Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation, Faculty and students from both recipient college. The daylong seminar was attended by 45 participants. The focus of the project this reporting period has been on finalising EbA and livelihood interventions.</p> <p>In previous reporting periods a one-day workshop was conducted with CSOs, NGOS and private sector on project interventions and possible benefits. In addition, the national technical expert conducted several workshops and seminars with universities. This will be a focus of the work to be conducted by the national team up until the end of 2024.</p> <p>In Lao PDR, 3 EbA training workshops took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One EbA training workshop for different sectors from the 2 provinces, (Provincial office of Natural Resources and Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, 	
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Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
						Education, Public work and transport and planning office) - The second training workshop was aimed to provide basic concept knowledge and technical skills on EbA for instance - Third training was on the EbA guidelines developed by UNHABITAT. <i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.</i>	

	<p>Number of city authorities in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar using local, national and regional platforms to access information on EbA that is collated, generated and disseminated through the LDCF project.</p>	<p><i>To assess the use of local, national and regional platforms, a scorecard has been developed with a maximum score of 10 and assessment is based on structured interviews of targeted city agencies. This scorecard assesses the familiarity and usage of three relevant regional platforms (APAN, GAN and CityAdapat), familiarity and use of relevant national platforms and incorporation of acquired knowledge in practical works of city authorities. Baselines scores for each country was assessed during the baseline assessment (Bhutan 3.0, Cambodia 2.4 and Lao PDR 1.3). At the end of the project structured</i></p>		<p><i>By project completion, at least 40 (10 in each country).</i></p>	<p>60%</p>	<p>In this reporting period, a regional event titled “Advancing climate resilience in cities and urban areas: Drawing insights from urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation projects in Asia” was hosted at the 4th Gobeshona Global Conference on March 6, 2024, in collaboration with UNEP Global Adaptation Network (GAN) and the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) to showcase the EbA approaches and learning from the project. Representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR presented the project approaches and lessons learned at the virtual event that was attended by 64 participants. In addition, the recording of the event has been uploaded to the APAN Youtube channel where it has been viewed 133 times (as of July 2024).</p> <p><u>Previous reporting:</u></p> <p>Five Information briefs have been developed and published introducing Urban EbA in the context of different ecosystems.</p> <p>Lao PDR PMU has produced a video in Lao on the vulnerability assessment training workshops, which has been shared nationally via the DCC Facebook site https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbnUvk9QpXA</p> <p>The Laos team are also working with the GCF project “Building resilience of urban populations with ecosystem-based solutions in Lao PDR”, and provided inputs to the EbA knowledge portal https://eba.retechsole.com this knowledge portal aims to be the main EbA knowledge portal for Lao PDR.</p> <p>Cambodia PMU has also produced a documentary on importance of ecosystem based adaptation for building coastal resilience in Kep Province and Cambodia. They have also shared the risk assessments</p>	<p>MS</p>
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		<p><i>interviews based on the same questionnaire will be conducted to assess the change in progress of using relevant knowledge platforms.</i></p>				<p>developed through the project which has received 51 views and 22 downloads.</p> <p>Bhutan currently use the Thimpu Thromde social media account as a platform for sharing updates on the project as well as the Department of Environment and Climate Change Website.</p> <p>In previous reporting period, the project has used regional and global workshops to share information and knowledge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6th APAN Forum in October 2018 2. The Gobeshona Conference on local adaptation 3. APAN Forum in 2021 4. A session titled Building climate resilience in urban areas through ecosystem-based adaptation in Innovate4Cities conference held from 11 -15 October 2021 showcased the urban EbA toolkit developed under the project and shared its applicability in different country contexts in Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Representative of UN-HABITAT shared the toolkit developed under the project and representatives of Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR presented on application of the toolkit and use of the toolkit in their respective country contexts. 5. The project collaborated with the 3rd Asia Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM) held on 25 – 29 October 2021. The Urban Forestry Development Project by Thimphu Thromde, Bhutan presented a case study by national technical expert of Bhutan and UNEP also contributed in opening and closing plenary of the event through representation of UNEP ROAP senior management. 	
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Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
						<p>6. Southeast Asia and East Asia window of the Resilience Hub at COP 26. Through the session - Risks and Resilience in Southeast Asian Cities: Use of EbA as the approach for adaptation and development; UNEP and country representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR shared experiences of promoting ecosystem-based adaptation for reducing risks and enhancing resilience in urban contexts.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.</i></p>	

