



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021 – Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Asia and Pacific
Country (ies):	Lao PDR
Project Title:	Climate Change Adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA) in Lao PDR
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/LAO/022/LDF
GEF ID:	5489
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change Adaptation
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN)
Project Duration:	6 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	16° 20' N 105° 15' E (centroid Xe Champhone wetland complex) 14° 44' N 106° 05' E (centroid Bueng Kiat Ngong wetland)

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	23 October 2015
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	30 May 2016
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	30 May 2021
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	30 June 2022 tentative (budget neutral extension + Covid-19 lock down delay extension request) actual in system 28 February 2022
Actual Implementation End Date³:	

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 4,717,579
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	USD 15,367,380
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	USD 4,016,507

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	USD 8,770,000
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Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	26 November 2020
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	August 2020
Actual Mid-term review date:	10 August 2020 – 16 March 2021
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	1 October 2021?
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	Yes
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	MS
Overall implementation progress rating:	MS
Overall risk rating:	M

Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	5 th . PIR
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⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

⁶ The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Kevin Jeanes, Chief Technical Advisor, FAOLA	Kevin.Jeanes@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Thomas Hofer, Lead Technical Officer, FAORAP	Thomas.Hofer@fao.org
Budget Holder	Nasar Hayat, FAO Representative to Lao PDR, FAOLA	Nasar.Hayat@fao.org
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2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
<p>Objective(s):</p> <p>Environmental/Adaptation Objective: Reduce climate change vulnerability of the local communities and threats to the wetland landscapes upon which they depend within wetlands surrounding the two Ramsar-designated sites of Lao PDR</p> <p>Project Development Objective: Lessons learned in the two wetlands regarding community-based vulnerability risk assessment and strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, based on principles of landscape approach, EBA and sustainable use, will be replicated elsewhere in Lao PDR, the greater Mekong region and beyond</p>						
<p>Outcome 1: Improved understanding of CC impacts and risks in XC and BKN wetlands, and with district and provincial agency stakeholders, and enhanced capacities to design and implement CCA and DRM measures</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 1.1: Perceptions and understandings of CC impacts and risks resulting from training, vulnerability assessments, management and participatory planning and livelihood activities with PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO, IWU and communities within and around the target wetlands</p>	<p>Some limited awareness of CC vulnerability due to a) the CC and wetlands study in XC by the MRC, and in BKN due to Mekong Water Dialogues work and b) MRC CCAI work in Savannakhet, and c) PPG discussions</p>		<p>70% of members of PONRE, DONRE, PAFO and DAFO staff covering the target wetlands (28 out of 40) and 70% of members of community organizations (both men and women) in the target villages are aware of CC impacts and risks</p>	<p>Not assessed by updated KAP survey. Active 2019 – 2020 livelihood, CCA & DRM field activities with PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO & LWU staff, and expanded wetland communities (inclusive 2020 management plan review of key CCA, DRM & NRM issues impacting wetlands & livelihoods), has further advanced agency staff & community understanding of CC impacts & CCA / DRM response compared to levels recorded by Feb 2019 KAP survey. 100% of agency staff involved</p>	<p>S</p>

¹¹ 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)**.

					in CAWA, & > 75% of community members involved in CAWA at both sites, are now expected to be aware of CC impacts & risks, & how to implement CCA – DRM - NRM response measures.	
Outcome 2: Efficient and cost-effective adaptation measures in place to reduce the impact of CC and natural disasters on wetlands eco-systems and local livelihoods	Outcome indicator 2.1: Numbers of families within and surrounding the wetlands involved in and benefitting from adaptive on-farm or within-wetland livelihood practices, systems and infrastructure (e.g. climate smart agriculture, vegetable & mushroom production, small & large livestock & NTFP production, animal disease control, fisheries & aquaculture)	160 families apply two or more of these practices		1,280 families (total 8,400 family members) apply two or more of these practices	- Estimated > 1000 families (> 6,560 family members) apply one or more CAWA adaptive on-farm or within wetland livelihood practices, systems or infrastructure.	S

¹⁰ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹¹ 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)**.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project has shifted livelihood focus from original 16 XC (1 district) & 8 BKN villages (Ramsar site focus 2016-18), to an expanded 70 XC (3 district) & 14 BKN village focus (wetland landscape focus 2019-21). - Project MTR recommends Outcome Indicator 2.1 is adjusted to - No. of families with direct involvement, or who benefit from, Project's direct production focused adaptive livelihood activities (on-farm & non-NRM focus). - This includes project's: native fishery (FCZ) management, fish processing, fish breeding, aquaculture; vegetable, mushroom & rice seed production; compost use (rice & vegetables); & livestock production (ducks & chickens, improved fodder & veterinary clinics). 	
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review is on-going of direct participant & wider beneficiary numbers for this indicator across expanded 84 focus villages. Preliminary results suggest >1000 families associated with this indicator's revised activity list (below). Updated detail in next PPR.	
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	<p>Outcome indicator 2.2: Number of families within or surrounding the wetlands involved in and benefitting from at least one non-agricultural off-farm an out of wetland livelihood & NRM support options as a CC fall-back option (e.g. eco- & cultural tourism, handicrafts & fish processing)</p>	<p>50% of vulnerable people surveyed have no reliable fall-back livelihood support option if their main option fails due to climate change.</p>		<p>800 families (5,250 family members) have received with equal benefits for men and women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 121 families in 8 villages will direct benefit from 5 sites of ecotourism development (XC Champhone district); - Around 96 families benefitted from IUCN 2020 action planning for handicraft development & NTFP – wetland product value-adding in 16 Champhone district. villages in - Project MTR recommends Outcome Indicator 2.2 is adjusted to - No. of families with direct involvement, or who benefit from, Project’s adaptive off-farm livelihood activities. To include livelihoods associated with project eco-tourism & handicraft development programs. - 750 families are scheduled to benefit from handicraft & wetland product value-adding training scheduled for 2021. With focus on: 39 XC 	<p>MS</p>
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					<p>villages (27 Champhone – LWU, DONRE & Tetraktys; 6 Songkhone - LWU; & 6 Xonnabuly - LWU); and 12 BKN villages (LWU).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final direct participant & beneficiary numbers for expanded 56 handicraft & ecotourism focus villages will be presented in next PPR. 	
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	<p>Outcome indicator 2.3: Numbers of families within and surrounding the wetlands with improved and more sustainable access to and benefit from wetland products and services (e.g. management of wetland reserves & sites, FCZ & fisheries, dry season water use & wetland clearance & restoration; plus improved water supply / access from restored semi-natural storages, irrigation offtakes & wells)</p>	<p>Baseline to be established in year 1</p>		<p>6400 families with total of 42,000 family members, with equal benefits for men and women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13,829 families alone benefit from improved fish consumption & sales from wetlands around the 46 project established & managed FCZ in BKN and XC (BKN 1,712 families & XC 12,117 families). - Project shifted NRM & wetland management focus from original 2016-18 16 XC & 8 BKN Ramsar focus villages, to now expanded 70 XC, 3 district, total wetland & 14 BKN wetland & catchment villages. - Project MTR recommends Outcome Indicator 2.3 is sharpened to - No. of families with direct involvement, or who benefit from improved access to wetland products & services (including water resources), due to Project's NRM & wetland management CCA, DRM, food security & livelihood adaptations. 	<p>HS</p>
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To Include project - LWU gender mainstreaming to increase women's participation & resource access; FCZ establishment & site management; wetland demarcation & reserve establishment; wetland clearing, restoration & reforestation; agro-forestry; NTFP & wetland product handicraft production; dry season water management; dry season (semi-natural) water storages; dry season cropping (rice & vegetables) & livestock grazing / fodder supported by stored water supply; eco-tourism for wetland sites (lake & turtle pond); & drinking water supply (ponds & groundwater) activities. - Review is on-going of direct participant & wider beneficiary numbers for this indicator across expanded 84 focus 	
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					villages. FCZ beneficiaries alone suggest final accounting of project NRM, wetland & water beneficiaries probably >20,000 families. Updated detail in next PPR.	
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	<p>Outcome indicator 2.4: Area of target wetlands under effective management and protection to promote resilience and the flow of ecosystem services</p>	<p>Baseline to be established in year 1</p>		<p>Indices of management effectiveness are maintained at least at baseline levels over the entire area of the target wetlands (around 47,360 ha)</p>	<p>640.4 (direct) 46 FCZ – 590.16 ha set-up new & existing supported (XC Champone – 22 FCZ, 17 villages & 411.9 ha; XC Songkhone – 7 FCZ, 7 villages & 109.2 ha; XC Xonnabuly – 6 FCZ, 6 villages & 37.7 ha; BKN 11 FCZ, 8 villages & 31.4 ha); and one XC wetland reserve – 50.2 ha (Nongkan - Nongmaehang – Nongdern). All established 2018-2020 as core wetland conservation areas: district government recognized boundaries, management committees & management rules; sign-boarded; renovated dykes & new established semi-natural ponds; dry season water use plans; wetland clearing & reforestation programs.</p> <p>636,000 (managed zone) - Revised 2019 CAWA wetland landscape management planning & implementation approach, has shifted wetland habitat</p>	<p>HS</p>
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					protection focus (hydrology, native habitat & fish migration) to: BKN ~2500 ha total wetland & ~ 7,000 ha catchment; & XC 629,000 ha total wetland (3 Districts)	
	Outcome indicator 2.5: Area of wetland habitats in XC and BKN under improved forms of direct management to address CC-induced risks	Practices (ha) Improved management of forests to increase resilience to effects of CC (floods, erosion etc.) (0)		ha 200	ha 240 Identified priority reforestation areas in 16 Ramsar villages in XC (IUCN 2019 – 20) – with noted over-emphasis on agro-forestry on private lands, & under-emphasis on riparian and flooded forests on public land. Implementation plan now revised (under DAFO / DONRE 2020 – 22 workplans) to include shifted focus to flooded and riparian forests, with reforestation / restoration to start in wet season of 2021 in 25 villages in XC Champhone District wider wetland landscape (DAFO 16 villages – FCZ, wetlands & monkey forest; DONRE 8 villages FCZ & wetland reserves).	S

		Invasive species management (0)		200	43.96 Figure includes both Mimosa (invasive shrub) & water hyacinth (invasive water weed) control. Approximate 7.1 ha mimosa (4 villages) cleared under experimental treatments in XC (2017-18) & BKN 2019-21). Effort needed to apply best-practice controls to eliminate mimosa in BKN. XC mimosa too extensive & requires revised approach & further investment. 36.86 Ha of water hyacinth & other floating weeds were cleared in BKN (5.66 ha, 4 villages, 2017-21) & XCP wetland (31.0 ha, 13 village, 3 district, 2018-21)	
		Water flow, dry season water storage, water quality and wetland habitat improved due to wetland re-opening (0)		20	36.7 36.66 Ha of water hyacinth & other floating weeds were cleared (2017 – 21) in BKN (5.66 ha, 4 villages) & XCP wetlands (31.0 ha, 13 villages, 3 districts). Program is under 2021 expansion in 4 villages in	

					<p>BKN, & across Greater XC wetland (3 Districts), with focus upon floating water weed removal in demarcated wetland reserves and FCZ.</p> <p>Indicator is reworded to emphasis that water flow is not the target but improved aquatic habitat & dry season water storage.</p>	
		<p>Protection of wetland habitats and nesting sites (e.g. lakes and reserves for natural wetland habitat, fisheries, crocodiles, forest patches for bird and fish nesting) (0)</p>		600	<p>640.4 (direct)</p> <p>46 FCZ – 590.16 ha set-up new & existing supported (XC Champone – 22 FCZ, 17 villages & 411.9 ha; XC Songkhone – 7 FCZ, 7 villages & 109.2 ha; XC Xonnabuly – 6 FCZ, 6 villages & 37.7 ha; BKN 11 FCZ, 8 villages & 31.4 ha); and one XC wetland reserve – 50.2 ha (Nongkan - Nongmaehang – Nongdern). All established 2018-2020 as core wetland conservation areas: district government recognized boundaries, management committees & management rules; sign-boarded; renovated</p>	

