

**UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023**

Reporting from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

**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 till December 2023)</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 2023	<i>5,351,189 USD</i>	
Total expenditure as of 30 June 2023	<i>2,133,922 USD</i>	
Midterm undertaken?	<i>No</i>	
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken		
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	<i>October 2023</i>	

Completion Date	<i>Planned – original PCA</i>	<i>November 2021</i>
	<i>Revised – Current PCA</i>	<i>30/06/2024 no-cost extension approved by PSC</i>
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date		<i>30/09/2024</i>
Expected Financial Closure Date		<i>31/03/2025</i>

## 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>Ecosystems Division</i>
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency(ies)	<i>Asia and the Pacific Office, UNEP</i>
Names of Other Project Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>National Environment Commission and Thimphu Thromde (Bhutan)</i></li> <li>• <i>The Department of Climate Change of the General Secretariat of the National Council of Sustainable Development (NCSD) (Cambodia)</i></li> <li>• <i>Department of Climate Change (DCC) (Lao PDR)</i></li> <li>• <i>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) (Myanmar)</i></li> <li>• <i>UN-HABITAT;</i></li> </ul>
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 (vacant as of June 2023)</i>
EA Finance Manager	<i>Ahmed Khan</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)	<p><i>Strategic objective 1: "Climate stability".</i></p> <p><i>PoW 2022-2023 Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><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></li> <li><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></li> <li><i>(iv) Positive shift in public opinion, attitudes and actions in support of climate action as a result of UNEP action</i></li> </ul>
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)	
UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages	<p><b><u>Bhutan: UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDP) 2019-23:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outcome 4:</b> Bhutan's communities and its economy are more resilient to climate-induced and other</li> </ul>

	<p>disasters and biodiversity loss as well as economic vulnerability</p> <p><b>Relevant planned outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inclusive, risk-informed systems and capacities in order to enable people to benefit from conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, and reduced environmental and health risks</li> <li>○ National policies and capacities are in place that foster innovative financing and value added and nature-based business solutions</li> <li>○ Improved capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Cambodia: UNDAF 2019-2023</u></b></p> <p><b>Outcome 3: Planet/ Promoting Sustainable Living</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By 2023, all Cambodian people, in particular the marginalized and vulnerable, live in a safer, healthier, more secure and ecologically balanced environment with improved livelihoods, and are resilient to natural and climate change related trends and shocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sub-Outcome 3.1: By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular the vulnerable and marginalized, are empowered to equitably access, responsibly use and benefit from resilient basic services, land and natural resources with an increased resilience to cope with disasters/shocks and other risks.</li> <li>○ Sub-Outcome 3.2: Relevant public and private sector actors use innovation, information and technologies to contribute to sustainable production and living, environmental protection, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Outcome 5: Managing urbanization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By 2023, women and men living in urban areas, including those marginalized and vulnerable, enjoy a safer, more secure and healthier life, utilizing quality public and private services, and benefiting from improved urban governance informed by their voice and participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sub-Outcome 5.2: Urban authorities plan, manage and coordinate regulated quality services to the public, in a more participatory manner responsive to the needs of urban populations, including vulnerable and disadvantaged people and informed by data, evidence and best practices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Lao PDR-UN Sustainable Development Co-operation Framework 2022-2026 (aligned with 9<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan NSEDP Outcome 4)</u></b></p>
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	<p><b>Strategic Priority 4: Environment, Climate Change and Resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Myanmar: UNDAF 2018-2022 (published)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third Principle: Sustainable Development and Resilience (Addressing the root causes of multidimensional poverty, their vulnerability and building capacities for resilience)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planet Outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people in Myanmar, especially those most affected by and vulnerable to climate and disaster risks, are more resilient to climate and disaster risk and benefit from more effective environmental governance and sustainable use of natural resources</li> </ul> <p>ii. Myanmar Climate Change Policy 2019 (MCCP), Climate Change Strategy and Myanmar Climate Change Master Plan 2018 to 2030 (MCCMP)</p> <p><b>Prosperity Outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <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:  <u>SDG 11</u>: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;  <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>13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p> <p>13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning</p> <p>13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p> <p>13.b 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>13.b.1 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>
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**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	
<i>Indicator 1: Number of direct beneficiaries</i>		<i>1,920 households (50% female)</i>	<i>1920 households</i>	<p><i>330 households</i></p> <p><i>In Bhutan approximately 250 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. The project reported general success/ positive feedback from communities after urban agriculture activities.</i></p> <p><i>In Cambodia, training was undertaken for green mussels raising- they piloted around 3 areas. Approximately 80 families benefitted from this training.</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 3 areas are complete.</i></p> <p><i>In Bhutan – 2 areas complete:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>1.5km of riverbank protection has been completed on River Thimpu, and</i></li> <li>- <i>Slope stabilisation and planting took place in a region known as Zilukha</i></li> </ul> <p><i>In Cambodia – 1 area - 5km of mangrove plantation has been completed</i></p> <p><i>Activities in Lao are underway.</i></p> <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><i>Current available number: 304</i></p> <p><i>A review of the number of people reached will need to be done, however given the scope and reach of the global and regional events this should be above the 960 target.</i></p> <p><i>Cambodia conducted 2 national awareness raising activities (234 people attended), and Bhutan conducted 1 workshop with CSOs, NGOs and the private sector (70 participants).</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the project has reached out through several regional and global events e.g. APAN, Gobeshana, COP etc...</i></p>
<p><i>Indicator 10: Capacities of regional, national and sub-national institutions to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation</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>strategies and measures</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>
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### 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
PIR #	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Rating towards <b>outcomes (DO)</b> (section 3.1)	MS	MS	MS	MS	MS
Rating towards <b>outputs (IP)</b> (section 3.2)	MS	MU	MS	S	S
<b>Risk rating</b> (section 4.2)	L	M	L	L	L