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
COMPONENT 1:					
Output 1.1: Policy briefs developed on cost-effective adaptation to climate change in an urban context	Dec 2024	50%	50%	<p>No progress made in this reporting period</p> <p>The project team have been focussed this reporting period on ensuring all pilot interventions in the countries are completed before launching the CBA.</p> <p>A stock-taking exercise on adaptation techniques (focusing on Urban EbA techniques) that have been implemented in urban areas in the Asia-Pacific region was undertaken through use of a survey to try find case studies (split according to the 4 ecosystems targeted by this project) by an urban specialist. This has been used to draft a shorter more targeted policy brief/explanatory products together with UN-Habitat to clearly define Urban EbA that was used by UN-Habitat to introduce the concept in their trainings.</p> <p>Building on these case studies, a TOR has been developed for undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of Urban EbA interventions in the region. During the 1st PSC meeting – it was agreed to produce the Cost-benefit policy brief after the interventions have been implemented in pilot cities.</p> <p>The revised timeline for the completion of this output is Q2-2025.</p>	MS

³ Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project logframe (and workplan) or in any updated project revision.

⁴ The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).

⁵ As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g. access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.

⁶ To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
Output 1.2: Training on climate change impacts and appropriate urban EbA interventions provided to city management authorities in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (including from pilot cities)	Completed <i>(December 2021)</i>	100%	100%	Detailed training material/tools were developed by UNHABITAT and peer reviewed by colleagues in UNEP. In country trainings in targeted pilot cities were conducted in Lao PDR in Q4 of 2021, in Bhutan in Q4 of 2021&2023 and in Cambodia in Q2 of 2022. <i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended</i>	S
Output 1.3: Decision-making tools to integrate urban EbA into development planning and the NAP process, designed and presented to city authorities in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar	<i>Completed in March 2023</i>	100%	100%	This activity has been completed by UNHABITAT. A decision making toolkit was developed, and translated into 2 local language (PowerPoint versions) (for Cambodia and Laos PDR). A series of online trainings on the new tool was conducted. This method was used to validate the contents as well as continue regional and national learning during the covid-pandemic period. In the reporting period, 1 regional training was conducted on March 2023 and has been structured as a training of trainers format as agreed amongst partners. The regional training/ToT resulted in improved capacities of 25 participants from Bhutan, Cambodia, and Laos PDR on using the Urban EBA tool as well as in facilitating/training others on applying the steps of the developed Tool. <i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended</i>	S
COMPONENT 2:					
Output 2.1: Vulnerability maps and adaptation reports developed for pilot cities	<i>Completed in December 2021</i>	100%	100%	VAs have been undertaken and finalised in Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Vulnerability maps and reports for Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR are available. <i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended</i>	S

<p>Output 2.2: City-specific urban EbA interventions appropriate to the social, cultural and environmental contexts – including urban reforestation, urban agriculture and wetland restoration – demonstrated in pilot cities</p>	<p><i>Dec 2024</i></p>	<p>65%</p>	<p>95%</p>	<p>Based on the completed country-level Vulnerability Assessments, selection of interventions have been completed through extensive consultation using multi-criteria analysis in Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Selected interventions were also vetted by respective national project steering committees by Q2 of 2022.</p> <p>Pilot interventions are at differing stages of completion in the pilot cities/countries.</p> <p>Bhutan – 100% Riverbank restoration around river Thimpu (1.5km) and slope stabilisation completed. Slope stabilisation and planting in a region known as Zilukha completed. 2.3km riverbank protection in the south of Thimphu has been completed.</p> <p>Cambodia – 100% Mangrove planting (5 hectares) completed. Canals in Damnak Chambak, Sangkat OuKrasar, KepCity, KepCity for flood protection (Canal 1: 2,742m, Canal 2: 1,058, and Canal 3: 4,100m) and water gate rehabilitation 100% completed.</p> <p>Laos – 90%</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drainage System Improvement, Landscape and Tree Plantation in Jeng and Dongmengda village, Xay district, 3 km length – 90% 2. Construction of Water Supply Capacity Improvement with Tree Plantation in Preservation Area in Sansaly village, Phongsaly Province - completed 3. Slope Protection Area in Phongsath village, Phongsaly Province - completed 4. Improvement of Nongkhiew pond – 80% complete <p>The final 5% relates to finalising all EbA interventions in Lao PDR</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended</i></p>	<p>S</p>
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Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p>Output 2.3: Livelihood improvement plans based on urban ecosystems developed and implemented with poor urban communities</p>	<p><i>Dec 2024</i></p>	<p>50%</p>	<p>90%</p>	<p>Livelihood improvement plans have been finalized in Lao PDR, Bhutan and Cambodia.</p> <p>In this reporting period the implementation of all livelihood interventions in Cambodia and Bhutan are 100% complete</p> <p>Livelihood interventions are underway in Lao PDR (80%)</p> <p>Approximately 498 households have receiving training or direct support from the project to undertake livelihood interventions.</p> <p>For details on the household numbers and livelihood activities please refer to reporting under Outcome 2.2</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been</i></p>	<p>S</p>