					<p>dykes & new established semi-natural ponds; dry season water use plans; wetland clearing & reforestation programs.</p> <p>636,000 (managed zone)</p> <p>Revised 2019 CAWA wetland landscape management planning & implementation approach has shifted wetland habitat protection focus (hydrology, native habitat & fish migration) to: BKN ~2500 ha total wetland & ~ 7,000 ha catchment; XC 629,000 ha total wetland (3 Districts)</p>	
	Controlled burning (0)			200	<p>N/A</p> <p>Removed from workplan in 2019 project re-design, with environmental / ecological assessment concluding that burning will have dominant negative impact on wetland habitat and aquatic fish & wildlife populations. Natural habitats are already under enough pressure – burning will make it worse.</p>	

<p>Outcome 3: Efficient and cost-effective CC adaptation and disaster management measures in wetlands integrated and budgeted in District and Provincial planning and implementation processes and inform national planning processes</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 3.1: Number of local and national level plans that incorporate CC vulnerability assessments, CCA NRM and DRM mitigation measures and analyses of impacts on wetlands</p>	<p>No local plans provide for application of CC/DRM assessment approaches</p> <p>At least 1 national plan provides for application of CC/DRM assessment approaches</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All projects and plans developed by PONRE/DONRE and PAFO/DAFO that directly affect the target wetlands - At least 50% of all other provincial and district plans and projects in the target provinces and districts - BKN Ramsar site management plan - Water allocation and abstraction management plans/rules at district level in the target districts - At least 5 national plans related to natural resources management and agriculture¹² provide application of CC/DRM assessment approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 government agency partners (national, provincial & district) CCA, DRM & wetland planning & field activity plans received support funds under FAO-CAWA LoAs over 2016 – 2021. - Small-scale site management plans developed in XC & BKB sites for FCZ & wetland reserves & associated dry season water use plans (DAFO, DONRE & PAFO LoAs 2019-2020). - Draft Integrated Spatial Plan of Champhone District completed early 2019 Required substantial review & adjustment to complete (i.e. national land use planning process needs adjustment to allow mapping of natural wetland habitat, wetland reserves, FCZ & flood 	<p>S</p>
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¹² Including the 15-year MONRE Action Plan, the NAPA, the CC Sub-sector working group strategy and the National Strategy on Environment and Climate Change Education and Awareness

					<p>risk fish) (DEQP, ISP LoA 2018-19).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spatial Planning for XC wetland handed to Province-level (Oct 2019), with past land use planning (IRAS, MRC, ISP & WCS) process & outputs reviewed & evaluated (PONRE, LoA1 & LoA2 - 2019-21). Follow-up Province-District led participatory land use planning (6 village new; 13 village review existing) scheduled for 2021 implementation (to include wetland, habitats, reserves & FCZ (under PONRE LoA2); - CAWA validates (Nov 2019) Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site Management Plan (prepared KfW / MRWP). - National Consultation Workshop on Eco-Friendly Water Management for Sustainable Wetland Agriculture conducted by FAO and CAWA (Dec 2019). National planners (MAF and 	
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					<p>MONRE) informed on “Lessons on integration of CCA and DRM into wetland livelihoods and wetland conservation practice in the field’;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part progress (early 2020) on Draft Strategy (5-year Road Map) for National Ramsar Wetlands Program of Lao PDR (Jan 2020), & support provided for National Ramsar Secretariat Steering Committee (Ramsar planning) under DEQP LoA3; - FAO-CAWA supports MONRE Department of Climate Change (DCC) to develop cross-departmental needs & capability review workshop for flood risk early-warning data collection & analysis (Oct 2020). Assistance to national DRM planners in initial steps to develop flood risk early warning capability & opening to share CAWA 	
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					<p>wetland DRM lessons learnt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xe Champhone Draft Wetland Management Plan developed for total wetland (Dec 2020). With multi-agency national, provincial & district, village-level validation & district-provincial institutional & implementation strategy inputs (IUCN LoA4). 	
	<p>Outcome indicator 3.2: Number of institutions adopting tools for participatory CCA, NRM and DRM planning and implementation and M&E in wetlands</p>	None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory CCA and DRM planning and M&E is used in 2 other districts within the province, and for 2 other wetlands nationally - DONRE and DAFOs in four districts - CCA & DRM planning & implementation lessons shared nationally with MONRE (DoE, DWR & DCC), MAF & wetland management stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 government agencies (national, provincial & district) adopt CCA, DRM & wetland tools, plan methods & field activity plans supported by FAO-CAWA LoAs over 2016 – 2021. - KAP survey (Feb 2019) reports '52% of (CAWA implementing) agency staff interviewed said that their institutions adopted & used the tools for participatory CCA and DRM planning & M&E in wetlands'. - 2 years of CCA, DRM, NRM & wetland management 'learning 	S

					<p>by doing' training / implementation activities with 10 government agency partners (LoAs 2019 – 2021), suggest >80% agency staff now understand CCA–DRM – NRM planning & implementation tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project 'theory of change' approach & lessons on CCA-DRM integration into livelihoods & wetland site protection into district, provincial & national planning processes presented at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Consultation Workshop on Eco-Friendly Water Management for Sustainable Wetland (Dec 2019); ○ Provincial & District XC wetland management planning meeting (Jun 2020); ○ Provincial & District PPC & Ramsar meetings in XC & BKN (Dec 2018; Dec 	
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					<p>2019; & Sept-Oct 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Steering Committee Meeting (PSC) (Nov 2020) - Evidence yet to be seen of agency awareness in VDRA (IUCN) & land use / development planning processes of wetland, site & basin hydrology functions, i.e: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rising flood & drought risk; ○ Wetland need for connecting broad scale floods, natural habitats & fish migration to survive; ○ Wetland CCA-DRM values of flood retention, groundwater recharge & surface water storage (dry season water) 	
	Outcome indicator 3.3:	TBD through baseline evaluation of perceptions		- 70% of members of the institutions targeted for improved institutional coordination have favorable perceptions of the effectiveness of this	- Estimate of 75% members of village, district and provincial partners agencies targeted for CCA –DRM– NRM–wetland management now	S

	<p>Perceptions of effectiveness of institutional coordination at district, provincial and national level in support of wetland CCA, NRM and DRM</p>			<p>coordination</p>	<p>perceive institutional coordination is effective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Provincial-District PPC meetings (Dec 2019 & Sept-Oct 2020) & MTR review (Aug 2020) confirm provincial – district agency and governor’s perceptions of increased effectiveness of project coordination & delivery, after CAWA 2019 work plan, budget & LoA re-design to improve integration of district & provincial planning & implementation activity into project. Under national-level coordinating & district-provincial governor’s offices in parallel. - CAWA XC management plan meetings (Jun & Aug 2020) further progress set-up of district – province institutional planning & implementation 	
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					<p>coordination mechanisms;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National-level institutional coordination & integration made with CAWA support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MONRE-DoE top-supervision & guidance of provincial & district field-activities (DoE LoAs 2019-2021) ○ MONRE Ramsar National Secretariat (National Ramsar Steering Committee meetings; Survey new Ramsar sites; & draft national Ramsar program strategy / road map (DoE LoA 2019-20); ○ MONRE DCC planning & institutional review for flood risk DRM early-warning data collection & analysis multi-departmental capability 	
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					assessment workshop; ○ National Consultation Workshop on Eco-Friendly Water Management for Sustainable Wetland Agriculture (Dec 2019); ○ Project National Steering Committee (PSC) meeting & multi-ministerial review of CAWA workplan, budget & proposal for time extension (Nov 2020)	
Outcome 4 - Effective M&E and sharing of lessons learnt, knowledge, data, and activity visibility, to verify project impact and results	Output 4.1 - Project Reporting and Evaluations Implemented effectively and as per requirements - No indicator developed	No baseline - no evaluations prior to project commencement		-	- Significant progress on completion of Mid Term Review (Aug 2020 – Mar 2021). - Initiated planning for Final Evaluation	S
	Output 4.2 - Project M&E system established & implemented to monitor activities, outputs &	No baseline - no M&E system or implementation prior to project commencement		-	- Significant progress on internal (Jul 2020) & MTR (Aug – Sept 2020) review of project log frame (outcome & output) wording & indicators.	S

	outcomes effectively - No indicator developed				- Updating review & validation of 2016 – 2021 activity / village / participants matrix for CAWA, partners & consultants at BKN & XC sites	
	Output 4.3 - Knowledge management, data sharing & communication output are delivered effectively - No indicator developed	No baseline - no communications or data output prior to project commencement			- Significant progress on distribution of technical reports & report catalogue (2016 – 2020) to CAWA website, MONRE Minister & partner agencies; - Significant progress on output of communication products (news updates, events & field activity videos) on FAO GEF, CAWA & UN-Laos web sites, facebook pages, radio interview, press releases & CAWA mobile phone app.	S

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<p>Outcome 3: Efficient and cost-effective CC adaptation and disaster management measures in wetlands integrated and budgeted in local and national planning processes</p>	<p>Ensure CAWA field-level lessons on CCA and DRM for wetlands and community livelihoods, and the understanding of CAWA CCA and DRM “theory of change” approach, continue to: a) inform National stakeholders, and wetland and DRM planning and policy forums (project PSC, Ramsar committee, MONRE-CC DRM and NDC forums); and b) progress in integration into District and Provincial development and site management planning processes and guideline documents.</p>	<p>LTO, CTA and CAWA – DoE - PoNRE Provincial and National Ramsar Secretariat support teams</p>	<p>December 2021</p>
<p>Outcome 4: System developed and implemented for monitoring, systematization and dissemination of results and lessons learned</p>	<p>Recognise Component 4 is missing from past PIR, PPR and Project Results Matrix, and ensure Project M&E and Knowledge Management systems will provide improved visibility of project effectiveness and activities.</p>	<p>LTO, CTA, MTR and Task Force</p>	<p>September 2021</p>

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs (Implementation Progress, IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as planned in the Annual Work Plan)

Outputs ¹³	Expected completion date ¹⁴	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁵					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁶ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR		
Output Indicator 1.1.1. State of development and use of pilot methodological tool for participatory CC VDRA in wetlands	Q1 Y4	During Y1, a review was carried out of Vulnerability Assessment (VA) methodologies and existing baseline surveys conducted by the MRC, IUCN and FAO. Primary VA tools developed, tested and translated into Lao language for initial validation in April 2017. Progressive validation of VA tools will be continued until Y3.	A Climate Change (CC) Vulnerability Assessment (VA) tool and process (guide notes) have been developed, tested, revised and validated for use in the CAWA project. Largely completed but following application of VA results/CCA priorities it will be determined if any further adjustments to the tool are required for future implementation (completed end of LoA2 with IUCN). VA guide notes and tools are available in both Lao and English languages.	Completed. In May 2018 the section for climate change adaptation (CCA) planning was updated by IUCN and incorporated into the VA guidelines document, i.e. Chapter 8 – Adaptation Planning - of 'Guidance notes for rapid climate change vulnerability and disaster risk assessment for the CAWA and Mekong WET Projects' - DRAFT V.0.7 and subsequently translated into Lao language. In July 2018, the full VA process (following implementation in all Mekong countries) was reviewed by IUCN	Completed.	Completed.	100%	

				prior to the regional IBRRI meeting with contributions from IUCN Laos, no additional changes were made and is considered the final review/validation of the VA tool.				
Output Indicator 1.2.1. Numbers of stakeholders trained in participatory CC vulnerability and DRM management (CCA Outcome 2.1 Indicator 5)	Q2 Y5	Review of CBNA was done in PY1 by IUCN. The processes of pre-selection and baseline assessment of candidates were rapidly done through the discussion with DEQP, IUCN and FAO during late of PY1. The initial training on climate change and climate vulnerability concepts, and the use of VA	Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) planning workshop in XC involved 18 government staff at provincial and district level and 15 villagers in May 2018. The same workshop initially planned for the 31 May – 1 June 2018 in BKN, is postponed due to unavailability of provincial counterparts. Based on the outcomes of the	As of now, trainings conducted include: Climate Change at local level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CC VA training for government staff - Awareness sessions on ‘CC and vulnerability’ for communities - CCA planning workshop for government staff and village heads - CCA planning workshop for communities Wetlands management and	Completed.	Completed.	70%	The end-of-project targets for government staff seem to be initially overestimated (60 staff for both provinces and 60 for three districts) given that PONRE, PAFO, DONRE and DAFO have each 5-6 staff maximum