Progress on national execution of EbA and livelihood activities has picked up this year. There continues to be an overall delay with project activities following the impacts of COVID-19 for more than two years since March 2019. In person meetings, workshops and stakeholder engagement can take place without any restrictions.

While the project spent time during the initial stages on raising knowledge, awareness and understanding of the concept of Urban EbA through activities at the inception phase. The project has developed a number of information briefs explaining Urban EbA and other concepts such as green/grey infrastructure. The focus this reporting period has shifted to national level execution (component 2).

The 4th regional project steering committee took place in person in Vientiane Laos from 13-14th March 2023. This was the first time since COVID 19 that the team met in person. A field visit to planned EbA sites in Oudomxay province was undertaken, allowing for cross learning with country national teams. An additional



6-month extension was approved by the PSC in order to finalise country level activities. The next PSC meeting is planned for Bhutan.

The suspension of activities in Myanmar continues until a review will be done in December 2023.

Progress made this reporting period includes:

Component 1: (Regional)

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.

Component 2: (Country/City level)

In **Cambodia**, the national team made 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 has been completed and canal and watergate rehabilitation is at 20% completion. With regard to livelihood interventions, this reporting period training was provided to fishermen on mussel raising, and a feasibility study is being undertaken to look into crab banking and fishing baskets. The project also approved in the national steering committee meeting held in Q2 2023, an additional livelihood activity requested by the community - the construction of a new guardhouse for Phum Thmey Fishery Community in Kep. The guardhouse would support the community to oversee illegal fishing activities, and serve as meeting space for communities as well as could be used as an information hub for tourists.

In **Bhutan**, under the EbA activities selected – the protection/restoration of 1.5km of the Thimpu river has been completed. 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 has also been completed. The low-income housing project (under the baseline project/activities) is in currently still in progress (80% complete). With regard to livelihood interventions, approximately 250 households benefitted from training and provision of equipment for urban agriculture, mushroom farming and waste management.

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.

Component 3: (Regional& City level)

Progress made under this component relates mostly to national level progress. At the regional level, the team focused their attention on supporting the countries to execute activities under component 2 and hence with regard to regional knowledge and awareness raising activities there are no updates this reporting period.

In **Cambodia**, two local awareness-raising workshops were conducted 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. See below for details on the event:

1. An awareness-raising event under the theme “Our Motherland, Our Duty, Clean, and Green” is held on 28th November 2022 in Kep province with 200 participants.

2. Awareness Raising Event on “Alternative Livelihood Options for Coastal Communities through Mangrove Plantation in Kep Province” was held on 10-11 May 2023 in Kep province with 34 participants from Phum Thmey Fishery Community and Kep Fishery Community

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. Their research is ongoing.

In **Bhutan**, 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 they will be making presentations on their research by the end of this academic year.

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 is currently under design - demo <https://eba.retechsole.com> this knowledge portal aims to be the main EbA knowledge portal for Lao PDR. Secondly, 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. The 4 institutes will be enabled to provide relevant knowledge, methodologies, tools and trainings for various stakeholders not limited to this project but also to any other ongoing and upcoming project activity or stakeholders in Lao.

Please see prior reporting for regional level awareness activities that took place in previous reporting periods.

Rating towards outcomes:

The rating towards project outcomes is **Mildly Satisfactory** as the project is advancing towards reaching its objectives and expected results. Notable progress has been made on reaching targets under outcome 2, however the national teams need to pay close attention to monitoring of results under this outcome. There has been little progress made this year under outcome 3 as the team were focussed on ensuring delivery of country level activities.

Rating towards outputs:

The overall rating towards project outputs is **Satisfactory**. The project has delivered several outputs under outcome 1 and has made progress in delivering outputs under component 2 (country interventions). This reporting period there has been little to no progress made against outputs under outcome 3. An overall extension was approved at the March 2023 PSC meeting for an additional 6 months – (upto to June 2024) hence the overall rating is considered as Mildly Satisfactory.