<p>Output 2.4: Long-term research programmes established in local scientific institutions to assess the long-term societal, economic and ecological benefits of urban EbA in pilot cities</p>	<p><i>Dec 2024</i></p>	<p>70%</p>	<p>85%</p>	<p>Work under the long term research (LTR) agreement in Bhutan is 100% complete, for Cambodia it is 80% complete – awaiting finalisation of 6 students, and in Lao PDR 80% complete awaiting 3 students completion.</p> <p>This reporting period Bhutan completed all activities,</p> <p>In Cambodia, two national universities (Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Royal University of Phnom Penh) were finalized to conduct long-term research programmes and an agreement was signed with them. 7 students were selected to study at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.</p> <p>In this reporting period, 1 Ph.D. student has completed his research, while the other 6 MSc students are in the final year of studies. Additionally, the Institute of Technology of Cambodia purchased monitoring equipment and provided training on uses to measure water quality and potability.</p> <p>For Lao PDR, an MoU was signed between relevant academic institutes with the DCC and a separate SSFA was signed between the Faculty of Engineering, National University of Engineering of Laos (FEN). To leverage multi-disciplinary potential of different disciplines of University of Laos, a consortium approach was considered as the best suitable option of engagement. 7 master students were selected and supported by the project to conduct various EbA research area within Phongsaly and Oudomxay Provinces, respectively.</p> <p>In this reporting period, 4 students have completed their tenure and 3 students are on-going in their research initiatives. In addition, FEN were also contracted to conduct research on EbA and develop an EbA knowledge portal for Lao PDR. The portal has been developed and is being populated. The portal has been developed in conjunction with the GCF Lao PDR Urban EbA project under implementation.</p> <p>In Bhutan, Royal University of Bhutan was selected as the only relevant university. A multidisciplinary team consisting of expertise of different relevant disciplines were established and the concept note for engagement was finalized. The</p>	<p>S</p>
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Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
				<p>formal legal arrangement through the SSFA between UNEP and RUB was signed. 6 students were selected for the postgraduate studies and completed their research.</p> <p>In this reporting period, the students presented their research at a seminar held in November 2023. The long term research activities for Bhutan are considered complete.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended</i></p>	
COMPONENT 3:					

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p>Output 3.1: Performance of urban EbA interventions in pilot cities monitored and assessed</p>	<p><i>Dec 2024</i></p>	<p><i>70%</i></p>	<p><i>70%</i></p>	<p>No progress made this reporting period.</p> <p>A monitoring framework has been developed for performance evaluation of EbA interventions. National level PMU teams along with government focal points have been trained on using the framework for M&E.</p> <p>The framework will be used to assess the intervention's performance for rest of the project period.</p> <p>While national teams have been trained on the M&E framework, they often lack the capacity (time and adequate skills) to undertake monitoring of more complex indicators (e.g. capacity scoring etc...) Additionally, the national focal points in Bhutan and Cambodia have both changed recently which makes the exercise difficult to undertake. The Lao PDR national team are using the questionnaires and tools developed by the M&E consultant and plan to conduct a monitoring exercise in Q4 2024.</p> <p>A results verification exercise will be conducted for the project.</p> <p>The revised timeline for the completion of this output is Q2-2025.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended.</i></p>	<p>MS</p>