¹³ Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

¹⁴ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁵ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁶ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

		tools as structuring element of capacity building program have been conducted on 20-21 June 2017 for 25 participants from local government at provincial and district level including local academic institutions.	CCA planning workshop in both sites, more sessions on CCA/NRM will be delivered according to the needs in Y3.	Ramsar implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetland management training for community and government site managers Information storage, analysis and dissemination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIS training 1 - GIS training 2 Sub-total : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 provincial staff ● 22 district staff ● 540 villagers Total : 592 stakeholders trained				(not including project committee members) who are <u>actually working directly with CAWA</u> project and receiving related trainings.
Output Indicator 1.3.1. Numbers of participatory VDRA's carried out ¹⁷ in wetland communities, addressing aspects of wetlands, wetland based livelihoods and gender	Q1 Y3	Participatory planning of vulnerability assessment on a community-by-community basis was not carried out in Y1. Instead, the participatory VA planning with communities and VA will be	Completed. The Vulnerability assessments were conducted for 16 villages in XCP in August 2017 and for 8 villages in BKN in September 2017 with total 540 villagers (equal number of men and women) across two sites. Then a CC	Completed VDRA initial assessment	VDRA update on-going under LoA participatory planning, and BKN & XC management planning.	Completed under XC management planning meetings & participatory validations. Plus review and validation of CAWA Theory of Change	100%	

¹⁷ By District Implementation Teams (DONRE, DAFO, communities) with technical and facilitation support from Provincial Project Units

		conducted at the same time during Y2; where the progressive validation of VA tools will be continued until Y3.	Vulnerability Assessment (VA) report was drafted for each site. The VA results were validated through workshops at village level for both sites in April 2018, with total 147 villagers (including 58 women) across the two sites. The VA reports of XC and BKN are finalized and available in May 2018.					
Output Indicator 1.4.1. Number of studies generated ¹⁸ on CC-related issues affecting the target wetlands, including analysis of gender dimensions	Q1 Y5	<p>1. <i>Invasive plants in Xe Champhone Ramsar Site, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR</i> by CAWA Project team, December 2016 (English & Lao);</p> <p>2. <i>Gender Report - Xe Champhone Ramsar Site, Lao PDR</i> by IUCN, January 2017 (English & Lao);</p> <p>3. <i>Fisheries Survey Report in</i></p>	<p>1. <i>Hydrological assessment of the Xe Champhone and Beung Kiat Ngong wetlands</i> by IWMI, September 2017 (English & Lao);</p> <p>2. <i>Identification of spatial priorities for the re-opening of wetlands to maintain the water flow required for ecological functioning, biological connectivity and habitat</i></p>	<p>1. <i>Assessment of human-wildlife conflict issues, ecotourism and management implications for the Rhesus macaque population of the Monkey Forest, Champhone, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR</i> by IUCN, October 2018 (English);</p> <p>2. <i>Assessment of the distribution, status and conservation priorities of freshwater turtles</i></p>	<p>1. <i>Erosion study</i> by IWMI, July 2019 (English).</p>	<p>1. <i>Rapid field assessment to develop NTFPs and aquatic resources value adding opportunities and improve resource management for communities around the Xe Champhone Ramsar site</i> by IUCN, December 2020 (English).</p>	100%	Cumulative number of studies (13) has exceeded the indicative list of 9 reports available on the key topics.

¹⁸ With support from external consultants hired by the project, working in collaboration with national and regional institutions

		<p><i>Xe Champhone Ramsar Site, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR</i> by CAWA Project team, February 2017 (English);</p> <p>4. <i>Institutional Mechanisms for Wetlands Governance in the Lao PDR in the Context of the Ramsar Convention for CAWA</i> by Dr. Rita Gebert, April 2017 (English).</p>	<p><i>maintenance</i> by IUCN, December 2017 (English);</p> <p>3. <i>Ecotouristic development of Xe Champhone – touristic diagnosis</i> by Tétraktys, May 2018 (English);</p> <p>4. <i>Key income sources of households in Xe Champhone wetlands</i> by Dr. Lilao Bouapao, June 2018 (English & Lao).</p>	<p><i>from Xe Champhone and Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar sites, Lao PDR</i> by IUCN, December 2018 (English);</p> <p>3. <i>Developing priorities for landscape restoration to support improved Xe Champhone Wetland and Watershed Management in Champhone District, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR</i> by IUCN, December 2018 (English).</p>				
<p>Output Indicator 2.1.1. Numbers of plans that incorporate CCA considerations</p>	Q4 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onwards.	The Integrated Spatial Plan (ISP) approach is under implementation for XC wetlands by DEQP. An ISP training workshop was conducted in May 2018 in Champhone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Spatial Plan of Champhone District (under finalization - DEQP, MONRE); - Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site Management Plan 2019-2023 (under update and finalization - MRWP); - Xe Champhone Ramsar Site Management Plan (under preparation - CAWA); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Spatial Plan of Champhone District (draft – DOE, MONRE); - Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site Management Plan 2019-2023 (updated – MRWP); - Xe Champhone Ramsar Site Management Plan (ongoing development – CAWA: national inception workshop on 18th of March in Vientiane and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Spatial Plan of Champhone District (final draft – MONRE); - Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site Management Plan 2019-2023 (updated – MRWP); - Xe Champhone Ramsar site Management Plan (ongoing): i) Consultations with the key XC stakeholders and the technical working group to present draft sections (village stakeholder workshop was organized after the 	75%	

				Community participatory planning meetings in regard to livelihood options and development	provincial management planning workshop on 16-17 th of June in Savannakhet); - 11 government partner agencies' activity plans (funded through LoAs with FAO-CAWA) have adaptation measures incorporated. - Numerous participatory planning meetings & processes under LoA with communities (e.g. IUCN reforestation, IUCN NTFP, PAFO LFS BKN Act.1, PAFO-DAFO FCZ, DAFO organic vegetable & DoNRE-DAFO water use agreements etc.)	provincial XC management plan workshop with four village clusters (16 villages in total) between 12-16 July 2020 at Champhone district; ii) Draft XC Management Plan: document updated with outputs from the national and provincial consultations in the course of project implementation, the workplan & larger logframe developed and chapters written. - 13 government partner agencies' activity plans (funded through LoAs with FAO-CAWA) have adaptation measures incorporated.		
Output Indicator 2.1.2. Frequency of meeting of coordination mechanisms that embrace CCA in target wetlands and buffer zones	Q4 Y5	1. Ramsar National and Provincial Committees' members meeting for the presentation of findings from the assessment of the institutional mechanisms for wetlands governance in	1. CAWA - Provincial Project Committee (PPC) meeting in Savannakhet (16 Oct 2017).	1. Ramsar - Provincial Ramsar Committee (PRC) meeting in Champasak (29 Oct 2018); 2. Ramsar PRC meeting in Savannakhet (31 Oct 2018); 3. Ramsar National Secretariat meeting in Vientiane (16 Nov 2018);	1. Ramsar PRC meeting in Savannakhet, and 2. CAWA PPC meeting in Champhone District with field visits to observe CAWA activity progress and issues (16-17 December 2019); 3. Ramsar PRC meeting in Champasak, and	1. Ramsar PRC in Savannakhet (28 Dec 2020); 2. CAWA PPC in Savannakhet (29 Dec 2020); 3. Ramsar PRC in Champasak (1 Oct 2020); 4. CAWA PPC in Champasak (2 Oct 2020); 5. CAWA PSC meeting in Vientiane organized on 26 Nov 2020.	75%	

		Lao PDR, in Vientiane (21 Mar 2017); 2. CAWA - Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting in Vientiane (16 May 2017).		4. CAWA PPC meeting in Champasak (18 Dec 2018); 5. CAWA PPC meeting in Savannakhet (20 Dec 2018); 6. CAWA PSC meeting in Vientiane (28 Dec 2018); 7. Wetland management planning meetings national and local (BKN & XC) (Dec 2019 - Jun 2020); 8. Component 3 workshops & meetings (national wetland workshop & ISP meetings) (Feb – Dec 2019)	4. CAWA PPC meeting in Pathoumphone District with field visits to observe CAWA activity progress and issues (24-25 December 2019).			
Output indicator 2.2.1: Capacities of user and governance groups	Q4 Y5	Participatory analyses regarding governance needs and capacities were not done in second half of Y1, and a capacity development plan has not yet been formulated. However, the review of CBNA	Increase in capacities to be assessed in midterm review, namely on fishery management groups.	The KAP survey report by consultant does not specifically inform this indicator, i.e. non conclusive (cf. KAP survey report). Periodic follow up and assessment of capacities will be undertaken by the project team to inform this indicator.	Substantial capacity building and on-the-job trainings for local user and governance groups during this reporting period: - Wetland demarcation committee - Wetland clearing groups - Water use and management committees - Weir management committee	Final KAP survey to be conducted in the second half of 2021 as end line before final evaluation.	90%	Propose to include in this indicator, livelihood groups such as FCZ and water use management committees, aquaculture and fish hatchery groups, fruit and vegetable cultivation

		led by IUCN conducted in Y1 would form a foundation of the participatory analyses.			- Fisheries conservation zone committees - Fishermen catch monitoring groups - Tourism loop committee and 5 local site ambassadors			groups, fodder development groups, veterinary networks, etc.
Output Indicator 2.2.2: Number of villages in wetland and buffer areas covered by effective governance groups and water user groups	Q4 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onward.	Ongoing establishment of FCZs and Fisheries Committees in total 8 villages across both sites: -Agreement drafted in 4 villages (Phapho, Nongmak Ek, Phommaleu, Phakkha) in BKN; -Agreement approved in 3 (Taleo, Nonsithan, Phaleng) and drafted in 1 village (Kadan) in XC.	As of now in both sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Management Committees established in 10 villages; Fisheries Committees established in 10 villages. Total 18 villages with at least one of these committees established.	As of now in both sites: - Wetland demarcation committee covering 3 villages; - Wetland clearing groups in 10 villages; - Water use and management committees in 14 villages; - Weir management committee covering 3 villages; - Fisheries Conservation Zone committees (new & existing) for FCZs in 25 XC and 8 BKN villages; - Fishermen groups involved in fish catch monitoring in 10 villages (XC 3 districts & BKN); - Tourism loop committee involving 8 villages. Total 32 villages with at least one of these	As of now in both sites: - Wetland demarcation committee covering 3 villages; - Wetland clearing groups in 15 villages; - Water use and management committees in 15 villages; - Weir management committee covering 3 villages; - Fisheries Conservation Zone committees (new & existing) for FCZs in 32 XC and 8 BKN villages; - Fishermen groups involved in fish catch monitoring in 10 villages (XC 3 districts & BKN); - Village veterinary networks in 36 villages - Tourism loop committee involving 8 villages. Total 42 villages with at least one of these committees/groups established.	100%	Same as above. Propose to include in this indicator, livelihood groups such as FCZ and water use management committees, aquaculture and fish hatchery groups, fruit and vegetable cultivation groups, fodder development groups, veterinary networks, etc.