Overall risk rating:

The overall risk rating is **Low**. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and related risk are decreasing. No restrictions are in place anymore. There are some risks related to changes in project management at the regional level and in Bhutan, and political instability in Myanmar still remains an issue.

*Prior reporting summary:*

*The project has started raising knowledge, awareness and understanding of the concept of Urban EbA through activities at the inception phase. The project has developed a number of information briefs explaining Urban EbA and other concepts such as green/grey infrastructure.*

*Component 1 progress:*

*The training needs assessments which were carried out in participating countries from October – December 2019, laid out the foundations for required capacity building initiatives to be carried out by UN-HABITAT. The*

*trainings were particularly focused on supporting policymakers in targeted cities to analyze, prioritize and implement EbA interventions based on socio-economic and ecological considerations in country contexts. The training was then conducted in Kep City, Cambodia and Mandalay, Myanmar on December 2019. Due to COVID-19 pandemic trainings were initially postponed from March 2020 to the end of 2020.*

*In 2021 UN-Habitat has started conducting all training of countries virtually in combination with additional facilitation through national consultants in Lao PDR and Bhutan. A draft decision-making tool (under output 1.2) also implemented by UN-Habitat has been developed and was piloted in four countries virtually in December 2020. Five additional trainings sessions on the tool were organized virtually during 2021. The first session was organized on 25 March for Cambodia and Lao (with 45% of participants being female) and for Bhutan on 31st May (with 50% of participants being female). The second training was jointly organized for all countries on 28 June 2021, and focused on vulnerability and risk assessments. It was attended by 49 participants from 3 project countries out of which 20 were female. Between July 2021- June 2022, UN-HABITAT conducted three virtual trainings on module C on objective setting and decision making, Module D on implementation and final summary session between 10 August – 8 October 2021. These training sessions were attended by 24, 72 and 81 participants respectively representing participating government entities.*

*Two in-country capacity building training sessions were conducted in Bhutan (in two batches in August 2021) and Lao PDR in December 2021 with 32 and 33 participants respectively. The final validation session on the toolkit was organized in Cambodia in June 2022 and expected to be conducted in Lao PDR and Bhutan by August and September 2022 respectively.*

*Progress under Component 2:*

*In Cambodia the vulnerability assessment including developing updated climate models to inform vulnerability mapping in Kep province, socio-economic and gender analysis and ecosystem assessments started in May 2020 and has been completed. The initial results were submitted to the in-country PMU which decided to organize a consultation workshop on 25 June 2020. The workshop was organized in the pilot province, Kep, where about 45 officials from regional governmental offices and other stakeholders as well as UNHABITATs country office attended. The initial results were submitted to UNEP in November 2020 and the final report in May 2021. Based on the assessment a catalogue of interventions for Kep has been compiled and two preferred intervention options – mangrove reforestation and restorations of a reservoir have been selected for implementation. Selected interventions have been vetted by the national project steering committee meeting held in Q2 of 2022.*

*In Bhutan due to a complication with the legal agreement, in-country activities were delayed. The Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with Bhutan was signed in July 2020 and recruitment of project staff finalized in early 2021 and the NTE started his position in April 2021. Since then, TOR for the national experts for the VA were advertised and experts recruited in June 2021 to commence the assessment. The assessments were completed by December 2021 and selection of urban EbA interventions for implementation have been finalized. Urban agriculture activities have been initiated in informal settlements and some local communities. The design of the low-income housing (under the baseline project/activities) is in progress. Livelihood improvements through distribution of tools and seeds as well as appropriate trainings are in progress. One stretch of the river protection work has been completed and another one is planned. 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 landslide at location called Zilukha is in progress. Selected interventions were vetted through a national project steering committee meeting held in Q2 of 2022.*

*In Lao PDR the VA study started in August 2020 and has been completed. Initial results have been shared with UNEP in January 2021 and the compiled report shared in June 2021. The EbA Intervention and Livelihood improvement activities have been drafted based on the V&A assessment, A Multi-criteria analysis for EbA interventions was developed and based on the multi-condition analysis for EbA, one pilot EbA intervention was selected for each both Xay District-Oudomxay Province and in Phongsaly District, Phongsaly Province. The National project steering committee vetted the selected interventions through its meeting held in Q2 of 2022.*

*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.