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p>Output 3.2: National public awareness programmes implemented on climate change effects in urban areas and appropriate EbA interventions to manage these effects, including lessons learned from interventions implemented in pilot cities</p>	<p><i>Dec 2024</i></p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>60%</p>	<p>In previous reporting periods, information briefs providing country-specific context, project description and EbA knowledge have been developed in order to inform and advocate relevant stakeholders in pilot cities.</p> <p>In this reporting period:</p> <p>In Cambodia, 2 awareness raising/training events were held in Kep City (see outcome 3 – indicator 1 reporting for more details.)</p> <p>In Bhutan, 1 seminar was organised by the royal university of Bhutan. The team will focus efforts in the second half of 2024 to conduct awareness raising based on lessons learned from pilot interventions.</p> <p>In Lao PDR awareness activities are ongoing. The project team plan to organise a symposium to showcase research from the project which will be held by Nov 2024.</p> <p>And in Phongsaly, they plan to organise an awareness workshop on EbA and private sector involvement.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended</i></p>	<p>MS</p>

<p>Output 3.3: Relevant local, national and regional platforms updated to share knowledge on integrating urban EbA into city planning and management processes to facilitate the upscaling of urban EbA approaches throughout the region</p>	<p>Dec 2024</p>	<p>65%</p>	<p>75%</p>	<p>In March 2024, the project participated in the Gobeshona Global Conference 4 through a knowledge sharing session organized by the Global Adaptation Network and Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network. At this event, project representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR shared information about the project's EbA approaches and lessons learned.</p> <p>In terms of planned activities for the remaining of 2024, the project is in the process of publishing the Urban EbA toolkit. Further, the project is identifying engagement opportunities in the 12th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF), convened by UN-HABITAT and hosted by the Government of Egypt in Cairo in November 2024, and liaising with UN-HABITAT, and other conferences/ workshops to be held by similar Urban EbA projects – such as the Kathmandu LDCF project.</p> <p>The revised timeline for the completion of this output is Q2-2025.</p> <p><i>In previous reporting periods, the national level platforms have been updated/and or created e.g. the Lao EbA platform developed in conjunction with the GCF project. Both Cambodia and Bhutan have been using existing national social media and government websites to share outputs from the project.</i></p> <p><i>Prior reporting:</i></p> <p><i>Following the knowledge sharing initiatives through 6th APAN Forum in October 2018 and the Gobeshona Conference on local adaptation and the APAN Forum in 2021, in this reporting period, the project participated in three major international regional and global events. A session titled Building climate resilience in urban areas through ecosystem-based adaptation in Innovate4Cities conference held from 11 -15 October 2021 showcased the urban EbA toolkit developed under the project and shared its applicability in different country contexts in Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Representative of UN-HABITAT shared the toolkit developed under the project and representatives of Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR presented on application of the toolkit and use of the toolkit in their respective country contexts.</i></p>	<p>S</p>
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Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
				<p><i>The project also collaborated with 3rd Asia Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM) held on 25 – 29 October 2022. Urban Forestry Development Project by Thimphu Thromde, Bhutan was presented a case study by national technical expert of Bhutan and UNEP also contributed in opening and closing plenary of the event through representation of UNEP ROAP senior management.</i></p> <p><i>The project also participated in the Southeast Asia and East Asia window of the Resilience Hub at COP 26. Through the session - Risks and Resilience in Southeast Asian Cities: Use of EbA as the approach for adaptation and development; UNEP and country representatives from Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR shared experiences of promoting ecosystem-based adaptation for reducing risks and enhancing resilience in urban contexts.</i></p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended</i></p>	

4. Risk Rating

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the **Risk Help Sheet** for more details on rating.

Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
1. Management structure – Roles and responsibilities	L	L
2. Governance structure – Oversight	L	L
3. Implementation schedule	M	M
4. Budget	L	L
5. Financial Management	L	L
6. Reporting	L	L
7. Capacity to deliver	M	M

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in table B below.