					committees/groups established.			
<p>Output Indicator 2.3.1: numbers of families (male and female led) benefiting from one or more forms of direct investment in CCA</p>	<p>Q3 Y5</p>	<p>Direct investment in CCA strategies will mainly be carried out between Y3 and Y5.</p>	<p>As of now, direct investments in CCA are focused on physical reopening of wetlands and management/elimination of invasive species in total 4 villages (Kengkokdong, Hoamoung, Kadan, Tansoum) in XC. Total 875 families from these 4 villages benefit from direct investment in CCA.</p>	<p>As of now, direct investments in CCA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical re-opening of critical wetlands and management/elimination of invasive species in 4 villages; - Protection of habitats and nesting sites (FCZs) in 10 villages. <p>Total 5,721 families from 11 target villages benefit from direct investments in CCA.</p>	<p>As of now, direct investments in CCA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demarcation of wetlands in 3 villages; - Wetland clearing in 10 villages; - Spillway and dyke repairing for 3 villages; - Dry season water storage in 2 villages; - Nurseries for reforestation; - Fish conservation zones (new & supported existing) in 33 villages; - Hatchery in 3 villages; - Veterinary networks covering 24 villages; - Development of ecotourism sites involving 8 villages. <p>Total 12,682 families from 29 villages benefit from one or more forms of direct investment in CCA.</p>	<p>As of now, direct investments in CCA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demarcation of wetlands in 3 villages; - Wetland clearing in 15 villages; - Spillway and dyke repairing for 3 villages; - Dry season water storage in 2 villages; - Nursery and reforestation; - Fish conservation zones (new & supported existing) in 40 villages; - Hatchery in 3 villages; - Veterinary networks covering 36 villages; - Establishment of nurseries for reforestation in 1 village; - Development of ecotourism sites involving 8 villages; - Support to improve wells for drinking water supply in 2 villages <p>Total ... families from 49 villages benefit from one or more forms of direct investment in CCA.</p>	<p>100%</p>	

<p>Output Indicator 2.3.2: number of villages with value-adding facilities for NTFPs established, benefiting men and women</p>	Q4 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onward.	Progress to be made in midterm review.	Program on value adding to wetland resources and NTFPs in Xe Champhone to support adaptation through alternative livelihood development and promotion of sustainable NRM, is currently under planning phase (IUCN LoA3) starting with research and preparation for consultation with the local communities.	Rapid field assessment work with communities completed, and implementation plan for 16 villages in the process of being developed by August 2020 (under IUCN LoA4).	The NTFP Action Plan for the 16 villages was finalized in September 2020. NTFPs and wetland resources value adding activities (fish processing and handicraft production) are implemented under LoAs of: Lao Women's Union (LWU) Savannakhet, LWU Pathoumphone, DONRE Champhone and Tétraktyts.	75%	
<p>Output Indicator 2.3.3: number of villages with visitor facilities for ecotourism established benefiting men and women</p>	Q4 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onward.	According to the touristic diagnosis of Xe Champhone by Tétraktyts, two villages have visitor facilities (guesthouses, homestays): Kengkokdong and Dongmuang.	8 villages are concerned by direct investments in visitor facilities in the 5 targeted touristic sites in Xe Champhone, and is currently under implementation (under Tétraktyts LoA2 and Service Agreements with those villages).	Construction and rehabilitation work well progressed with aim of completion by end of 2020 at the 5 ecotourism sites covering 6 villages in Xe Champhone.	Construction and rehabilitation work of visitor facilities completed 80% at the 5 ecotourism sites covering 8 villages .	80%	
<p>Output Indicator 2.3.4: number of semi-natural reservoirs established benefiting men and women</p>	Q2 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onward.	Progress to be made in midterm review.	Feasibility, design and planning for repair of existing weir at Nong Dern lake Xe Champhone near complete (Feb – Jun, 2019 CAWA – DONRE – PONRE review). Feasibility of CAWA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nongdern lake in XC; 2. Laonard community fish pond in XC; 3. Phaleng community fish pond in XC. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nongkan wetland in XC; 2. Nongmaehang wetland in XC; 3. Papho water storage in BKN; 4. Phakkha water storage in BKN; 	100%	

				input on small weir construction (2 units), and ESS supervision for large weir construction, in Beung Kiat Ngong conducted over Feb – May, 2019 (CAWA – PONRE – IUCN – MWRP review).		Total 7 semi-natural reservoirs established		
Output Indicator 2.3.5: Area of riparian forest replanted (ha)	Q2 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onward.	Progress to be made not until end of IUCN LoA2 or into LoA3 as dependent on all activities/outputs implemented after this period.	The ‘restoration’ study by IUCN in December 2018 identified 6 priority areas (in 4 zones) and a preliminary selection of 293 ha across the site for restoration with community consultation to validate and agree on priority areas. A redefined priority area of 240 ha was calculated that includes only villages of the 16 working with the CAWA project. Implementation starting and ongoing.	Implementation started with establishment of two nurseries and reforestation will start in this wet season of 2020.	116 ha completed under reforestation program implemented by DONRE Champhone and DAFO Champhone.	60%	Proposed to broaden area to include not only ‘riparian’, but also ‘flooded’ forests (project logframe revision).
Output Indicator 2.4.1: Number of men and women with increased knowledge and awareness to apply CC-	Q4 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onward.	Progress made in 2018 after the commencement of CD program. There will be an assessment of knowledge and awareness to apply	According to the KAP survey report by the consultant: ‘Only 4% of people interviewed in XC and 25% in BKN Ramsar sites stated that they applied knowledge learned	Around 815 men and women trained to apply CC-resilient wetlands management, agricultural practices and non-agricultural livelihood support options.	Around 1183 men and women trained to apply CC-resilient wetlands management, agricultural practices and non-agricultural livelihood support options.	80%	Output indicator 2.4.1 proposed to be adjusted ‘Number of men and women

resilient wetlands management, CC-resilient agricultural practices and/or non-agricultural livelihood support options			CC-resilient strategies of target population at the midterm review.	from CAWA project into practice’. But these findings are based on a sample of the population size of the target villages of CAWA project, thus showing a modest percentage against the original indicator target of ‘50% of men and women’s population in project target area’, which does not reflect the project focus on communities’ “champions” whose role is to apply and share knowledge and information received from project trainings with their community members, in line with the ‘peer-to-peer’ approach to knowledge transfer.		With the project no-cost extension, this number will be updated again and prior to the final evaluation.		trained [...] ’ (project logframe revision).
Output Indicator 2.5.1: Effectiveness of early warning systems in 20 target villages, as measured by promptness of receipt of, and effectiveness of response to,	Q3 Y5	Progress to be made from Y2 onward.	In 2018, DEQP in cooperation with PONRE and DONRE in both provinces will assess the functioning of existing early warning systems, and propose early recovery measures	CAWA and SAMIS project teams increased coordination to improve the effectiveness of the early warning systems in the target villages of Champhone. Subsequently, joint data collection will be	- Establishment and operation of a water level (9 sites) and water quality (9 sites) monitoring system across the XC wetland and lower river basin. - Hydrometric data collection in BKN: installation and	Early warning systems functional and effective during flooding period, thanks to project establishment and operation of water level and water quality monitoring systems in XC and BKN.	80%	Output Indicator 2.5.1 proposed to be re-adjusted with adjusted CCA - DRM strategies, added flood and hydro-

early warning messages			and system for CAWA project.	undertaken to inform this indicator by year 5.	operation of water level gauges at 7 sites, rain gauges at 7 sites, water discharge stations at 2 sites and ground water level data collection at 8 sites.	Data will be collected and consolidated to inform this indicator prior to the project final evaluation.		metric data collection
<p>Output Indicator 3.1.1: Numbers of methodological guidelines used in planning instruments at different levels</p>	Q3 Y5	Progress to be made from Y3 onward.	N/A – until midterm review.	The ‘Guidance notes for rapid climate change vulnerability and disaster risk assessment for the CAWA and Mekong WET projects’ (V.0.7_updated Aug 2018) -developed under Output 1.1 - will be used to integrate CCA and DRM into the Xe Champhone Ramsar Site Management Plan, but also for other future plans at national and local levels (planned activities in Y4-5).	<p>The project strategy to increase support to the National Ramsar Secretariat work program will open an avenue for better integration of project field level CCA and DRM lessons learnt into national wetland and DRM policy and planning processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft National Guideline for Management of Ramsar Wetlands in Lao PDR (under preparation) - Draft National Strategy (Road Map) for LoA PDR Ramsar Program (pending in LoA DoE) - Provincial and District guidelines used for planning at local level to be developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft National Guideline for Management of Ramsar Wetlands in Lao PDR (under preparation) - Draft National Strategy (Road Map) for LoA PDR Ramsar Program (pending in LoA DoE) 	30%	Updated VDRA and risk studies, adjusted CCA – DRM strategies, added flood – hydro-metric data collection, and strategy to expand support for national-level policy and coordination institutions transform into adjustments in CCA and DRM guidelines and inputs to provincial and national planning process.

<p>Output Indicator 3.2.1: Numbers of stakeholders effectively trained in participatory adaptation and DRM planning and M & E</p>	Q4 Y5	Participatory analyses of priority strategies and needs for learning/capacity strengthening were not carried out in Y1; instead the implementation of these analyses will be carried over to Y2.	CCA planning workshop in May 2018 in XC, with total 46 attendees, included stakeholders from province (PONRE, PAFO: 8), district (DONRE, DAFO: 7) and villages (15). CCA planning workshop in BKN initially planned for May 2018 was postponed due to unavailability of government counterparts. More trainings will be conducted from Y3 onward.	<p>As of now, trainings conducted include:</p> <p>CCA Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCA planning workshop for government staff and village heads - CCA planning workshop for communities <p>Total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 provincial staff • 16 district staff • 136 Villagers <p>Additional trainings on how to apply the tools for the planning of CCA and DRM and how to develop and implement corresponding M&E protocols will be conducted after development and finalization of the methodological guidelines proposed under Output 3.1.</p>	Pending development and finalization of the methodological guidelines proposed under Output 3.1.	<p>Trainings related to participatory adaptation and DRM planning and M&E have been organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flood mapping (PONRE Savannakhet LoA) - MONRE flood risk early warning data collection and analysis cross-department activity assessment (DCC, MONRE workshop concept) 	50%	Updated VDRA and risk studies, adjusted CCA – DRM strategies, added flood – hydro-metric data collection, and strategy to expand support for national-level policy and coordination institutions transform into adjustments in training in planning and M&E process.
<p>Output Indicator 3.3.1: Existence and frequency of meeting of coordination mechanisms for CC resilience in wetlands</p>	Q3 Y5	It is planned that coordination mechanisms will be reviewed and prioritized for the coordination support in Y2. However, assessment of	The Ramsar National Focal Points (NFPs) were reorganized, with a new NFP, a new Communication, Capacity development, Education,	Revision of members of the following wetlands management committees (agreements pending Minister of Natural Resources and	- Draft Strategy (5-year Action Plan) for Ramsar Wetlands Programme of Lao PDR (under DEQP LoA 3 proposed to finalization before end 2020	No progress on Ramsar wetlands meetings. Progress on DRM early warning coordination with MNRE CCC workshop concept (pending implementation)	60%	Updated VDRA and risk studies, adjusted CCA – DRM strategies, added flood – hydro-metric data

		<p>Ramsar institutional functionality at national and sub-national levels carried out in March 2017; report is available in English, summary available in Lao.</p>	<p>Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Focal Point, and a new Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) Focal Point. CAWA participated in The Sub Sector Working Group Meeting on Disasters, Climate Change and Environment, organized by MONRE and UNDP in April 2018.</p>	<p>Environment's signature):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ramsar National Committee - Ramsar National Secretariat - Ramsar National Focal Points 	<p>- National Consultation Workshop on Eco-Friendly Water Management for Sustainable Wetland Agriculture led by FAO, on the 6th of December 2019. CAWA contribution with a presentation on 'Lessons learned on integrated wetland livelihood and wetland conservation practice in the field'.</p>		<p>collection, and strategy to expand support for national-level policy and coordination institutions transform into adjustments in lessons learnt delivered to institutional and policy coordinating bodies.</p>
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4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

July 2020 – June 2021 reporting period saw the project sustain the previously improved implementation progress, with activity, outcome (cumulative) and output delivery having consolidated and expanded:

- Project has progressed with the cost-efficient and implementation effective 2019-redesigned budget and workplan focus. Approach remains with: limited international consultants (only 3, inclusive MTR); only 2 international NGOs; stable national team (10 persons, inclusive MTR); and expanded government partners (from 7 to 9). Decentralized and nationalized CAWA project has maintained coordination and communication efficiency, implementation effectiveness and partner buy-in at the Xe Champhone (XC) and Beung Kiat Ngong (BKN) wetland sites despite Covid-19 epidemic and lock-down challenges. District and Provincial government partners remain well-engaged and cooperate well under a multi-sectoral district – provincial implementation framework (PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO, LWU and Tétraktys inputs), integrating site management, data collection, livelihood raising, NRM, DRM, wetland protection, gender mainstreaming and eco-tourism topics under national (CAWA PMU, DoE and IUCN) supervision.
- Project Mid Term Review (MTR) conducted during reporting period supported project’s decentralized approach, district and provincial agency engagement, and current direction and effort of project’s approach versus GEF objectives, and confirmed local community acceptance and appreciation of almost all field-activities. MTR concerns, however, was expressed on the limited delivery of field-results (gauged by raised community income and completed activities) over the 5-year time frame. Project was noted to only have accelerated field-activity in late 2019, after 3 years focus on studies and VDRA (with limited community CCA or DRM activity). Concern was also expressed on gender, institutional approach and reforestation – yet MTR rapid evaluation was noted to have passed-over on-going gender and institutional work, and reforestation planning and nursery establishment work already conducted, due to lack of time in field mission. MTR recommended a budget-neutral project extension beyond May 2021, to provide time for project to achieve delivery success, in view of correct direction, yet late start on field activities. CAWA PMU responded with local and national government partner (PPC & PSC meetings), FAO project task force and national GEF focal point meetings to obtain consensus and support for Project’s extension to 28 Feb, 2022. Recently worsening Covid-19 epidemic and national / provincial lock-downs (since April 2020) have resulted project implementation delay justifying need for further request of project time extension.
- Component 1 – nearly completed, initial foundation studies and training outputs achieved against end-targets over 2017-2018, further VDRA updates conducted under XC management planning process (2020), and only one residual study (i.e. flood patterns) remaining needed;

- Component 2 – continued to progress and expand, with CCA-DRM-NRM planning and coordination, NRM–water–fishery- wetland use groups, livelihood–NRM capacity development, innovations and investments, and early warning fishery–water–habitat data collection and monitoring well-implemented over reporting period by local partners under 2019-20 LoAs, with further expanded area and community focus under implementation under new 2021;
- Component 3 – Lessons learnt national, provincial and district workshops delivered CAWA outputs on VDRA updates, CCA-DRM “theory of change’ approach and wetland landscape management approach (i.e. National Ramsar Secretariat, FAO RAP-CAWA sustainable wetland agriculture, IUCN XC management planning, MONRE DoE integrated land use planning, provincial and district PPC, national PSC and MONRE CCD early-warning workshop planning meetings and workshops). The channeling of CAWA CCA-DRM-NRM implementation lessons to inform district, provincial and national planning and implementation processes has commenced. The continued delivery of National Ramsar Secretariat (DoE) guidelines, Department of Climate Change early warning workshops, Provincial – District government wetland site management and institutional support meetings over 2021-22 is expected to expand and deepen delivery of project messages and field-level lessons to inform the national and provincial policy and planning processes; and
- Component 4 – The delivery of project MTR evaluations (output 4.1), internal and MTR review of the M&E system (output 4.2) and markedly expanded knowledge management (technical report distributions and catalogue) and communication outputs (website, facebook, news release, radio interview, video and project app development communication output) (output 4.3) have presented significant progress on Component 4 workplan and budget expenditure, and project communication output visibility increase over the reporting period..

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

Project operational challenge continued through the reporting period (as reported last year). Project 2019 re-design and accelerated implementation had led to increased project expenditure, LoA partner numbers (now 12), field staff and field activities (component 2). The small CAWA PMU team (5 persons) and field staff (3 persons) remain operating at carrying capacity in keeping contract management (LoA), procurement, field operations and reporting on track. Increased complexity related to FAO procurement procedures, FAO field work approval, and the national / international Covid-19 pandemic lock-down, have all added challenge, increased work load and extra difficulty for project operations and have resulted in delays in project delivery. Progress was made in reporting period to address operational challenges in regard to MTR conduct, LoA development, LoA amendments, operations staffing (1 international recruited in reporting period) and processing of 9-month no-cost project extension. Yet this is balanced against: a) considerable delay in LoA renewal (12 LoAs expired over Oct 20 – Apr 21) due to partner challenge and delay in progress reporting (in English) and delay to close LoA; b) delays in FAO POs and LoA approval process due to Covid-19 work-from-home inefficiency; and c) reversal of previous procurement advances (time- and cost efficiency increase through service provider-led purchasing), due FAO decisions to transfer more procurement responsibility (and work load) to CAWA PMU staff, resulting in increased complexity and delay in partner’s new LoA activity delivery.

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR.

For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁹	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating²⁰	Comments/reasons²¹ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	Development objective progress has been maintained as Satisfactory as recorded for previous 2020 rating, this is based on consolidation and expansion of delivery, budget expenditure and lessons learnt generated from field-progress progress, maintenance of project risk, continued coordination and communications gains derived from 2019 project re-design (inclusive expansion of LoA partners and adoption of decentralized and bottom-up delivery approach). Implementation progress rating has been downgraded to Satisfactory from previous 2020 Highly Satisfactory rating. Consolidation and expansion of the decentralized and bottom-up project delivery approach and field implementation results (inclusive expansion of activities, areas and communities of focus) continued on back of previous successful delivery. National-level efforts to share lessons learnt and wider communications (global, regional and national) were expanded. Yet rating has been downgraded to the reduced rate of delivery experienced over 2021 due to combined Covid-19 lock-down and shifting FAO procedures challenges to FAO CAWA and partner operational and administrative efficiency, most particularly delay in LoA renewal and closure. In result a further project time extension (budget neutral) is envisaged as needed next reporting period to maintain this HS implementation rating.

¹⁹ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

²⁰ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

²¹ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

Budget Holder	MS	MS	<p><i>The CAWA design is ambitious and most of the work requires support at the field level that has been severely hampered due to the pandemic. The project areas have seen a higher level of COVID spread as compared to some other areas in the country therefore lower than expected ratings at this stage.</i></p> <p><i>The project needs to consider innovative partnerships especially with the key players in ministry of Agriculture will help speed up the implementation.</i></p>
GEF Operational Focal Point			<i>Optional Ratings/comments</i>
Lead Technical Officer²²	MS	S	<p><i>The design of the CAWA project is very ambitious in terms of its thematic and institutional complexity. During the reporting year, the project team has done an excellent job to implement the project under difficult circumstances, the COVID-19 pandemic in particular. While I consider the implementation progress satisfactory I hope that the level of achievement of the development objectives can be further increased from now to the end of the project.</i></p>
FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	MS	MS	<p><i>The project's recently concluded mid term report has suggested that the overall project progress is not very satisfactory. However, I believe that the overall project progress has been more positive than the MTR team has reported. The project team has done extra hard work to make sure that this PIR reflects progress more correctly and I commend the team for their work. Lao PDR was fortunate in not having significant COVID19 impacts initially but recent months have been more challenging for Lao PDR as well. The project team were able to capitalize on the initial good situation, which is reflected in this year's progress reporting. The MTR recommendations need to be properly understood and reflected in all planning of the project – and should also be understood by project partners at all levels.</i></p>

²² The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²³ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low at project submission, yet classified Category B – where all project activities need analysis to assess potential positive and negative impacts prior to implementation	The rating of low risk remains, with no justification of basis for the Category B project social and environmental impact assessment. The project’s “theory of change” approach requires project that livelihood, management and site protection activities by design deliver improved CCA, reduced DRM risk, reduced wetland impact and improved NRM outcome compared to the community “business as usual” setting. Project field activities consequently may be classed as ‘mitigating’ efforts, which either produces direct positive social and environmental outcomes, or reduce the negative social and environmental outcomes of existing community practices, land use, site management, or government or private sector development. Further environmental and social assessment and management interventions related to project field activities are not expected to be needed.

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>
No grievance has been submitted related to FAO or GEF ESS policies during the reporting period.

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE
<i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The <u>Notes</u> column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, as relevant.</i>

²³ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

	Risk	Risk rating ²⁴	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²⁵	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	Continued low staffing and technical capacities in MONRE, the national executing partner, which is a newly established ministry and is only progressively establishing its provincial and district level structures.	Low	Strengthening of community-based governance structures, and facilitation of integrated Strengthening of community-based governance structures, and facilitation of integrated multi-sector local government and agency community supporting and wider landscape governance approaches, will offset the limited central Government resources. Strengthening of capacities of community, civil society and local government agencies under the ongoing project capacity development program will be based on sharing of field-level lessons of implementation success, a learning-by-doing approach, and supplementary training as needed. This is hoped to lay foundation for any future closing of capacity gaps post project. Resulting in a capable community – local agency partnership requiring only light future top-supervision, regional coordination and policy guidance input from central government.	The implementation modality, budget and capacity building focus of shifted with 2019 project re-design from the over-burdened national partners to provincial and district government partners who have stronger mandates and are better located to support project implementation. This shift has continued to facilitate access to capable local government staffing and skilled technical support which was previously under-utilised. Project's spatial expansion of community-based governance structures, has continued to expand the number of participating communities. Project's engagement of Lao Womens Union (LWU) in	2021 Project Implementation Report

²⁴ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²⁵ If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

				both sites has further added civil society support to multiply the delivery project lessons and implementation capability through district and village women’s groups. Project capacity development of local government partners continues to consolidate and improve possibility of future locally sustained efforts.	
2	Continued focus by national actors on sector-specific rather than integrated and collaborative approaches to sustainable natural resources management, climate change adaptation and rural development in general.	Medium	Provincial and district focus on strengthening of established multi-sector mechanisms, such as: District and Provincial governor’s coordinated efforts; District and Provincial government planning processes; the Provincial and District Ramsar Committees; the project’s own multi-stakeholder (multi-sector) local agency planning and Implementation teams; supported by a multi-sector wetland management plan, institutional coordination and communication mechanisms and shared data-hub.	Continued Year 2 program focus of capacity building, budgets and task allocation to sub-national, community and local civil society partners (LWU). This focus and implementation approach has: a) markedly improved the inter-sectoral coordination, communication and results delivery of integrated multi-sector CCA – DRM – NRM effort within the wetland sites; b) Increased support of	

			National focus restricted to linkages to, and sharing of lessons learnt with, wetland and disaster management committees / forums, with aim to deliver concrete experiences and evidence of the practicalities and benefits of a priority of integrated and collaborative multi-sector approaches at village, district and province level.	District and Provincial Ramsar steering committee, and District and Provincial Planning process, to facilitate improved inter-sectoral interaction; and c) improved district – province – national planning, coordination and communication linkages.	
3	Continued growth in pressures on wetlands landscapes (eco-systems, natural habitat, hydrology and fish migration) (including implications of climate change) beyond the coping limits of the currently proposed adaptation strategies.	Medium	Development of capacities and mechanisms at local agency and community levels to: a) recognize and monitor CC-driven climate, flood and drought changes on-site; b) recognize and mitigate community and development driven pressures on wetland landscape, natural habitats, flood hydrology and fish migration (ie. ecosystem status); and c) recognize local wetland landscape value (products, functions and services) in support of CCA, DRM, food security and local livelihoods. Supported by broader understanding points of a), b) and c), community and local agencies will be	Progress has continued for 2 nd year in implementation of on-ground investments and raising of community, civil society (LWU), district and provincial government capacity to facilitate improved assessment, planning, mitigation and monitoring actions across wetland landscape and catchments to address the growing pressures on water, wetland and land resources. Progress also continued on efforts to strengthen	

		<p>assisted to innovate, adapt and implement NRM, wetland site management and CCA – DRM livelihood strategies to address CC changes, development and use pressures, and preserve wetland values.</p> <p>Development of capacities and mechanisms at district, provincial and national government levels to integrate the preservation of natural wetland habitats (and supporting flood patterns and fish migration), and recognize wetland landscape CCA and DRM values and services, and rising flood risks, as important considerations for the district and provincial integrated land use, development, natural resource, environmental planning processes.</p> <p>Dialogue with national and provincial partners to convey ESS impact assessment messages and mitigating advice (via DoE ESS processes) to other ministries and developers who are proponents of sectoral developments which neither integrated nor support the</p>	<p>community utilization, food security and profit from wetland landscape and resource utilization.</p> <p>This associated with raised community awareness of the greater food security and livelihood value of intact wetland and functioning catchments versus increased crop encroachment, increased flood damage and reduced dry season water supply.</p> <p>This associated with raised awareness of local government planners on need and advantage of integrating the preservation of natural wetland habitats and improved NRM (supported by functioning flood hydrology and fish migration) and consideration of rising flood risk into district and provincial integrated land use, natural resource and</p>	
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			CAWA district-province multi-sectoral approach or wetland management plans (i.e. project and development outside influence of project).	environmental planning processes.	
4	Continued Covid-19 pandemic national infection and staff / partners safety risk and risks to project implementation and staff due to extended / intensified national or provincial lock-downs	High	Risk continues of an extension of current UN staff Covid-19 pandemic national lock-down (on-going since Apr 2021), and intermittent Lao government national lock-downs (national & provincial partners free of lock-down June 2021, yet operate under safety guidelines). National management of Covid-19 pandemic remains effective, yet situation in neighboring Thailand present medium to high risk that more strict intermittent lock-downs will need to be imposed on UN staff, national and provincial-district partners over coming reporting period. This will lead to further delays in project field and local-level implementation progress, and risk to complete satisfactory delivery of field and GEF progress (indicator) results. A further CAWA project budget-neutral extension of project time line by 3 – 4 months	Progress on further CAWA budget-neutral extension by at least 3 months (i.e. NTE approximately 30 June 2022) is pending, finalization and approval of current pending CAWA 2021 Budget Review (delayed by forensic review and update of FPMIS figures – Mar – July 2021)	

			(budget allowing) will be needed and is in process of planning as a mitigating action (i.e. NTE shift to around 30 June 2022).		
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Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Medium	Medium	Project has maintained the low level risk of limited national government staffing input and technical capacity and the medium risk of national-level of inter-sectoral planning, collaboration, coordination and implementation challenges. The maintenance of these two risk categories at low to medium level combined with progress in reducing the risk of extra-project site growth and development pressures from previous high to medium risk level (beyond the project’s successful mitigating efforts to protect the adaptive function of the wetland landscape), would suggest the overall project remains at ‘medium’ risk, or the same risk as previously in 2020.

7. Adjustments to Project Strategy – Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1: Review ToC with stakeholders to create consensus through a series of target network actions and events.	Project TOC was presented and discussed post-MTR with district, provincial and national stakeholders (PPC meetings Savannakhet & Champasak, Sept & Oct 2020 with district & provincial stakeholders); PSC meeting Nov 2020 with national stakeholders).
Recommendation 2: Hire an International Short-Term Institution Building Specialist to prepare a strategy and roadmap towards an institutional framework for wetlands management in Lao PDR	International consultant (institutional specialist) was already employed by CAWA with output of institutional review and roadmap for wetlands management in April 2017. Project team has already followed-up to develop a provincial-district focused institutional approach for wetland CCA-DRM-NRM management under the XC management planning process (Output 2.1) – so the strategy is already developed. In this late stage of project implementation further consultants are not needed to replace what has already been done by project.
Recommendation 3: Revise the capacity building strategy in the light of the new institutional strategy and roadmap	Project already has an institutional strategy and roadmap in place as noted above. CAWA local government capacity building approach is also already well advance with a ‘learning by doing’ strategy focused on capacity development for wetland integrated approaches and project management. Community and village authorities are also content with above approach of jointly implementing activities to increase knowledge and skills in livelihood options and wetland–fishery–water–NRM management, assisted by district–provincial– CAWA project facilitators / trainers.
Recommendation 4: Project partners should agree on a budget-neutral extension of at least one year	Project management agrees. The preliminary MTR findings and case for Project budget-neutral extension (by up to 1 year) was presented, discussed and agreed with district and provincial stakeholders, and national stakeholders, in separate Savannakhet (29 Sept 2020) and Champasak (3 Oct 2020) Project Provincial Steering Committee (PPC) meetings, and in National (26 Nov 2020) Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting. These results and plan for budget neutral extension were presented to inform national GEF Operational Focal Point (14 Dec 2020), and finally agreed with the FAO Project Task Force (PTF) (17 Dec 2020). A budget-neutral project extension up to 28 February 2022 has subsequently been submitted and agreed with FAO GEF unit, Rome.

<p>Recommendation 5: Project should focus on establishing good models in inner core villages first, before scaling up to outer core villages and district.</p>	<p>Project management agrees in principle with this suggested approach, yet takes issue with MTR in not noting that Project had already been conducted these steps. Project had followed the ProDoc up to 2019 with focus on limited number of 22 core villages (close to Ramsar sites) to develop the model approach over Project Years 1 - 3. Project Year 4 project re-design supported stakeholder opinion that the limited focus was too small and in-effective to maintain further. As suggested by ProDoc under a stage-2, and supported by District-provincial stakeholders, the project scaled-up in late-2019 to current 71 contact villages over 3 districts in XC wetland, and 14 contact villages in BKN wetland and catchment late 2019.</p> <p>Project management supports the scaling-up, to enable CAWA to apply global best-practice wetland management (and stakeholder capacity development), which dictates that focus villages should be spread-out through the total wetland landscape (and catchment if possible). This approach facilitates site protection, NRM efforts and livelihood lessons learnt which assist the continued function of natural wetlands (i.e. floods and water and fish and wildlife migration flowing through landscape populated with a network of natural wetland habitats).</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: Project should do a participatory evaluation of CCA measures to improve quality and chances of replication before end 2020</p>	<p>Project management agrees with participatory planning and evaluation. Project, however, notes that MTR missed review and registration of much work already done. This includes of 5 rounds of participatory evaluations of CCA approach conducted by CAWA in XC and BKN (IUCN VDRA 2018; KAP survey 2019; IUCN R-Mett 2019; IUCN management planning 2020; MTR 2020). All NRM activities and most livelihood activities under LoAs (PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO, LWU and Tetraktys; 2019-2020) are based on community-level meetings, participatory planning and consent.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: Project should have good models on the ground for conservation of flooded forests by reforestation with native species established before June 2021</p>	<p>Project management agrees on need wetland habitat restoration including flooded forests, weed removal, herbaceous habitat, hydrology and fish migration restoration. Project disagrees with MTR stress on flooded forests alone (i.e. not multi-habitat and site function approach). Project also notes that MTR had missed review of work done already on topic of restoration and reforestation, e.g.: reforestation planning with local communities 2018-2019 (IUCN LoA); tree nursery establishment and operation 2019-2020 to support flooded and riparian forest restoration with native species (DONRE & DAFO LoAs); and wetland clearing / invasive weed control program (2018 – 2021).</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: Project could support NTFP management in forests adjacent to wetlands to create synergy in community management of natural resources (e.g. malva nuts in XBN) by end of 2021</p>	<p>Project management disagrees on any moves to shift livelihoods focus away from options focused on wetlands which are designed to support project TOC. Numerous wetland livelihood and NRM issues need focus to improve wetland and NR management, CCA and DRM (e.g. wetland habitat conservation, native fisheries and dry season water management). Shift of focus away to adjacent uplands, only for added livelihood option reasons, will disturb project focus, budget allocation and time needed to improve CCA-DRM-NRM in wetland landscapes.</p>

<p>Recommendation 7: Project should focus on rice, livestock and tourism. Not to start new value chains for handicrafts or NTFPs</p>	<p>Project management disagrees on MTR suggestion to narrow or shift livelihoods focus away from current spread of options designed to support project TOC, which are well-accepted by stakeholders and with time extension are now showing signs of success. The MTR was challenged by time and technical background to recognize the project TOC, and need for broad range of livelihood options to reduce livelihood climate and disaster risk, impact on wetlands and improve food security and incomes. MTR analysis was challenged with much focus on livelihoods and income raising, yet neglecting to account for food supply, CC and DRM risk and wetland impact. MTR lack of review of contribution of native fisheries to food supply and income, plus tendency to promote rice when it is clearly the major problem in terms of CCA risk, wetland impact and DRM losses, are example of the ‘off-target’ focus of MTR review and conclusions.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: Project should strengthen flood warning systems, communication and rapid response capacity among communities by end of 2021</p>	<p>Project management strongly agrees with need to strengthen flood risk mapping and warning systems, yet disagrees with MTR stress that this capacity should focus on site communities only. District, province and national efforts to assess flood risk and map flood patterns are addressed by CAWA flood mapping activity with PONRE (LoA1 and LoA2) and early-warning workshop concept with MONRE, DCC.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: Project should include a step of revising village level management plans in the process of developing district-level wetland management plans</p>	<p>Project management disagrees on order of focus on village-level plans first (normally land use plans). CAWA adopts best-practice wetland management approach to focus on maintenance of wetland function across whole wetland landscape. This requires: a) provincial-district planning between and across districts to maintain flood flows and fish migrations; and b) district-community planning within districts to demarcate a network of remaining natural wetland habitats (i.e. FCZ & wetland reserves). Planning must start at large provincial and total wetland scale, descend to district-wide and last to individual villages which flank remaining natural wetlands. Working firstly only at village level, will not provide the over-arching plan of interconnecting wetland habitats, flood patterns and fish migration required for wetland function. CAWA XC experience with village land use planning (plus observation of MRWP BKN land use planning), shows that official planning practice does not work for wetlands – there is no mapping legend unit for natural wetlands, FCZ or flood retention areas, so wetlands or left unmapped (or only as open water bodies) and unplanned for, and standard demand for expanded rice leads to them mapped for agriculture development instead.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: Project should complete demarcation of core zones, using good quality markers before end of 2020</p>	<p>Project management agrees, that remaining natural wetland habitat demarcation is a key intervention under current 2019 re-designed project. Phase 1 demarcation (one XC wetland reserve and all FCZ) was already completed with good quality markers by PONRE-DONRE LoA in early 2020 (before MTR). Phase 2 demarcation (three more XC wetland reserves wetlands) will be completed under DONRE LoA2 by mid-2021. BKN wetland demarcation was already done (2019) for RAMSAR site under KfW MRWP (with limited effect on site management). CAWA</p>

	<p>Phase I core wetland sites under FCZ were already demarcated by CAWA over 2018 to 2020 – yet will be extended with 2 new FCZ in 2021 under PAFO LoA2.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: FAO should review its procedures for approving activity plans and budgets to speed up delivery of project results. Operations Specialist should follow this up before February 2021</p>	<p>Project management agrees in principal, yet disagrees on MTR optimism that International Operations Specialist can make headway with the FAO institutional changes needed. Evaluation of 6-month mission of Operations Specialist found some improvement was made in navigating procurement procedures , yet a streamlining and increased efficiency of LoA development and FAO administration and operational procedures, was found not achievable.</p> <p>Project will continued effort with FAO Laos to: a) assist increased efficiency of LoA development; b) take action to improve timeliness of FAO administration and operational procedures; c) request similar action from FAO HQ Rome in regard to new guidelines and procedure revision, to ensure steps to speed FAO project delivery and improve organizational reputation</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: Project team should review cost-effectiveness and look for ways to improve quality and quantity of outputs before March 2021</p>	<p>Project management strongly agrees on need to improve activity quality and quantity as basis of project outputs, and has under-taken post MTR field activity reviews (Oct 2020) and redesign of new partner LoAs with aim to achieve this.</p> <p>Project management does not agree (or understand) the cost-efficiency comment of MTR, as the cost efficiency of CAWA (with limited international consultant and NGO input; and maximized local government input – at operations cost only) is already at very high level in regard to partners, LoAs, activity and staffing costs (relative other donor and UN projects in Laos).</p>
<p>Recommendation 13: Main risks (lack of institutional framework and lack of CC adaptation models that could be scaled up) can be addressed through recommendations under A and B above</p>	<p>Project management disagrees on this risk and on the lack of institutional framework and CCA models. Noted in comments above, the institutional framework and CCA models (see Section 12 – Innovations below) have already been developed and exist under CAWA. The MTR team unfortunately missed this in the evaluation and did not have time to review them (e.g. as per gender below).</p> <p>Project will continue to expand the existing project developed institutional framework, TOC and associated activity models, in practice under Component 2, in lessons learnt delivery under Components 3 and 4, so external stakeholders and national partners may view and comprehend project’s inter-linked provincial, district and community-level strategy and approach.</p>

<p>Recommendation 14: Project should develop an exit strategy to assist partners in finding new sources of funding and capacity to carry on not later than one year before the end of the project.</p>	<p>Project management agrees and will continue under XC management planning and institutional development (PONRE LoA2) to devise future funding strategies and assist provincial and district partners in donor and cross-project liaison, and if possible, proposal development. Project will continue to develop the June 2021 CAWA Phase II GEF funding proposal (project concept) under MONRE, MAF and MRC to develop a follow-up integrated lowland Laos native fisheries habitat (wetland) – fish migration – fisheries - water resources – DRM project as follow-up to scale-up CAWA lessons on integrated CCA-DRM-NRM wetland management, under new native fisheries – water conservation – flood control country program (nested under existing MRC basin plan).</p>
<p>Recommendation 15: Project should establish a baseline for all the revised indicators in its theory of change before March 2021.</p>	<p>Project management agrees. Project has already retro-fitted baseline data into M&E system for the majority of log frame indicators, including the revised ones. A remaining 2 or 3 indicators still have poor baseline, yet are more constrained more by poor definition of output and indicator, then by baseline.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: Project should review its gender strategy and develop interventions to improve women’s participation in wetland management before August 2021</p>	<p>Project management has noted that the MTR did not review the gender mainstreaming plans and interventions which were already underway under Project LoAs with Lao Womens Union (LWU) district (BKN) and province (XC) agencies at time of MTR. The strategies and interventions already exist and do not need further review. Project will continue with existing LWU LoA activities which already review, develop and monitor project and partner’s gender approach</p>
<p>Recommendation 17: Project should develop a few simple but effective activities to improve community waste management by August 2021</p>	<p>Project management notes that MTR had missed the existing site waste management and disposal facilities plans already existing under Tetraktys LoA on eco-tourism investment sites. Project remaining budget and time do not allow a larger scale waste management and disposal site development in XC as requested District DONRE. This should be a total new stand-alone project, which cannot be accommodated under GEF CAWA</p>

Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
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<p>Project Outputs</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Outputs 1, 2 and 3 - Aside from minor adjustment in wording of outputs to sharpen the definition of target stakeholder, focus activities and spatial focus (not yet registered in Section 3 above), there were no changes in definition or direction of outputs.</p> <p>Output 4 – Outcome 4 (Effective M&E and sharing of lessons learnt, knowledge, data, and activity visibility, to verify project impact and results) detailed on Section 2, added to project in 2019 redesign, is yet to be registered in the project log frame. Whilst Outputs 4.1 and 4.2 (evaluations & M&E) could be considered project management, lack of tracking of progress of impact and results may well lead to poor delivery of GEF objectives and results. Output 4.3 on communication of project lessons learnt and knowledge sharing, definitely needs to be added to this GEF project otherwise there is no measurement of the important wider project visibility and information distribution.</p>
<p>Project Indicators/Targets</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Numerous minor adjustments in wording of outputs to sharpen the definition of target stakeholder, focus activities and spatial focus (not yet registered in Section 3 above). Review and discussed with MTR to reduce what was considered vaguely focused and in some cases overlapping output indicators. Adjustments were needed mainly under Output 2 to define indicators in a way which could be more clearly linked to current key field activities.</p>

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

<p>Change</p>	<p>Describe the Change and Reason for Change</p>
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<p>Project extension</p>	<p>Original NTE: 30 May 2021 Revised NTE: 22 February 2022 (current)</p> <p>Justification: Delays in substantial field-level CCA – DRM progress to project Year 4 (due to early Year 1 and 2 focus on VDRA and site studies; and CTA absence in Year 3), mixed with Year 5 Covid-19 national lock-down travel, field-access and implementation restrictions (early - mid 2020), led to MTR conclusion of project need for budget-neutral time extension to and allow adequate time for field-level delivery success (i.e. > 2 years) and achievement of GEF objectives</p>
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8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))		
Stakeholder	Related departments / projects	Stakeholder's engagement/involvement
Government Agencies and Committees		
MONRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DOE (formerly DEQP) - DWR - LNMCS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEQP LoA1 (Sep 2016 – Sep 2017): coordination and organization of overall project activities/meetings; - DEQP LoA2 (Dec 2017 – Nov 2018): same role as above; - DEQP-ISP LoA (Feb 2018 – Feb 2019): Integrated Spatial Planning (ISP) for Champhone District; - DEQP LoA3 (October 2019 – September 2020): coordination of project and Ramsar committees, support for national Ramsar secretariat and top-supervision of project field activities and progress; - DWR: coordination meetings on Mekong-IWRM, river basins and Ramsar-related works; - LNMCS: coordination meetings on CAWA-MRWP activities in BKN (before MRWP management transferring to PONRE Champasak in 2018).
National Ramsar Committee		- Ramsar National Steering Committee meeting in Vientiane (June 2017).
National Ramsar Secretariat		- Ramsar National Secretariat meeting in Vientiane (16 Nov 2018).
PONRE Champasak		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PONRE LoA1 (Nov 2017 – Oct 2018): hydrological data collection and invasive species survey; - PONRE LoA2 (Oct 2019 – Oct 2020): wetland management; - PONRE LoA3: wetland management; - Coordination meetings on CAWA-MRWP activities in BKN.
PONRE Savannakhet		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PONRE LoA1 (Oct 2019 – Sep 2020): wetland management; - PONRE LoA2: wetland management - Coordination and organization of project activities/meetings at provincial level.
PAFO Savannakhet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crop Section - Livestock and Fisheries Section (LFS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAFO Crop Section LoA (Apr 2018 – Dec 2018): reduction of pesticide use and sustainable rice farming; - PAFO LFS LoA1 (Aug 2018 – Aug 2019): aquaculture and livestock;

	- Agricultural Land Management Section (PALaM)	- PAFO LFS LoA2 (Jan 2020 – Feb 2021): livestock and fishery development; - PAFO LFS LoA3; livestock and fishery development; - PAFO PALaM LoA (Nov 2018 – Oct 2019): community-based rice seed and compost production.
Provincial Ramsar Committee		- Provincial Ramsar Committee meeting in Champasak (29 Oct 2018, 24-25 Dec 2019 and 1 Oct 2020); - Provincial Ramsar Committee meeting in Savannakhet (31 Oct 2018, 16-17 Dec 2019 and 28 Dec 2020).
DONRE Pathoumphone		- DONRE LoA1 (Oct 2019 – Sep 2020): wetland management activities; - DONRE LoA2: wetland management activities.
Lao Women's Union (LWU) Pathoumphone		- LWU LoA (Jun 2020 – Mar 2021): gender mainstreaming activities.
DONRE Champhone		- DONRE LoA1 (Dec 2019 – Dec 2020): wetland management activities; - DONRE LoA2 : wetland management activities. - Coordination and organization of project activities/meetings at district and village levels.
DAFO Champhone		- Fish catch monitoring data collection (implemented under DEQP LoA2); - DAFO LoA1 (Oct 2019 – Sep 2020): livelihood development activities. - DAFO LoA2: livelihood development activities.
Lao Women's Union (LWU) Savannakhet		- LWU LoA (Aug 2020 – Oct 2021): gender mainstreaming activities.
Academic Institutions		
National University of Laos (NUOL)	- Faculty of Environmental Sciences	- Organization of the World Wetlands Day 2019 celebration and awareness raising at NUOL (22 Feb 2019).
Savannakhet University (SKU)	- Faculty of Agriculture	- SKU LoA (May 2017 – Dec 2017): pilot pasture development and community fish pond.
International Organizations and NGOs		
ADB		- Coordination meetings on ADB irrigation and river basin projects.
FAO	- SAMIS (GEF) - FAORAP	- Coordination meetings and cooperation on FFS-related activities in XC; - Co-facilitation with AIT of the National Consultation Workshop on Eco-Friendly Water Management for Sustainable Wetland Agriculture (6 Dec 2019).

GIZ	- ProCEEEd	- Cooperation and exchange on IEC materials related to CC and environmental management
IRRI	- CCAFS-CSV	- Cooperation and knowledge exchange on FFS-related activities in Champhone, including the implementation of the community-based rice seed production with CUSO International
IUCN		- IUCN LoA1 (Aug 2016 – Nov 2017): technical lead in implementation of project activities/trainings and delivery of outputs (capacity development plan, gender mainstreaming, VA tool, VA surveys, CC-related studies); - IUCN LoA2 (Jan 2018 – Dec 2018): same role as above (VA data analysis and reporting, CCA and wetland management trainings, CC-related studies); - IUCN LoA3 (Feb 2019 – Jul 2019): same role as above (R-METT assessment, conservation programs, value-adding to wetlands/NTFPs resources program); - IUCN LoA4 (Dec 2019 – Sep 2020): development of the Xe Champhone Management plan, handover of reforestation and conservation programs to DONRE Champhone and development program on 'value adding' for wetland/NTFP resources.
IWMI		- IWMI LoA1 (Dec 2016 – Aug 2017): hydrological study of the BKN and XC wetlands; - IWMI LoA2 (Dec 2018 – Jun 2019): mapping of erosion-prone areas of the XC catchment.
KfW	- MRWP	- Coordination meetings on CAWA-MRWP activities in BKN.
Tétraktys		- Tétraktys LoA1 (Dec 2017 – Nov 2018): community ecotourism development in XC; - Tétraktys LoA2 (Feb 2019 – Jan 2020): same role as above; - Tétraktys LoA3 (Aug 2020 – Apr 2021): same role as above.
UNDP	- SAFE (GEF)	- Coordination meetings on related activities in project districts in Savannakhet province and at UNDP Vientiane.
World Bank		- Coordination meetings on support to demarcation and wetland management as part of the co-financing (M-IWRM) and on potential infrastructure projects in XC.
WCS		- Coordination meetings on conservation in XC.
Civil Society Organizations		
Association for Rural Mobilization and Improvement (ARMI)		- Discontinued process of developing a draft LoA with CAWA.