*Progress under Component 3:*

*With regards to accessing global, regional and national platforms for strengthening the knowledge base for supporting the design of urban EbA interventions and improving the public awareness of its positive potential (outcome 3), the project has organized and participated in several global and regional events since its inception. These includes the 6th and 7th Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Forum in 2018 and 2021 respectively and Gobeshona conference on locally led adaptation 2021. Representatives from participating countries participated in relevant technical sessions with a focus of involving stakeholders for nature based solutions in urban planning and decision making processes.*

*Following the knowledge sharing initiatives through the 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.*

*The project also collaborated with the 3rd Asia Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM) held on 25 – 29 October 2022. Urban Forestry Development Project by Thimphu Thromde, Bhutan was presented as 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.*

*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.*

*In terms of the long term research outputs in country under component 3 – progress made has been:*

*Cambodia - Three potential universities were identified to establish long-term research cooperation with the programme, and eventually the selection was narrowed down to two academic institutes, with which MoUs were signed. The Letters of Agreement (LoA) with universities Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), and Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) are at final stage and expected to be signed by July 2022. The 3rd regional project steering committee meeting initially planned in March 2022 could not be organized due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19 pandemic. An in-person PSC meeting is planned in July 2022 in Kep, Cambodia based on consultations with governments of Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR.*

*Bhutan – For long term research, a concept note with Royal University of Bhutan has been finalized and the legal agreement with UNEP is under process. The agreement is expected to be finalized by August 2022.*

*Laos - 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. 4 Institutes below have successfully signed an MOU with DCC\MoNRE and based on the signed MOU, 4 institutes agreed to conduct an activity based on the long-term research programmes established in local scientific institutions to assess the long-term societal, economic and ecological benefits of urban EbA interventions in pilot cities. Within the National University of Laos namely Faculty of Environmental Science, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Architecture and the public works and transport research institute, Ministry of Public Works and Transportation formed a coalition and under the leadership of Faculty of Environmental Science, a legal agreement with UNEP is currently under process and expected to be finalized by August 2022. The 4 institutes will be enabled to provide relevant knowledge, methodologies, tools and trainings for various stakeholders not limited to this project but also to any other ongoing and upcoming project activity or stakeholder in Lao.*

*Recruitment of the new Regional Technical Expert (RTE) has been completed and the RTE has started working from 1 October 2021.*

*With regards to the baseline study which was commissioned for the project in 2019 and was delayed due to COVID 19 as the consultants were not able to travel to the countries to finalise their assessments. An M&E expert has been recruited to finalise the baseline study and develop an M&E plan for the project. The expert commenced work in May 2021 and finalise the M&E framework and baseline assessments by December 2021. NTEs of Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR were trained on the M&E framework and baseline assessment methodology to ensure proper use of the framework and baseline scenarios for results based management of the project.*

**2.4. Co-financing**

<p><b>Planned Co-finance Total:</b> <i>(total only)</i></p> <p><b>Actual to date:</b> <i>Complete (in \$ and %). State the date for which this value is valid)</i></p>	<p><i>Planned total co-finance: US\$ 94,190,417</i></p> <p><i>Actual to date (30 June 2023): 620,625 USD</i></p> <p><i>Co-financing figures need to be reviewed during the project MTR.</i></p> <p><i>The in-kind contribution from Lao PDR, \$83,000 per annum with a total of USD 332,000, is also 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. EbA and livelihood interventions in Phonsalay province has a commitment of total USD 880,000.</i></p> <p><i>In-kind co-financing of 57,000 USD has been realised in Cambodia which relates to office space, Ministry staff support and utilities.</i></p> <p><i>In Bhutan, co-financing realised through the low income housing project and in-kind co-financing from admin related support is <b>70,000 USD</b> – this is to verified as the low income housing project is still underway.</i></p> <p><i>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 are included. The total amount of <b>\$139,624</b> is calculated by the working hours from November 2017 – June 2023.</i></p>
<p><b>Progress</b></p>	<p><i>Co-financing figures are still low as countries/ cities are doing a review of all co-financing provided toward project EbA activities. Given the time delay between the development of the project and when the Urban EbA interventions started – several initiatives under the initial co-finance plan were closed on not relevant. A review of all co-finance coming to the project through in-kind and grant will need to be undertaken during the Mid term review process.</i></p>

**2.5. Stakeholder engagement**

<p><b>Date of project steering committee meeting</b></p>	<p><i>13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Laos PDR</i></p>
<p><b>Stakeholder engagement</b></p>	<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</p>

	<p>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, 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Vulnerability Assessments in Bhutan, Lao PDR and Cambodia included several rounds of stakeholder consultations with local and national stakeholders.</p> <p>In addition, the Project Steering Committee Meetings are used as an annual event to update the committee members on important developments and obtain their approval on the directions taken within the project. The 4<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting took place in March 2023 in Vientiane, Laos and was the first in person meeting following COVID 19. PSC members also visited project sites in Oudomxay province providing an opportunity for knowledge exchange between the various country focal points.</p> <p>In addition, national level PSCs in participating countries took place this reporting period to ensure broader engagement of all country level stakeholders in execution of the project. Bi-weekly meetings with country teams has been formalized to ensure that regular and consistent communication channels are in place to engage all country teams in line of the project objectives. Review of annual workplans and quarterly</p>
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	progress review meetings with partner governments and agencies has been taken place to ensure achievement of the project goals and objectives.
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**2.6. Gender**