4.2 Table B. Risk-Log

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risk	Risk affecting:							Variation respect to last rating			
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	MTR	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	PIR 6 (this PIR)	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Project managers and stakeholders at PSC have a limited overview of the overarching project objectives because of the project's multi-faceted, multi-country nature.	Outcomes 1-3	M	M		M	M	L	L	L	=	<i>This risk remains low</i>
Risk 2: Poor coordination among project stakeholders because of language and geographical barriers.	Outcomes 1-3	M	M		L	L	L	L	L	=	<i>This risk remains low</i>
Risk 3: Natural disasters undermine the implementation of the EbA interventions:	Outcome 2	M	L		L	L	L	L	L	=	<i>The risk on natural disasters remains low</i>

Economic loss and/or damage to the interventions.											
Risk 4: M&E and baseline study has not yet been executed and this might cause delays in other project activities implementation.	Outcomes 1-3	N/A	N/A		M	L	L	M	M	=	Risks remain Moderate. M&E and baseline study were undertaken, however the costs of M&E are very high for a four country project and national technical advisors do not always have the time and resources to undertake regular M&E for the project.
Risk 5: High turnover of staff in implementing agencies: Reduced institutional memory results in disruptions or delays in project implementation and coordination.	Outcomes 1-3	M	L		M	L	L	M	M	=	This risk has remained Moderate. Changes in national staff in Bhutan and Cambodia has meant that the institutional memory for the project gets lost. This is also the case at the regional level as the regional technical advisor position changing several times over the course of the project.
Risk 6: Limited inter-sectoral data sharing: The timely delivery and effectiveness of the project is reduced.	Outcomes 1-3	M	L		L	L	L	L	L	=	This risk remains low
Risk 7: Government will not provide sufficient funds to sustain the local structures , once the project ends: Upscaling of the urban EbA interventions will be limited.	Outcome 2	M	L		L	L	L	L	M	↑	As national interventions start to wind down, this risk has increased to Moderate. National teams have highlighted that some of the interventions' sustainability is at risk given low provincial/ city level annual budgets to sustain interventions.
Risk 8: The implementation of the EbA interventions is undermined by social unrest within the target communities and project activities are delayed.	Outcome 2	M	L		L	M	M	M	M	=	This risk remains Moderate as the project is unable to continue implementation in Myanmar. The military coup in Myanmar has led to a suspension of project activities at the local and national level.
Risk 9: The communities at the selected intervention sites do not support the proposed urban EbA interventions: Limited support from the target communities may prevent the achievement of the immediate as well as long-term benefits of the project.	Outcome 2	M	L		L	L	L	L	L	=	This risk remains low
Risk 10: Unsustainable land and natural resource use: Unsustainable use of natural resources continues, leading to further degradation of ecosystems.	Outcome 2	M	L		L	L	L	L	L	=	This risk remains low

Risk 11: Local zoning and land use plans compete with EbA interventions: The efficacy of the EbA interventions is undermined.	Outcome 2	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	This risk remains low. Selection of interventions and prioritization of interventions has gone through extensive review and consultations at both city and regional levels in all countries. Selected interventions are vetted through multi-stakeholder engagement and also reviewed and approved by national project steering committees in each country.
Risk 12: Large-scale infrastructure development in the cities during implementation: Project activities are disrupted or delayed	Outcome 2	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	This risk remains low
Risk 13: Covid-19 is hindering achievement of targets	Outcome 1-3	N/A	n/a	n/a	M	M	L	L	L	=	This risk remains low
Consolidated Risk Rating			L	M	L	L	L	L	L	=	Overall risk rating remains Low.

Table B. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

List here **only risks from Table A above that have a risk rating of M or higher in the current PIR**

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIR _{t-1} , MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
<i>Risk 4: M&E and baseline study has not yet been executed and this might cause delays in other project activities implementation</i>	<p>Add M&E tasks in TOR for new regional technical advisor</p> <p>Support National Focal Points to collect data from the field to document household numbers and training reports</p>	<p>The team agreed that rather than hiring an Regional Technical Advisor replacement, funds would be redirected to a results verification/ monitoring of results exercise</p> <p>National focal points working on documenting/ collecting data from the field.</p>	<p>Conduct a results verification exercise specifically for the project, working with national focal points.</p>	<p>Q2 2025</p>	<p>UNEP TM, Regional Office National teams</p>