<p>Association de Soutien au Développement des Sociétés Paysannes (ASDSP)</p>		<p>- With CAWA’s initial support and liaison to MONRE-DEQP, ASDSP is implementing a GEF small grant project on climate smart agriculture for improved food security in XC.</p>
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9. Gender Mainstreaming

<p>Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)</p>
<p>Project formulation included ‘Gender Analysis and Strategy’ (Annex 8, ProDoc) with 2015 assessment of project gender considerations, implications and strategies per activities and output. Project execution followed with SP IUCN January 2017 output of the <i>Gender Report</i>, based on village gender assessment conducted in Xe Champhone (XC) (but not BKN) wetland. Report outputs validated earlier ProDoc Annex 8 results, highlighting gender differences at XC site of: i) poverty in small population proportion, with poor women particularly lacking social capital/livelihood assets, and access to knowledge/skills; ii) unequal power relations present in wider community and local government structures; iii) lack of access to information that could strengthen the capacity of women, and iv) prevailing perception that ‘technical matters’ such as wetland/resource management is a male domain, and not women’s concern. These results, plus separate IUCN Vulnerability Assessment (VA) findings (XC and BKN), fed into December 2017 IUCN <i>Gender Mainstreaming Framework and Strategy</i> (GMS) report for both sites. This contained a theory of change as framework to design gender mainstreaming actions, and strategic considerations for mainstreaming gender in the outputs of the project.</p> <p>Project 2018-2019 field activities followed with implementation request for equal representation of women and men, and women’s groups - but not always achieved. Gender-disaggregated data collection for most activities/trainings was also conducted (particular in IUCN VA, CCA and wetland management-related activities – yet women’s attendance was often small). Project 2019 internal review of log frame and M&E framework further proposed integration of gender-specific indicators and the FAO gender marker system to highlight project achievement related to gender objectives. M&E gender data was further augmented mid-2019 by project redesign of LoA monitoring and quarterly progress reporting procedures to provide gender disaggregated data on all project activities and sub-activities of a new network of 10 sub-national and national partners. This assisted M&E framework greatly to improve tracking of performance on women’s inclusion in policy, planning and implementation processes.</p> <p>Gender expertise was included in 2016-2019 project team as sub-task of Knowledge Management and Participation Expert. New participatory planning guidance sub-task (including gender) of Project and Administration Officer added expertise in early 2019. National-based project team top-supervision ensured gender-sensitive planning, implementation, capacity development and</p>

monitoring were included in design of project activities. However, project 2019 re-design recognized this approach would not assure effective gender mainstreaming implementation in the field. Project responded with new plan and budget to engage national and local level Lao Women’s Union (LWU) to assist project in gender strategy review and supervise partner gender mainstreaming activities under project in the field. Revised 2020 strategy opted for decentralized local-level LWU LoAs (1 awarded; 1 in in pipeline) with district and provincial LWU officers to provide gender strategy evaluation, gender mainstreaming training women’s livelihood raising (handicrafts), gender focal points identification and supervision of partner gender mainstreaming implementation in field. FAO RAP Gender Specialist may be invited to review the success of this nationalized and decentralized approach, and assist to evaluate whether project has met aims to: a) close gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; b) improve women’s participation and decision making; and c) generate socio-economic benefits or services for women.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

- The project knowledge management strategy is updated annually. The project collects and documents lessons learned through LoA reports on activities submitted by our national and international implementing partners. Good climate-resilient practices include:
 - Participatory and gender-sensitive vulnerability and disaster risk assessment (VDRA)
 - Participatory adaptation planning based on local strengths and potentials
 - Wetland management training for community and government site managers
 - Fish conservation zones
 - Native fish catch monitoring
 - Small-scale native fish hatcheries
 - Dry season vegetable cultivation
 - Village veterinary networks
 - Wetlands demarcation
 - Community-led wetland clearing
 - Community-based ecotourism development

We have introduced “Uncle CAWA” as the project mascot aiming at raising awareness and providing knowledge about wetlands and its conservation in Laos.

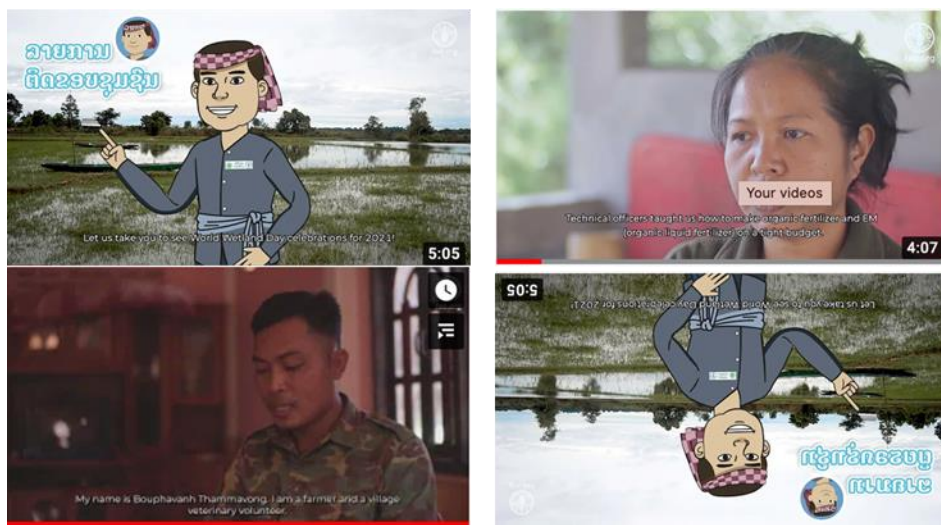


- The project communication strategy is updated annually.

Project field staff and government counterparts, as well as village representatives have been trained on ‘citizen journalism’ using their mobile phones to report news in the form of self-edited videos, many of which are featured on the news of the Lao National Television and other channels, such as:

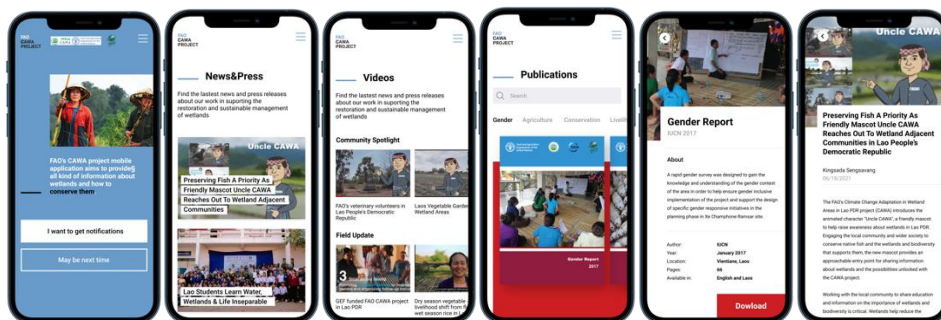
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKMEp9PpIRE&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KJTva2y8EM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AFFyNrCly0>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDPic_Mm41A
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6s3KYHwx24>

- 8 new videos have been created in which Uncle Cawa updates about the project and interviews and tell stories of our project beneficiaries. The link to videos is : <http://www.fao.org/in-action/climate-adaptation-in-wetland-areas-in-lao-pdr-cawa/videos/en/>



We have made some press releases and they are available at: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/climate-adaptation-in-wetland-areas-in-lao-pdr-cawa/newsroom/en/>

A CAWA mobile application is also under development, so that people can conveniently watch videos, tutorials and download report on their mobile devices.



- The project website is <http://www.fao.org/in-action/cawa/en/>

- The project communication focal point is Mr. Kingsada Sengsavang, Knowledge-sharing Specialist (Kingsada.sengsavang@fao.org).

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

The findings on village demographics from the VA indicate that in both sites where the project is active, the population is predominantly Lao Loum (the main ethnicity in Lao PDR). In Beung Kiat Ngong, there is only one ethnic group, Lao Loum, present amongst the core villages surrounding the Ramsar site, so additional vulnerability due to ethnicity is not considered an issue at the site. In Xe Champhone, three ethnic groups are present within the communities surrounding the XC Ramsar site. The most common group and dominant within the lowland Lao PDR is Lao Loum making up twelve of the villages surveyed; one village, Nakhathang is Makong and three villages, Dondaeng, Taleo and Phomkhor are Phouthai. The minority ethnic groups were not identified as especially more vulnerable compared with the dominant Lao Loum ethnic group.

Other villages where the project has expanded in Beung Kiat Ngong and Xe Champhone are also predominantly Lao Loum population

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²⁶ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

Innovations in implementation and approach noted in PIR 2020 have continued in application for a 2nd year over the reporting period. Project remains focussed on a bottom-up implementation-based approach, with aim to deliver field-evidence of CCA-DRM-NRM results and “learning-by-doing” capacity development output for communities and local agencies. It is intended that these results and outputs will be passed-up as evidence to inform national and provincial level policy, planning and implementation processes on topic of integrated site and landscape-level wetland – CCA – DRM management.

²⁶ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

The above aims have been further supported over reporting period, by progress in delivery of lessons learnt on the project's "theory of change" and innovations required to integrate CCA and DRM outcomes with wetland landscape protection and NRM. Wetland landscape-institutional level 'theory of change' comprised of:

- Program 1 - Natural wetland protection and site management (wetland demarcation, wetland reserves, fish conservation zones, wetland clearing of invasive species, wetland and river bank reforestation and tree nurseries, wetland water use management and land use planning to accommodate wetlands);
- Program 2 - Wetland management for livelihood improvement (native fisheries management, native fish breeding centres, development of fish, NTFP and wetland products and development of semi-natural dry season water storages);
- Program 3 - CCA and DRM adaptation of local livelihoods – livelihood options development to jointly provide: a) reduced CC and DRM (flood and drought) risk; b) reduced resource and land use impact on natural wetlands; and c) improved profitability (low inputs, organic and improve marketing). Encouragement of local livelihood to shift from high impact / high risk livelihoods within wetlands (i.e. flood impacted wet season rice and aquaculture with foreign fish); to low impact / low risk / higher profit livelihoods (i.e. organic vegetables; poultry and larger livestock production supported by veterinary centres and fodder production; eco – and cultural tourism development; handicraft production; dry season rice with improved water use and wetland water storage);
- Program 4 - Data collection to support wetland management (rainfall, river discharge, water level, ground-water level, water quality, fish catch (species, size and equipment) and fish marketing data). Supported by overall multi-sector wetland landscape management plan to integrate

Draft (early) lessons learnt also delivered at national-level (MONRE Minister) on the issue (awareness) topics of: a) *Key Management Issues Identification* (climate change driven floods, droughts and disappearing natural wetlands); b) Lao PDR CCA, DRM and impact conclusions; c) Wetland CCA and DRM role and values (rising flood risk; wetlands rapidly disappearing; wetlands lost just when needed most; high value of wetlands); and d) CCA, DRM and wetland management – lessons from a practitioner's approach (Intensity of issues and local management need; multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approach; components of approach – theory of change; national role).

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

Covid-19 pandemic incidence with national-lock down of external borders since Mar 2020 to date, and internal lock-down of cities, towns and inter-provincial travel through March – July 2020 and April – July 2021, has had negative impact on the efficiency and timeliness of project operations (procurement and LoA renewal), field supervision travel, field officer work programs and inter-action and support of local communities and field partners. The Covid-19 related challenges have in turn contributed to:

- Delay in the timing of project MTR (scheduled Feb 2020; slipped to Aug 2020) due to inability of FAO Rome chosen MTR international consultant to travel to and enter Lao PDR. Situation mitigated by project recruitment and mobilization of alternative and qualified MTR international consultant locally resident in Lao PDR;
- MTR conclusion that Covid-19 related project operational delays over 2020, along with project's late 2019 acceleration of field-level activities, had resulted in challenge to project successful delivery of GEF outcomes and outputs within the remaining project time up to NTE 30 May 2021. This situation has been mitigated by MTR recommendation for a budget-neutral time extension, with project follow-up action to secure district, provincial, national, GEF national focal point, FAO task force and FAO GEF unit approval for 9-month time extension to 28 February 2022 to enable adequate time to deliver successful outcome / output results;
- Fortunate lack of direct impact (i.e. disease incidence) on project and partner personnel, or beneficiary communities within the reporting period, thanks to Lao PDR government firm management of borders, quarantine, lock-downs, vaccinations and community testing / tracking. Recent upswing in national cases and serious situation in neighboring Thailand provides added extra concern over late reporting period and next. Project and FAO continue to exercise caution in work-from-home teleworking mode (since Apr 2021), and close review of field conditions prior to clearance of field work by project field staff and partners under the recently relaxed provincial lock-down conditions;
- Lessons learnt that the project decentralized funding and partner structure has resulted in much greater progress and delivery under Covid-19 epidemic conditions (current reporting period mid-2020 to April 2021) due to more relaxed provincial lock-down conditions and early clearance by provincial government of a return to work. This has enabled most project district and provincial partners to continue delivery of workplan outputs and project results in the midst of the Covid-19 epidemic, when national partners, FAO and neighboring countries have remained more seriously lock-down and constrained.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁷	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National Government	MONRE	In kind	500,000	150,000		
National Government	MAF	In kind	500,000	150,000		
Bilateral Aid Agency	KfW	Cash	2,187,380	200,000		
Other Multilateral Agency	World Bank	Grant	8,430,000	7,000,000		
Other Multilateral Agency	IWMI	In kind	600,000	75,000 USD (CCAFS in 2016) + 50,000 USD (CCAFS in 2017) + 20,000 USD in 2018		
Other Multilateral Agency	IUCN	In kind	750,000	615,000 (BMUB) 280,000 (KfW) 30,000		

²⁷ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

Other Multilateral Agency	FAO	In kind	750,000	200,000		
		TOTAL	13,717,380	8,770,000		

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.