<b>Does the project have a gender action plan?</b>	<i>No</i>
<b>Gender mainstreaming</b>	<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 recent training of trainers event that took place in Laos PDR had 43% female attendants.</p> <p>Due to very limited budget availability, a detailed gender analysis could not be carried out, a brief gender analysis was drafted in close consultation with UNEP’s internal gender expertise.</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.</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.</p>

**2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management**

<b>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</b>	<p>Was the project classified as <b>moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage</b>?</p> <p><i>No</i></p> <p>If yes, what specific <b>safeguard risks</b> were identified in the SRIF/ESERN? <i>If yes, describe the specific safeguard risks that were identified in the SRIF/ESERN.</i></p>
<b>New social and/or environmental risks</b>	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p> <p><i>No</i></p> <p><i>If yes, describe the new risks or changes.</i></p>
<b>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts (to be filled in by TM and EA)</b>	<p>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</p> <p><i>No</i></p>
<b>Environmental and social safeguards management</b>	<p>Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR have finalized their Vulnerability Assessments. The climate related vulnerabilities were analyzed by 1) applying climate modeling, 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 are included a contractor environmental and social management plan (CESMP), site inspection checklist, E&amp;S logbook and contractor monthly report. These materials are used to track the contractor's performances and suggestion on performance improvements if necessary. Bhutan and Cambodia used their own country level environmental and social safeguard regulations regarding screening of EbA and livelihood interventions.</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 are 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> <p>Grievance redress mechanisms are under development in all 3 countries. They are yet to be finalised.</p>

**2.8. Knowledge management**

<b>Knowledge activities and products</b>	<p>The project team have participated in several regional and global knowledge sharing initiatives:</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6th APAN Forum in October 2018,</li> <li>2. Gobeshona Conference on local adaptation</li> <li>3. APAN Forum in 2021</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>Knowledge products developed through the project include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. <a href="https://cityadapt.com/en/publications/">https://cityadapt.com/en/publications/</a></li> <li>2. A decision making toolkit to integrate urban EbA into development planning, has been developed by UNHABITAT</li> <li>3. 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 under design - demo <a href="https://eba.retechsole.com">https://eba.retechsole.com</a> this knowledge portal aims to be the main EbA knowledge portal for Lao PDR.</li> </ol> <p>This reporting period the project has focussed energies on national level implementation. A communication plan on collecting lessons learned and products from national EbA outputs will be developed and a regional knowledge sharing workshop is planned for the next year.</p>
<b>Main learning during the period</b>	<p>On building stakeholder capacities on Urban EbA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The pilot countries have different levels of knowledge on the urban EbA concept as well as expertise in project development and implementation.</li> </ul>

	<p>Bringing countries and cities together has been useful to facilitate cross and joint learning during trainings and visits to actual sites of possible projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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 interactive means like Menti and Kahoot can be useful although challenging for some who are not oriented to new technologies.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback from UNHABITAT on the decision making tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p>Lessons learned from EbA implementation in country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
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**2.9. Stories to be shared**

<b>Stories to be shared</b>	<p>Optional for mature projects: Provide a brief summary of any especially interesting and impactful project results that are worth sharing with a larger audience, and/or investing communications time in, if any.</p> <p>(maximum one paragraph)</p> <p>To be provided in the next PIR</p>
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### **3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK**

*Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the **UNEP Task Manager**<sup>1</sup> 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]*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>
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<sup>2</sup> 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><b>Outcome 1:</b> 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>Progress this current reporting period toward reaching this outcome was the Training of trainers which took place in Laos PDR. The regional training/ToT built capacity of 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.</p> <p>Overall progress made:</p> <p>As at June 2023 UNHABITAT reported that a total of 140 stakeholders from the 4 countries were provided training on Urban EbA</p> <p>The project is yet to complete a capacity score assessment – this will be done in the next reporting period.</p> <p>Previous reporting:</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&amp;E and 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>S</p>
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					<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/Pax</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> <tr> <td>Mandalay, Myanmar</td> <td>02-03 December 2019</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The trainings targeted key government and related stakeholders involved in national and city level planning including focal agencies</p>	City/ Country	Training Date	Total Trainees/Pax	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	Mandalay, Myanmar	02-03 December 2019	20	
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						<p>and ministries on climate change, urban planning and administration. 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). 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). 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 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>	
<b>Outcome 2:</b> EbA demonstrated in pilot cities to reduce the vulnerability	1. Investments in EbA made in specific areas	0		<i>By project completion:</i>	70%	The Vulnerability Assessments were (VA) finalised for Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Prioritization of EbA interventions was	<b>S</b>