<p><i>Risk 5: High turnover of staff in implementing agencies: Reduced institutional memory results in disruptions or delays in project implementation and coordination.</i></p>	<p>Continue to upload project files and documents on the shared online folder</p> <p>Encourage national project staff to keep an up to date record of project progress so that smooth handovers can be possible.</p>	<p>Continued to request project teams to upload files on share folder.</p> <p>Continued to work with countries to ensure they are compiling all files and outputs delivered by the project</p>	<p>Closing reports for country PCA's and SSFA's includes details of all interventions taken place and provides links to all final deliverables.</p> <p>Hold Closing workshops inviting all institutions involved in the project – based on the results verification, CBA work and terminal evaluation</p>	<p>Q2 2025</p>	<p>UNEP TM, National Focal Points. National Technical Experts.</p>
<p><i>Risk 7: Government will not provide sufficient funds to sustain the local structures, once the project ends: Upscaling of the urban EbA interventions will be limited.</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Cost benefit analysis developed by project to provide proof of concept to national government</p> <p>Continue to roll out awareness raising activities on benefits of Urban EbA</p>	<p>Q4 2024</p>	<p>UNEP TM, National project team, consultants</p>
<p><i>Risk 8: The implementation of the EbA interventions is undermined by social unrest within the target communities and project activities are delayed.</i></p>	<p>1. A formal suspension of project activities in Myanmar was issued by GEF Secretariat with a deadline of 28 February 2022 which was later extended till December 2023.</p> <p>2. An email from UNEP ROAP was sent to ECD Myanmar informing about the suspension issue as well as requesting submission of relevant narrative and financial progress reports and other reporting requirements based on the signed project cooperation agreement. The deadline proposed for submission of reports is August 2022.</p>	<p>Relook at suspension following a review of the situation in December 2023.</p> <p>Arrange a meeting with the regional office and climate change adaptation unit to discuss the way forward for the Myanmar component.</p>	<p>Suspension of activities in Myanmar</p>	<p>Q4 2024</p>	<p>UNEP TM, Head of CCAU, Regional Office senior management</p>

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate.

To be completed by Task Managers

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Results framework | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor project objective change |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Components and cost | <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional and implementation arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial management | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase of GEF project financing up to 5% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-financing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executing Entity | <input type="checkbox"/> Location of project activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executing Entity Category | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

[\[Annex document linked to reported minor amendment\]](#)

Minor amendments	<p>Component and cost/Financial Management:</p> <p><i>Minor revisions were approved for the country level budgets.</i></p>
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5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions

To be completed by Task Managers

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original legal instrument	ICA	Yes	November 2017	September 2022	
Amendment 1					
Extension 1	ICA	Yes	March 2022	December 2024	N0-cost extension of the project

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a

Location Name Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field <i>if</i> the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Dangrena, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.53496944	89.6382		Housing colony allotted to Thromde daily wage earners.	Urban agriculture in household gardens have been established. Poultry farming is being encouraged.
Taba, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.51069722	89.64107778		8 unit proper housing allotted to Thimphu Thromde Daily Wage earners.	Household agriculture and other livelihood activities.
Lower Taba, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.509275	89.63867778		Temporary settlement built by the occupants themselves. Have no access to water supply and sanitation.	Large area available for urban agriculture.
Pamtsho, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.51691111	89.63793889		Temporary settlement which houses about 8 families. No access to piped water supply and sanitation facilities.	Promoting urban agriculture, poultry as these activities have the potential to enhance quality of life of urban poor.
Motithang, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.47976111	89.62483333		Formal housing colony allotted to low level employees of Thimphu Thromde.	Planning skills development training for some of the residents based on their interests.

Lower Motithang, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.47862778	89.62639444		This is a huge temporary settlement housing about 100+ residents.	The majority expressed interest in cultivating vegetables as the residents have larger areas compared to other settlements.
Changangkha, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.4769	89.63177222		The daily wage earners are housed in 2 blocks of 8 units permanent accommodation units.	The residents have taken up household agriculture to supplement their income.
Kala Bazar, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.46031667	89.63418333		The biggest informal settlement in Thimphu Thormade. Houses low income residents from all sectors.	As required land is not available for vegetable gardens, the project is assessing other livelihood improvement measures in this location.
Changjiji, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.45188333	89.65423056		This cluster consists of two sub-clusters and have areas available for vegetable gardens.	Urban vegetable gardens are promoted in this area. However, other livelihood activities such as poultry, mushroom and scrap dealership are being explored.
Babesa, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.43826944	89.65591944		One of the biggest informal settlements in south Thimphu.	8 families who live here have adequate size gardens and therefore, urban agriculture is being promoted here.
Simtokha, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.44090833	89.67305833		The cluster is located above the highway and two families are being supported through provision of seeds and tools for vegetable gardens.	Vegetable gardens
Upper Serbithang, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.42275278	89.65245556		3 families make up this settlement. Vegetable garden area available is larger compared to other settlements and these gardens are managed properly.	Promoting urban vegetable gardens along with other livelihood activities.