<p>of poor, urban communities.</p>	<p>per city to reduce vulnerability of poor urban communities</p>			<p><i>5 areas (2 areas in Lao DPR and 1 area in Bhutan, Cambodia and Myanmar)</i></p>	<p>completed in all participating countries. Implementation of EbA interventions has started in all three countries in Q3 2022.</p> <p>Progress made this reporting period in pilot cities/countries:</p> <p><u>Bhutan</u>: 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.</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. The low income housing project that is a baseline project/ co-financing initiative to this project is 80% complete.</p> <p><u>Cambodia</u>: 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>Mangrove planting has been completed in March 2023 and the canal and watergate rehabilitation is currently 20% complete.</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 <sup>2</sup>
						<p><u>Lao PDR</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"> <li>1. Drainage System Improvement, Landscape and Tree Plantation in Jeng and Dongmengda village, Xay district, 3 km length</li> <li>2. Construction of Water Supply Capacity Improvement with Tree Plantation in Preservation Area in Sansaly village, Phongsaly Province</li> <li>3. Slope Protection Area in Phongsath village, Phongsaly Province</li> <li>4. Improvement of Nongkhiew pond</li> </ol> <p>The procurement process for the construction and planting work for activities 1-3 above have been completed. Work is expected to be completed by Q1 2024. 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, and develop a management plan for the area.</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>330 households</p>	<p>Approximate numbers of training on livelihood interventions and provisions of equipment to undertake livelihood activities is provided below. 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 <b>250</b> 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. The project reported general success/ positive feedback from communities after urban agriculture activities.</p> <p>The team are currently in the process of conducting an assessment on the impacts of EbA interventions and Livelihood interventions. ToR have been developed, tender evaluation completed and waiting for the award to consultancy firm for the assessment to be conducted.</p> <p>In <u>Laos</u>, livelihood interventions have been selected based on the socioeconomic assessment – 1. Promoting eco-tourism, Urban gardening/ agriculture and lastly green schools (gardens and waste management). Interventions have just started with vulnerable households being identified in both districts for Urban agriculture. Regarding green schools – 4 were selected with one of them having started work - Huay Khoum High School, this includes creating a vegetable garden to transfer knowledge on eco-friendly gardening, and to help reduce the expenditure of food consumption for some low-income teachers and students.</p> <p>In <u>Cambodia</u>, training was undertaken for green mussels raising- they piloted around 3 areas. Approximately <b>80</b> families benefitted</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 (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating <sup>2</sup>
						<p>from this training. However, there has not been much progress in this perspective and have asked communities to relook at areas to try again.</p> <p>Feasibility assessments are being conducted and discussions with fisheries administration and deputy governor on Crab Banking and fish baskets - planned start date is Q4 2023. 1 or 2 crab banks planned and 2 fish baskets.</p> <p>Lastly, the project intends to support the building of a community guardhouse which will be used to support the community to keep a track of illegal fishing, and can be used as a meeting/information space for local tourism.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.</i></p>	

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 <sup>2</sup>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> 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>40%</p>	<p>The various national project teams have undertaken local awareness raising and training activities in the pilot cities.</p> <p>Progress made this reporting period includes:</p> <p>In Cambodia , 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, 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.</p> <p>In Laos, the team have focussed their energies on implementing the EbA activities and starting livelihood activities under component 2. A local awareness raising strategy will be developed.</p> <p>Prior progress reported: The methodology for assessing the level of awareness has been designed by the M&amp;E consultant in 2022.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended until further notice.</i></p>	<p>MS</p>

	<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>0</p>		<p><i>By project completion, at least 40 (10 in each country).</i></p>	<p>40%</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 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbnUvk9QpXA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbnUvk9QpXA</a></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 that is currently under design - demo <a href="https://eba.retechsole.com">https://eba.retechsole.com</a> 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 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. A national communication strategy will be developed to share lessons learned and engage with city authorities.</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"> <li>1. 6th APAN Forum in October 2018</li> <li>2. The Gobeshona Conference on local adaptation</li> <li>3. APAN Forum in 2021</li> </ol>	<p>MS</p>
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						<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <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>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</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 <sup>2</sup>
						<p>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 interviews based on the same questionnaire will be conducted to assess the change in progress of using relevant knowledge platforms.</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 <sup>3</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>4</sup>	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating <sup>6</sup>
<b>COMPONENT 1:</b>					
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Policy briefs developed on cost-effective adaptation to climate change in an urban context	June 2024	50%	50%	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. Building on these case studies, a TOR has been developed for undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of Urban EbA interventions in the region. This analysis is delayed because of this the decision on the timeline made. During the 1st PSC meeting – it was agreed to produce the Cost-benefit policy brief after the interventions have been implemented in pilot cities. Following a 6month extension of the project agreed upon at the 4th PSC, we expect to complete the analysis by Q2-2024.	S
<b>Output 1.2:</b> 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 (December 2021)	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 till December 2023.</i>	S

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

<sup>4</sup> The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager



Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>4</sup>	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating <sup>6</sup>
<p><b>Output 1.3:</b> 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</p>	<p><i>Completed in March 2023</i></p>	<p>90%</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended till December 2023.</i></p>	<p>S</p>
<p><b>COMPONENT 2:</b></p>					
<p><b>Output 2.1:</b> Vulnerability maps and adaptation reports developed for pilot cities</p>	<p><i>Completed in December 2021</i></p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>VAs have been undertaken and finalised in Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Vulnerability maps and reports for Bhutan, Cambodia and Lao PDR are available.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended till December 2023.</i></p>	<p>S</p>

<p><b>Output 2.2:</b> 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>June 2024</i></p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>65%</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 – 95% Riverbank restoration around river Thimpu (1.5km) and slope stabilisation completed. Additional planting and greening of the baseline project - low income housing initiative is yet to be rolled out.</p> <p>Cambodia – 50% Mangrove planting (5 hectares) completed, Canal rehabilitation and water gate restoration is at 20% completion.</p> <p>Laos – 35% The procurement process for the construction and planting work for activities 1-3 below have been completed. Work is expected to be completed by Q1 2024. 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, and develop a management plan for the area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drainage System Improvement, Landscape and Tree Plantation in Jeng and Dongmengda village, Xay district, 3 km length</li> <li>2. Construction of Water Supply Capacity Improvement with Tree Plantation in Preservation Area in Sansaly village, Phongsaly Province</li> <li>3. Slope Protection Area in Phongsath village, Phongsaly Province</li> <li>4. Improvement of Nongkhiew pond</li> </ol> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar have been suspended till December 2023.</i></p>	<p>S</p>
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Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>4</sup>	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating <sup>6</sup>
<p><b>Output 2.3:</b> Livelihood improvement plans based on urban ecosystems developed and implemented with poor urban communities</p>	<p><i>June 2024</i></p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>50%</p>	<p>Livelihood improvement plans have been finalized in Lao PDR, Bhutan and Cambodia.</p> <p>Implementation of livelihood interventions has started in Bhutan and Lao PDR and in Cambodia and approximately 330 households have receiving training or direct support from the project to undertake livelihood interventions.</p> <p>Bhutan will be carrying out a livelihood assessment to understand if these interventions were successful and garner lessons learned.</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 suspended till December 2023.</i></p>	<p>MS</p>

Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>4</sup>	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating <sup>6</sup>
<p><b>Output 2.4:</b> 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>June 2024</i></p>	<p>30%</p>	<p>70%</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. Their research is on-going.</p> <p>For Lao PDR, a 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.</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 formal legal arrangement through the SSFA between UNEP and RUB was signed. 6 students were selected for the research paper and they will be making presentations on their research by the end of this academic year.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended till December 2023.</i></p>	<p>S</p>
<p><b>COMPONENT 3:</b></p>					

Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>4</sup>	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating <sup>6</sup>
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Performance of urban EbA interventions in pilot cities monitored and assessed	<i>June 2024</i>	70%	70%	<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&amp;E purpose by February 2022.</p> <p>The framework will be used to assess the intervention's performance for rest of the project period.</p> <p>Rating of MS on this output is because tracking/ M&amp;E of EbA activities has not been undertaken by national teams thus far.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended till December 2023.</i></p>	MS
<b>Output 3.2:</b> 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	<i>June 2024</i>	30%	30%	<p>Activities under this output are being discussed and consulted with partner countries. 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>This output has been delayed due to delays with starting EbA outputs. Country/ city level awareness raising programmes will be developed to feed into already existing platforms and will collate all knowledge and awareness raising activities already conducted.</p> <p><i>Activities in Myanmar are suspended till December 2023.</i></p>	MS

<p><b>Output 3.3:</b> 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>June 2024</p>	<p>60%</p>	<p>65%</p>	<p>The regional project management team have concentrated their efforts this year on expediting the implementation of the EbA and livelihood activities under component 2.</p> <p>In this reporting period, 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.</p> <p>A more strategic approach to knowledge sharing will be undertaken in the next year as we start to gather lessons learned and feedback from the EbA and livelihood interventions under Component 2. The project will look into connecting with the Global Adaptation Network activities and APAN to benefit from workshops or knowledge sharing events that will be undertaken.</p> <p><i>Prior reporting:</i></p> <p><i>Following the knowledge sharing initiatives through 6<sup>th</sup> 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><i>The project also collaborated with 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>S</p>
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PIR FY 2023  
Urban EbA Asia

Outputs/Activities <sup>3</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>4</sup>	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification <sup>5</sup> , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating <sup>6</sup>
				<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 till December 2023.</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	M
2. Governance structure – Oversight	M	L
3. Implementation schedule	L	L
4. Budget	L	L
5. Financial Management	L	L
6. Reporting	L	L
7. Capacity to deliver	M	L

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 (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	=	<i>This explanation should focus on what changed respect to the previous rating. The 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	=	<i>The risk remains low.</i>
Risk 3: Natural disasters undermine the implementation of the EbA interventions:	Outcome 2	M	L		L	L	L	L	=	<i>The risk 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	↑	<i>M&amp;E and baseline study were undertaken, however the costs of M&amp;E are very high for a four country project and national technical advisors may not always have the time and resources to undertake regular M&amp;E for the project.</i>
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	↑	<i>This risk has increased as the NTE in Bhutan recently left the position and there was a changeover in Government with the Government focal point. In addition, the regional technical advisor also left the position at the end of May 2023 and the TM is looking into recruitment options. Lastly new national steering committee members in Kepc city (Cambodia) delayed the project as they had to be resensitised.</i>
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	=	<i>The risk remains low.</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.	Outcome 2	M	L		L	L	L	L	=	<i>The risk remains low. Upscaling strategies will be developed under Outcome 3 of the project based on the effectiveness of implemented interventions and planned in Q2 of 2024.</i>
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	=	<i>This remains a medium risk. The military coup in Myanmar has led to a suspension of project activities on the local and national level. A formal GEF suspension letter was issued with an initial deadline of February 2022 and later extended till December 2023. At the regional level knowledge sharing and capacity building continues with the exemption of Myanmar. National elections to take place in Cambodia in July 2023 has caused disruptions with project progress.</i>
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	Outcome 2	M	L		L	L	L	L	=	<i>This risk remains low. Communities have been very involved in the livelihood selection process.</i>

as well as long-term benefits of the project.										
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	=	<i>The risk remains low.</i>
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	=	<i>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.</i>
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	=	<i>The risk remains low.</i>
Risk 13: Covid-19 is hindering achievement of targets	Outcome 1-3	NEW	n/a		n/a	M	M	L		The COVID-19 pandemic continued to hinder the development of 1) Capacity Building activities, especially the VA Mapping Training delivered by UN-Habitat and 2) the execution of baseline study in pilot countries and national and regional awareness raising and knowledge management within this reporting period. Both Bhutan and Lao PDR had stringent COVID19 related travel regulations till May 2022 and Cambodia opened up restrictions in late April 2022. Domestic travels and gatherings were also limited and had impact on executing the project at city level. Limited IT infrastructure at local level and poor internet connectivity hindered participation of local authorities in virtual meetings, trainings and discussion sessions.
Consolidated Risk Rating			L		M	L	L	L		

**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 <sub>t-1</sub> , MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom

<p><i>Risk 4: M&amp;E and baseline study has not yet been executed and this might cause delays in other project activities implementation</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country teams have been provided with and M&amp;E framework in order to monitor results on the ground.</li> <li>MTR procurement process completed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the recruitment of a new Regional technical advisor/ project manager, additional deliverables on supporting countries with M&amp;E will be added to the TOR.</li> <li>Finalise the MTR</li> <li>Work closely with National Focal Points to collect data from the field to document household numbers and training reports</li> </ol>	<p>Q4 2023</p>	<p>UNEP TM, Regional Office</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>N/A</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear handover notes and documents were provided following the exit of the RTE in May 2023.</li> <li>An online folder was created to ensure files are share on a common folder.</li> <li>The TM connected with the new focal point in Bhutan and has been working with them to ensure a smooth transition in management</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the recruitment process of a replacement for the RTE</li> <li>Continue to upload project files and documents on the shared online folder</li> <li>Encourage national project staff to keep an up to date record of project progress so that smooth handovers can be possible.</li> </ol>	<p>Q1 2024</p>	<p>UNEP TM, National Focal Points. National Technical Experts.</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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCA with Myanmar closed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relook at suspension following a review of the situation in December 2023.</li> <li>Arrange a meeting with the regional office and climate change adaptation unit to discuss the way forward for the Myanmar component.</li> </ol>	<p>Q4 2023</p>	<p>UNEP TM, Head of CCAU, Regional Office senior management</p>

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**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 checked="" 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]*

<b>Minor amendments</b>	<p><b>Component and cost/Financial Management:</b>  <i>A minor budget revision was processed in August 2022 to move funds between lines for the regional components. Minor revisions were also approved for the country level budgets.</i></p> <p><b>Implementation schedule:</b>  <i>An extension of six months was approved by the Project Steering Committee. Revised completion date is June 2024.</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 <u>if</u> 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	Promoting urban agriculture, poultry as these activities have

				access to piped water supply and sanitation facilities.	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 Thromde. 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
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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]*