Lower Serbithang, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.41767222	89.65048056		4 families live here and have limited access to drinking water and no access to sanitation and waste management.	Promoting poultry, piggery in addition to household vegetable gardens.
Naleyphu, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.41403889	89.65158611		Settlement made up of temporary structures with no access to drinking water.	Promoting urban agriculture along with improving access to water, sanitation and waste disposal.
Dangrena, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.53358889	89.64007778		Household vegetable garden	Urban agriculture/mushroom farming, benefits to be shared with low income neighbours.
Lungtenphu, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.45039722	89.66692778		Personal plot	Agro-forestry/mushroom farming - to be initiated.
Lungtenphu, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.44496944	89.67208333		Personal plot	Mushroom farming- to be initiated.
Simtokha, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.43598889	89.66750833		Personal plot	Mushroom farming/floriculture - in the process of initiation.
Simtokha, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.43624167	89.66145278		Family land	Floriculture - to be initiated.
Simtokha, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.43258056	89.65833056		Family land	Commercial agriculture
Simtokha, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.42855278	89.65917222		Family land	Floriculture- to be initiated.
Hejo (start point), Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.50002778	89.64000278		Crematorium area	Riverbank protection- in progress
Hejo (end point), Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.49190833	89.63561111		Crematorium area	Riverbank protection- in progress
Babesa (start point), Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.44317778	89.65833889		Sewage treatment area	Riverbank protection - proposed
Babesa (end point), Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.43036111	89.64228056		Sewage treatment area	Riverbank protection - proposed.

Bebena, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.50098889	89.63532222		Bebena Thromde park	Rainwater harvesting. Consists of 20 cubic meter underground tank and 15,000 litres over-ground storage tanks.
Zilukha Turning, Thimpu Thormade, Bhutan	27.49426667	89.63166111		Landslide area	Green slope mitigation-activities include hybrid treatment such as gabion walls, erosion control geosynthetic mats, biotic soil media and finally green plantation.
Mangrove Planting Site, Kep, Cambodia	10.48576369	104.3251846		Kep Village, Sangkat Kep, Kep City	5 hectares of mangrove plantation to restore ecosystems.
Xay District, Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR	20°41'27.80"N	101°59'32.79"E		Nalae village, Cheng village and Nongmanda village,	Improvement of the canal (Expand drainage ditches with concrete structures mixed with green structures) Tree Plantation (increasing green space) along the area of canal improvement.
Xay District, Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR	20°37'39.43"N	102° 0'29.32"E		Phu Hi Phi National Park, (Nami village Donxay, Nafi, Houay Khum, Na Ngieo Villages	Generate income from planting seedlings (varieties that are resistant to climate change and other beneficial trees), planting trees in the Phu Hin Phi NPA. Develop initiatives for ecotourism, including the involvement of local stakeholders: tourists, overnight stays, local food and handicrafts, etc., ecotourism initiatives

					(current green areas where EbA intervention will occur)
Xay District, Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR	20°42'39.57"N	102° 0'27.75"E		Donxay, Phongmanda, Longkordeua and Viengsa Village	Green School (gardening in the school)
Phongsaly District, Phongsaly Province, Lao PDR	21°40'42.23"N	102° 6'18.51"E		Sensaly Village	Building a reservoir located in Sanesaly village to add one reservoir, to store enough water (using and drinking) for community use. Plantation at the top of streams to protect the forest from dry land (reservoir construction area, watershed).
Phongsaly District, Phongsaly Province, Lao PDR	21°41'9.16"N	102° 6'30.66"E		Phonesaat, Talatvilai, Sansaly, Phonekeo Village	Plantation to increase green space and prevent landslides during the rainy season.
Phongsaly District, Phongsaly Province, Lao PDR	21°40'50.78"N	102° 6'3.88"E		Phonsaad Village	Improvement of green reservoirs (Nongkhiew) to maintain the green ecosystem and be able to use water for fire protection during the dry season. Initiate, promote and mainstreaming EbA concept in tourism sector.
Phongsaly District, Phongsaly Province, Lao PDR	21°40'43.11"N	102° 6'16.83"E		Sansaly village	Urban Gardening

conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

[Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate]