



## FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

### 2023 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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## 1. Basic Project Data

### General Information

<b>Region:</b>	Asia and Pacific
<b>Country (ies):</b>	Lao PDR
<b>Project Title:</b>	Climate Change Adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA) in Lao PDR
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP/LAO/022/LDF
<b>GEF ID:</b>	5489
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN)
<b>Initial project duration (years):</b>	6.5 years
<b>Project coordinates:</b> <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> <i>a) Projects with 1st PIR;</i> <i>b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.</i>	16° 20' N 105° 15' E (centroid Xe Champhone wetland complex) 14° 44' N 106° 05' E (centroid Bueng Kiat Ngong wetland)

### Project Dates

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	23 October 2015
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	30 May 2016
<b>Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	30 May 2021
<b>Revised project implementation End date (if approved) <sup>2</sup></b>	30 September 2023 (four budget neutral extensions due to Covid-19 pandemic lock-down, implementation & expenditure delays)

### Funding

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	USD 4,717,579
<b>Total Co-financing amount (USD)<sup>3</sup>:</b>	USD 15,367,380
<b>Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):</b>	USD 4,686,322
<b>Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)<sup>4</sup>:</b>	USD 4,579,639
<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023<sup>5</sup></b>	USD 8,770,000

<sup>1</sup> As per FPMIS

<sup>2</sup> If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

<sup>3</sup> This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

<sup>4</sup> The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

<sup>5</sup> Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

**M&E Milestones**

<b>Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:</b>	20 September 2022
<b>Expected Mid-term Review date<sup>6</sup>:</b>	August 2020
<b>Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):</b>	10 August 2020 – 16 March 2021
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date<sup>7</sup>:</b>	7 May – 25 November 2022
<b>Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)</b>	YES – MTR (TT & CI) YES – TE stage (CI) NO – TE stage (TT) (TT prepared for final PIR)

**Overall ratings**

<b>Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):</b>	HS
<b>Overall implementation progress rating:</b>	S
<b>Overall risk rating:</b>	Low

**ESS risk classification**

<b>Current ESS Risk classification:</b>	Low
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**Status**

<b>Implementation Status (1<sup>st</sup> PIR, 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> (Final PIR)
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**Project Contacts**

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<sup>6</sup> The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

<sup>7</sup> The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

## 2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

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

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators <sup>8</sup>	Baseline	Mid-term Target <sup>9</sup>	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress <sup>10</sup> since project start Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
Reduce climate change vulnerability of the local communities and threats to the wetland landscapes upon which they depend	<b>Outcome 1 -</b> Improved understanding of CC impacts & risks in XC & BKN wetlands, & with district & provincial agency stakeholders, & enhanced capacities to design & implement CCA & DRM measures	<b>Outcome Indicator 1.1 -</b> - Perceptions & understandings of CC impacts & risks resulting from training, vulnerability assessments, management & participatory planning & livelihood activities with PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO, LWU and communities	Some limited awareness of CC vulnerability due to: a) the CC & wetlands study in XC by the MRC, & in BKN due to Mekong Water Dialogues work; b) MRC CCAI work in Savannakhet,		70% of members of PONRE, DONRE, PAFO & DAFO staff covering the target wetlands (28 out of 40) & 70% of members of community organizations (both men & women) in the target villages are aware of CC impacts & risks	District & provincial Lessons Learnt Workshops series (Feb – Mar 2023) confirms 100% of PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO & LWU agency staff involved in CAWA at both sites are aware of CC impacts & risks, & how to implement CCA – DRM - NRM response measures.  Final KAP/qualitative survey (Mar – Apr 2023) confirms 84% of community members involved in CAWA (25 villages, Champhone District sub-sample) at XC wetland site are aware of CC impacts & risks, & how to implement CCA – DRM - NRM response measures.  Final village-level Lessons Learnt Workshops (Nov 2022) in 12 focus	<b>HS</b>

<sup>8</sup> This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic Co-benefits as well.

<sup>11</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**, **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

		within and around the target wetlands	; & c) PPG discussions			villages of BKN site (300 village participants) suggested > 95% of community members involved in CAWA are aware of CC impacts & risks, & how to implement CCA – DRM - NRM response measures.	
	<b>Outcome 2:</b> Efficient & cost-effective adaptation measures in place to reduce the impact of CC & natural disasters on wetlands eco-systems & local livelihoods	<b>Outcome Indicator 2.1:</b> Numbers of families within & 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, native 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	10,380 persons (assumed to represent 10,380 families) (36% women) participated within or surrounding the wetlands (both sites), with involvement in and benefit from one or more CAWA adaptive on-farm or within wetlands livelihood practices, investments or interventions (over 2017 – 2023 period). Activities & participants included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fisheries (3,950 persons; 35% women); - horticulture (1,477 persons; 58% women);</li> <li>- livestock &amp; veterinary services (3,023 persons; 29% women);</li> <li>- aquaculture &amp; snail-raising (365 persons; 25% women);</li> <li>- water management &amp; water storages (1,364 persons; 63% women); &amp;</li> <li>- rice seed &amp; improved rice production (152 persons; 33% women).</li> </ul>	<b>HS</b>
		<b>Outcome indicator 2.2:</b> Number of families within or surrounding the wetlands involved in or benefitting	50% of vulnerable people surveyed have no reliable fall-back		800 families (5,250 family members) have received with equal benefits for men & women	2,467 persons (assumed to represent 2,467 families) (46% women) participated within or surrounding the wetlands (both sites), with involvement and benefit from at least one CAWA non-agricultural off-farm livelihood investments or interventions (over 2017	<b>HS</b>

		from at least one non-agricultural off-farm an out of wetland livelihood & NRM support option as a CC fall-back option (e.g. eco- & cultural tourism, handicrafts, NTFP & fish processing)	livelihood support option if their main option fails due to climate change.			– 2023 period). Activities & participants included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ecotourism developments (587 persons);</li> <li>- handicrafts &amp; revolving fund (747 persons; 65% women);</li> <li>- Handicrafts for tourism sites (40 persons; 100% women);</li> <li>- NTFP processing (320 persons);</li> <li>- fish processing (237 persons; 86% women);</li> <li>- organic detergent production (536 persons; 74% women).</li> </ul>	
		<b>Outcome indicator 2.3:</b> Numbers of families within & surrounding the wetlands with improved and more sustainable access to & benefit from wetland products & services (e.g. from management of wetland reserves & sites, FCZ & fisheries, dry season water use & wetland clearance & restoration; plus improved water supply / access from restored semi-natural	Baseline to be established in year 1		6400 families with total of 42,000 family members, with equal benefits for men & women	At least 13,829 families alone benefit from improved fish consumption & sales from wetlands around the 48 project established & managed FCZ in BKN & XC (XC 12,117 families & BKN 1,712 families as accounted in 2021.  Final M&E surveys in XC & BKN sites (Jul _ Sept 2022; Apr – May 2023) attempted update of total project beneficiary numbers across the 31 livelihood / natural resource improving CAWA physical investment / intervention headings (no. 1 to 31) in table presented in Annex 2. Difficulty existed in separating <b>participants</b> (those directly involved in CAWA activities) by <b>beneficiaries</b> (wider community benefitting or learning from CAWA investments) survey results. Hence, an updated expanded number of actual CAWA beneficiaries, beyond the above	<b>HS</b>

		storages, irrigation offtakes & wells)				<p>FCZ 2021 estimate, unfortunately was not possible.</p> <p>No plan was presented over 2016 – 2018 project early period to expand project activities beyond the 24 XC &amp; BKN Ramsar site villages previously targeted by ProDoc . ProDoc , however, did suggest expansion was needed during project. In late 2019 project activities expanded to cover adjusted target of total wetland landscape as part of project re-design. This expanded focus in XC to the greater wetland (91 villages in 3 districts) &amp; in BKN to the total wetland complex inclusive near-catchment area (16 villages / sub-villages). Activity expansion was implemented through LoAs with provincial/district counterparts, with record of at least one activity within total of 106 villages in XC &amp; BKN by Project at end in 2023.</p>	
		<p><b>Outcome indicator 2.4:</b> Area of target wetlands under effective management &amp; protection to promote resilience &amp; the flow of ecosystem services</p>	<p>Baseline to be established in year 1</p> <p>None</p>		No target	<p><b>1826.12 ha (direct)</b></p> <p>48 FCZ – 591.20 ha set-up new &amp; existing supported (XC Champhone – 22 FCZ, 17 villages &amp; 411.9 ha; XC Songkhone – 7 FCZ, 7 villages &amp; 109.2 ha; XC Xonnabuly – 6 FCZ, 6 villages &amp; 37.7 ha; BKN 13 FCZ, 10 villages &amp; 32.4 ha); and four XC wetland reserves – 1334.92 ha (Nongkan - Nongmaehang – Nongdern 50.01 ha; Taloung 890.04 ha; Koudkhean Tai 270.53 ha; &amp; Koudkhean Nue 124.34 ha). All established 2018-2020 as core wetland conservation areas: district government recognized</p>	<b>HS</b>

						<p>boundaries, management committees &amp; management rules; sign-boarded; renovated dykes &amp; new established semi-natural ponds; dry season water use plans; wetland clearing &amp; reforestation programs.</p> <p><b>85,960 ha (managed zone)</b></p> <p>Revised 2019 CAWA wetland landscape management planning &amp; implementation approach, has shifted wetland habitat protection focus (hydrology, native habitat &amp; fish migration) to: BKN 19,160 ha total wetland complex (wetland &amp; northern catchment) &amp; XC 66,800 ha greater wetland landscape (3 Districts).</p>	
		<p><b>Outcome indicator 2.5:</b> Area of wetland habitats in XC &amp; BKN under improved forms of direct management to address CC-induced risks</p>	<p><b>Practices (ha)</b></p> <p>Improved management of forests to increase resilience to effects of CC (floods, erosion etc.) <b>(0)</b></p>		<p><b>ha</b></p> <p><b>200</b></p>	<p><b>ha</b></p> <p><b>218.93 ha</b></p> <p>Identified priority 240.5 reforestation areas in 16 villages in XC (IUCN 2019 – 20) – with noted over-emphasis on agro-forestry on private lands, &amp; under-emphasis on riparian and flooded forests on public land.</p> <p>Implementation plan revised (under DAFO / DONRE 2020 – 2022 work plan) with shifted focus to flooded &amp; riparian forests. Resulting in 218.93 ha implemented reforestation. Inclusive of 20 ha wetland &amp; riparian reforestation / restoration in 6 villages (DONRE reforestation); 121.25 ha reforestation in 3 villages (DONRE World Wetland Day); &amp; 77.63 ha river bank &amp; wetland</p>	<p><b>HS</b></p>



						reforestation in 17 villages (DAFO reforestation)	
			Invasive species management (0)		200	<p><b>45.06 ha</b></p> <p>Figure includes both Mimosa (invasive shrub) &amp; water hyacinth (invasive water weed) control.</p> <p>Approximate 7.1 ha mimosa (4 villages) cleared under experimental treatments in XC (2017-18) &amp; BKN 2019-21). Effort needed to apply best-practice controls to eliminate mimosa in BKN. XC mimosa too extensive &amp; requires revised approach &amp; further investment.</p> <p>37.96 Ha of water hyacinth &amp; other floating weeds were cleared (2017 – 22) in BKN (6.96 ha, 4 villages) &amp; XCP wetlands (31.0 ha, 13 villages, 3 districts), 2017 - 2022.</p>	MS
			Water flow, dry season water storage, water quality & wetland habitat improved due to wetland re-opening (0)		20	<p><b>37.96 ha</b></p> <p>37.96 Ha of water hyacinth &amp; other floating weeds were cleared (2017 – 22) in BKN (6.96 ha villages) &amp; XCP wetlands (31.0 ha, 13 villages, 3 districts).</p> <p>Program is under 2021-22 expansion in 5 villages in BKN, &amp; across Greater XC wetland in 13 villages (3 Districts), with focus upon floating water weed removal in demarcated wetland reserves &amp; FCZ.</p> <p>Indicator is reworded to emphasis that water flow is not the target, but improved aquatic habitat &amp; dry season water storage.</p>	HS

			Protection of wetland habitats & nesting sites (e.g. lakes & reserves for natural wetland habitat, fisheries, crocodiles, forest patches for bird & fish nesting) (0)		<b>600</b>	<p><b>1826.12 ha (direct)</b></p> <p>48 FCZ – 591.20 ha set-up new &amp; existing supported (XC Champhone – 22 FCZ, 17 villages &amp; 411.9 ha; XC Songkhone – 7 FCZ, 7 villages &amp; 109.2 ha; XC Xonnabuly – 6 FCZ, 6 villages &amp; 37.7 ha; BKN 13 FCZ, 10 villages &amp; 32.4 ha); &amp; four XC wetland reserves – 1334.92 ha (Nongkan -Nongmaehang – Nongdern 50.01 ha; Taloung 890.04 ha; Koudkhean Tai 270.53 ha; &amp; Koudkhean Nue 124.34 ha). All established 2018-2022 as core wetland conservation areas: district government recognized boundaries, management committees &amp; management rules; sign-boarded; renovated dykes &amp; new established semi-natural ponds; dry season water use plans; wetland clearing &amp; reforestation programs.</p> <p><b>85,960 ha (managed zone)</b></p> <p>Revised 2019 CAWA wetland landscape management planning &amp; implementation approach has shifted wetland habitat protection focus (hydrology, native habitat &amp; fish migration) to: BKN 19,160 ha total wetland complex (wetland &amp; northern catchment) &amp; XC 66,800 ha greater wetland landscape (3 Districts).</p>	<b>HS</b>
			Controlled burning (0)		200	<b>N/A</b> (removed with 2019 project re-design due to likely negative social & environmental impacts)	

	<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Efficient and cost-effective CC adaptation &amp; disaster management measures in wetlands integrated &amp; budgeted in District &amp; Provincial planning &amp; implementation processes &amp; inform national planning processes</p>	<p><b>Outcome Indicator 3.1:</b> Number of local &amp; national level plans that incorporate CC vulnerability assessments, CCA, NRM &amp; DRM mitigation measures &amp; 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"> <li>- All projects &amp; plans developed by PONRE/DONRE &amp; PAFO/DAFO that directly affect the target wetlands</li> <li>- At least 50% of all other provincial &amp; district plans &amp; projects in the target provinces &amp; districts</li> <li>- BKN Ramsar site management plan</li> <li>- Water allocation &amp; abstraction management plans/rules at district level in the target districts</li> </ul> <p>At least 5 national plans related to natural resources management &amp;</p>	<p>Following plans, as of 2022, include application of CC/DRM assessment &amp; adaptation implementation approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partly progressed (early 2020) on Draft Strategy (5-year Roadmap) for National Ramsar Wetlands Program of Lao PDR;</li> <li>- XC Management plan;</li> <li>- BKN Management plan;</li> <li>- Integrated Spatial Plan of Champhone District (draft – MONRE);</li> <li>- 12 government partner agencies’ activity plans (funded through LoAs with FAO-CAWA over 2016-2022) have adaptation, DRM &amp; NRM measures incorporated.</li> <li>- Village-level site management plans developed in XC &amp; BKN sites for FCZ, wetland reserves &amp; associated dry season water use, veterinary centres &amp; vaccine fund, handicraft revolving fund &amp; handicraft / fish processing groups &amp; LWU focal point &amp; women’s group plans (DAFO, DONRE, PAFO &amp; LWU LoAs 2019-2022) &amp; for 5 eco-tourism development sites &amp; district tourism loop plans in XC (Tetraktys LoAs 2017-2022).</li> <li>- Project ‘Theory of change’ approach &amp; lessons learned on CCA-DRM-NRM were integrated into livelihood &amp; wetland sites protection plans in the district &amp; provincial planning process, &amp; have informed the national planning process.</li> <li>- Lessons learnt &amp; capacity development from CCA, DRM, NRM &amp; wetland – fisheries management implementation with 10 government agencies/partners</li> </ul>	<p><b>S</b></p>
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					agriculture <sup>12</sup> provide application of CC/DRM assessment approaches.	suggests understanding of CCA-DRM-NRM planning & implementation tools.	
		<b>Outcome Indicator 3.2:</b> Number of institutions adopting tools for participatory CCA, NRM & DRM planning & implementation & M&E in wetlands	None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participatory CCA and DRM planning &amp; M&amp;E is used in 2 other districts within the province, &amp; for 2 other wetlands nationally</li> <li>- DONRE &amp; DAFOs in four districts</li> </ul> CCA & DRM planning & implementation lessons shared nationally with MONRE (DoE, DWR & DCC), MAF & wetland management stakeholders.	Project ‘theory of change’ approach & lessons learned on CCA-DRM integration into livelihoods & wetland site protection into district, provincial & national planning processes presented in CAWA activities, meetings & workshops at national, provincial & district levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 government agencies (national, provincial &amp; district) have adopted CCA, DRM &amp; wetland tools, plan methods &amp; field activity plans supported by FAO-CAWA LoAs over 2016 – 2022.</li> <li>- 4 years of CCA, DRM, NRM &amp; wetland management ‘learning by doing’ training &amp; hands-on implementation activities with 10 active district &amp; provincial government agency partners (LoAs 2019 – 2022), suggest &gt; 95% agency staff now understand CCA–DRM – NRM planning &amp; implementation tools.</li> </ul>	<b>S</b>
		<b>Outcome Indicator 3.3:</b> Perceptions of effectiveness of	TBD through baseline		70% of members of the institutions	Efforts continued through 2017-2022 for a national linkage on wetland CCA – DRM – NRM through CAWA support to	<b>S</b>

<sup>12</sup> 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

		institutional coordination at district, provincial & national level in support of wetland CCA, NRM & DRM	evaluation of perceptions		targeted for improved institutional coordination have favorable perceptions of the effectiveness of this coordination	<p>MONRE &amp; National Ramsar Secretariat, &amp; initiation of development of draft national road map plan &amp; management guidelines for wetlands in Lao PDR.</p> <p>Project Provincial-District PPC meetings (Dec 2019; Sept-Oct 2020; April 2022), MTR review (Aug 2020), Terminal Evaluation review (May 2022), National PSC meeting (Sept 2022) &amp; District / Provincial Lessons Learnt Workshop series (Feb – Mar 2023) all confirm provincial – district agency &amp; vice governor’s perceptions of increased effectiveness of project coordination &amp; delivery, after CAWA 2019 work plan, budget &amp; LoA re-design to improve integration of district &amp; provincial planning &amp; implementation activity into project. This conducted under national-level coordination &amp; district-provincial governor’s offices supervision in parallel.</p> <p>CAWA XC management plan meetings (Jun - Aug 2020; Sept 2021; Mar - May 2022; Dec 2022; Apr 2023) progressed the set-up &amp; final endorsement of district – province - national institutional planning &amp; implementation coordination mechanisms under approved final XC Management Plan;</p> <p>National-level institutional coordination &amp; integration efforts with CAWA support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MONRE-DoE top-supervision &amp; guidance of provincial &amp; district field-activities (DoE LoAs 2019-2021)</li> <li>-MONRE Ramsar National Secretariat (National Ramsar Steering Committee</li> </ul>
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						<p>meetings; Survey new Ramsar sites; &amp; draft national Ramsar program strategy / road map (DoE LoAs 2019-21);</p> <p>-2020 planning of MONRE DCC planning &amp; institutional review for flood risk DRM early-warning data collection &amp; analysis multi- departmental capability assessment workshop;</p> <p>-National Consultation Workshop on Eco-Friendly Water Management for Sustainable Wetland Agriculture (Dec 2019);</p> <p>-Project National Steering Committee (PSC) meetings &amp; multi-ministerial review of CAWA work plan, budget &amp; proposal for time extension (Nov 2020 &amp; Sept 2022);</p> <p>- High-Level field tour (Jun 2023) with Vice Minister &amp; senior directors, Ministry of Planning &amp; Investment, &amp; senior directors of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Forestry &amp; Ministry of Natural Resources &amp; Environment to raise awareness of Lao PDR’s technical &amp; foreign aid supervising institutions of the GEF CAWA results, approach &amp; effectiveness to multi-agency / ministry institutional coordination in the field of CCA –DRM- NRM.</p>	
	<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> Effective M&amp;E &amp; sharing of lessons learnt, knowledge, data, &amp; activity visibility, to</p>	<p><b>Outcome 4.1 -</b> Project Reporting &amp; Evaluations Implemented effectively &amp; as per requirements</p>	<p>No system for evaluations prior to project commencement</p>		<p>System developed is effective for monitoring, evaluation &amp; knowledge sharing</p>	<p>System developed, maintained &amp; continuously updated. MTR evaluation completed (Aug 2020 – Jul 2021). Terminal Evaluation conducted in-country (May 2022), with final reporting completed (Jun 2022 – Feb 2023)</p>	<p><b>S</b></p>

	verify project impact & results					100% complete	
		<p><b>Outcome Indicator 4.2 –</b> Project M&amp;E system established &amp; implemented to monitor activities, outputs &amp; outcomes effectively - <b>No indicator developed</b></p>	<p>No baseline - no communications or data output prior to project commencement</p>			<p>Significant progress made on internal (Jul 2020), MTR (Aug – Sept 2020) &amp; post-MTR (Apr – Sept 2021) review of project log frame (outcome &amp; output) wording &amp; indicators. Inclusive of completion of Tracking-Tool (MTR) output (Sept 2021)</p> <p>Updating review &amp; validation of 2016 – 2023 activity / village / participant matrix (archive) for CAWA, partners &amp; consultants at BKN &amp; XC sites was completed (May 2021 – July 2023)</p> <p>District &amp; Provincial Lessons Learnt Workshops series (Feb – Mar 2023) conducted with PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO &amp; LWU partner agencies of 4 districts &amp; 2 provinces, to share &amp; harvest lessons learnt, knowledge gained &amp; verify project impact &amp; results.</p> <p>Final village-level Lessons Learnt Workshops (Nov 2022) in 12 focus villages of BKN site (300 village participants) to share &amp; harvest lessons learnt, knowledge gained &amp; verify project impact &amp; results.</p> <p>Additional survey of beneficiaries of CAWA investments &amp; interventions (i.e. separate from direct participants) to define those who benefitted directly &amp; indirectly from CAWA activities. Conducted in XC (Aug – Sept 2022; May – Apr 2023) &amp; BKN (July - Aug 2022) sites.</p>	S

						<p>Final accounting of a 541 separate CAWA village-level physical investments &amp; interventions, across 4 districts, under 38 differing investment headings, to offer an alternative accounting CAWA physical outputs of more interest to District and Provincial Governor’s and administration &amp; national Ministerial high-level official (see Annex 2).</p> <p>Final mapping &amp; geo-location of CAWA village-level investments &amp; interventions conducted (Jan – July 2023) to GIS archive spatial spread of CAWA outputs (see Annex 2 for link to XC (14 map) &amp; BKN (12 map) map series posted under the FAO CAWA website.</p> <p>Final accounting of project log frame (outcome &amp; output) indicators &amp; results. Inclusive of completion of final Tracking-Tool (project end) output (July 2023)</p>	
		<p><b>Outcome Indicator 4.3</b> - Knowledge management, data sharing &amp; communication output are delivered effectively - <b>No indicator developed</b></p>	<p>No baseline - no communications or data output prior to project commencement</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project knowledge and products archived systematically and registered in project metadata (reports, BTOR, videos, etc.)</li> <li>- Web-based technical report catalogue &amp; investment location maps accessible on the CAWA web-site;</li> <li>- Finalization of communication products (IEC and posters, videos) to be shared with project stakeholders and general audience</li> <li>- CAWA website updated to reflect post-2019 project re-design changes in spatial focus, objectives, project theory of change and strategy, and final results and impact.</li> </ul>	<p><b>S</b></p>



**Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2**

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<b>Outcome 1</b>	All ratings S and above – no further action required		
<b>Outcome 2</b>	All indicator ratings (on average) S & above – no further action required		
<b>Outcome 3</b>	All ratings S & above, but action on delivery of final national workshops (lessons learnt & project closure) over Jul – Aug 2023	CTA & FAO CAWA team	August 2023
<b>Outcome 4</b>	All ratings S & above, but action on final delivery of publications, videos & knowledge products continues over Jul – Aug 2023	CTA & FAO CAWA team	August 2023

### 3. Implementation Progress (IP)

*(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)*

Outcomes and Outputs <sup>13</sup>	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements <sup>14</sup> (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance <sup>15</sup> in delivering outputs
<b>Outcome 1</b>				
<b>Output 1.1.</b> Pilot methodological tool developed for participatory CC VDRA in wetlands	<b>Output Indicator 1.1.1</b> State of development and use of pilot methodological tool for participatory CC VDRA in wetlands	Participatory CC VDRA tool available in Lao language for national replication, based on test and refinement at two wetland sites	<b>Completed</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.</b> Effective training programme on CC/CCA3 and VDRA in wetlands	<b>Output Indicator 1.2.1</b> Numbers of stakeholders trained in participatory CC vulnerability and DRM management (CCA Outcome 2.1 Indicator 5)	Totals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 PONRE and 15 PAFO staff in each target province (= 60)</li> <li>• 15 DONRE and 15 DAFO staff in each of 3 districts surrounding the wetlands (=60)</li> <li>• 400 villagers, of which 200 were female (20 villagers in each of 20 villages)</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.</b> Participatory VDRA carried out in BKN and XC wetlands	<b>Output Indicator 1.3.1</b> Numbers of participatory VDRA carried out in wetland communities,	By year 2, one in each of 20 key villages, including focus on gender differences in vulnerability	<b>Completed</b>	

<sup>13</sup> Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

<sup>14</sup> Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

<sup>15</sup> Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

	addressing aspects of wetlands, wetland-based livelihoods and gender			
<b>Output 1.4.</b> recommendations for appropriate adaptation measures based on analyses of CC-related issues affecting the target wetlands (including traditional knowledge)	<b>Output Indicator 1.4.1</b> Number of studies generated on CC-related issues affecting the target wetlands, including analysis of gender dimensions	<b>Reports available on the following key topics available in English and Lao languages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allowable rates and locations of water extraction for irrigation</li> <li>- Spatial priorities for wetland re-opening</li> <li>- Acceptable fish off-take levels, timing of closed seasons, locations of no-take areas</li> <li>- Spatial priorities and technical recommendations for improved watershed management</li> <li>- Sustainable limits and locations for grazing</li> <li>- Integrated Pest Management options</li> <li>- Measures for management of invasive alien species</li> <li>- Appropriateness for controlled burning to protect valuable wetland habitats</li> <li>- Protection measures for key wetland species (e.g. fish crocodile, turtles)</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b>	
<b>Outcome 2</b>				
<b>Output 2.1</b> Planning and inter-sectoral coordination frameworks for the two sites promoting CCA measures	<b>Output Indicator 2.1.1</b> Numbers of plans that incorporate CCA considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 CCA-friendly territorial LUP per wetland</li> <li>- 1 CCA-friendly financial investment plan per wetland</li> <li>- 1 specific CCA plan per wetland</li> <li>- All infrastructure, agriculture and rural development plans in target districts incorporate wetland-focused CC</li> </ul>	<b>159</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- XC Management Plan;</li> <li>- BKN Management Plan;</li> <li>- Integrated Spatial Plan of Champhone District (draft – MONRE);</li> <li>- 13 government partner agencies’ activity plans (funded through 24 LoAs with FAO-CAWA)</li> </ul>	

		vulnerability assessment with corresponding CCA measures	<p>over 2016-2022) have adaptation, DRM &amp; NRM measures incorporated.</p> <p>Plus, approximately 132 small-scale village-level management plans developed in XC &amp; BKN sites for: wetland reserves (4); FCZ and fisheries (48); associated dry season water use (13); veterinary centres &amp; vaccine fund (11); handicraft revolving fund &amp; handicraft / fish processing groups (10); LWU focal point &amp; women's group plans (40); and 5 eco-tourism development sites &amp; district tourism loop plans in XC (6).</p>	
<b>Output 2.1.2</b>	<b>Output Indicator 2.1.2</b> Frequency of meeting of coordination mechanisms that embrace CCA in target wetlands and buffer zones	1 Ramsar National Committee meets annually; 2 provincial Ramsar committees meet at least 2 times annually Site specific wetland stakeholder committees meet at least 2 times annually	<b>23 meetings</b> organized till end of reporting period which include meetings of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Provincial Project Committee (PPC), Provincial Ramsar Committee (PRC), Ramsar National Secretariat, & wetland management planning meetings at national & local levels (for BKN & XCP).	
<b>Output 2.2</b> Capacities of water/natural resources/wetlands user groups strengthened to apply effective governance of NRM use and management	<b>Output indicator 2.2.1</b> Capacities of user and governance groups	User and governance groups covering all key areas of target wetlands have capacities to apply effective governance, with a specific focus on adaptation and resilience issues and a gender focus	<p>Final Endline KAP/qualitative survey confirms (20 villages, Champhone District sub-sample) user and governance committees and groups at XC wetland site have increased capacities to apply effective governance of NRM and adaptation practices after CAWA project intervention and implementation of activities. 85% of surveyed committees/groups in these villages report the capacities of their committees/groups to be very good.</p> <p>Capacity building and on-the-job trainings through LoA activities for local user and governance committees and groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wetland demarcation committee</li> <li>- Wetland clearing groups</li> <li>- Water use and management committees</li> <li>- Weir management committee</li> </ul>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fisheries conservation zone committees</li> <li>- Fishermen catch monitoring groups</li> <li>- Handicrafts revolving fund management</li> <li>- Handicraft &amp; NTFP production training</li> <li>- Fish processing &amp; value adding training</li> <li>- Tourism loop committee &amp; local site ambassadors</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Output Indicator 2.2.2</b> Number of villages in wetland and buffer areas covered by effective governance groups and water user groups</p>	<p>All target villages have governance groups and wetland user group with rules, providing for adaptation considerations, applied and adhered to.</p>	<p>Across both sites XC and BKN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wetland Demarcation Committee covering 12 villages in XC;</li> <li>- Water Use &amp; Management Committees in 13 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Fisheries Committees for 48 FCZs in 53 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Fish breeding groups covering 5 established breeding center &amp; 5 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Veterinary committees covering established network of 10 centers covering 40 villages in XC, &amp; 4 centers covering 12 villages in BKN;</li> <li>- Handicraft &amp; food processing revolving fund Committees for 3 clusters covering 12 villages in BKN, &amp; 7 clusters covering 28 villages in XC;</li> <li>- Women’s development committees facilitated / supported in 28 villages in XC &amp; 12 villages in BKN;</li> <li>- Tourism Site Committees in 5 villages &amp; Xe Champhone District Tourism Loop Committee comprising 8 villages, involved with the 5 CAWA eco-tourism target sites.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 2.3</b> Direct investment in CCA strategies</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator 2.3.1</b> numbers of families (male and female led) benefiting from one or more forms of direct investment in CCA</p>	<p>1600 families</p>	<p><b>At least 12,847 families*</b> in XC and BKN are benefiting from one or more forms of direct investment in CCA (in wetland, on-farm &amp; off-farm) by end of project. Investments included (see also Table 1 in Annex 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demarcation of wetlands (Nongkan-Nongmaehang-Nongdern, Ta Loung, Kout Khaen Neua &amp; Kout Khaen wetlands as 4</li> </ul>	<p>Endline KAP/qualitative survey to be conducted within the last 6 months of the project July-December 2022</p>

			<p>separate unified wetland reserves in 12 villages in XC; -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical re-opening of wetlands and management of invasive species in 19 villages in XC and BKN;</li> <li>- Establishment of nurseries for reforestation in 2 villages (at DONRE &amp; DAFO offices) in XC, and 1 village in BKN;</li> <li>- Implement wetland, FCZ &amp; riparian reforestation efforts in 18 villages in XC;</li> <li>- Fish conservation zones &amp; fishery management plans established or supported in 52 villages in XC and BKN;</li> <li>- Establishment of a native fish hatchery in 3 villages in XC and 2 villages in BKN;</li> <li>- Establish fish pond, fish in rice &amp; snail-raising aquaculture units in 14 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Repair of dry season water storages &amp; weir (Heuy Mah) in 2 villages in BKN;</li> <li>- Weir (Nongdern) spillway and dyke repairing for 3 villages in XC;</li> <li>- Establish supporting dry season water use agreements in 13 villages in BKN &amp; XC;</li> <li>- Support to improve 28 dug wells for drinking water supply in 2 villages in BKN;</li> <li>- Establish &amp; equip 10 veterinary centers with vaccine revolving funds &amp; veterinary volunteer network to serve 40 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Conduct large animal vaccination program to serve 52 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Provide planting materials &amp; conduct fodder grass &amp; tree + animal feeding training in 41 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Provide chicken &amp; duck brood stock &amp; stable materials + poultry production training in 33 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Provide seeds &amp; organic vegetable production training in 37 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Provide inputs &amp; training for mushroom production in 11 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> </ul>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish handcraft production &amp; food processing revolving funds in 10 clusters serving 40 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Provide inputs &amp; training for fish processing in 19 villages, household organic detergent production in 20 villages &amp; handcraft production for tourism sites in 8 villages in XC &amp; BKN;</li> <li>- Construction and investment in ecotourism sites involving 8 villages in XC.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Output Indicator 2.3.2</b> number of villages with value-adding facilities for NTFPs established, benefiting men and women	10 Villages	<p><b>53 villages</b></p> <p>12 villages in BKN and 41 villages in XC where NTFPs and wetland resources value adding activities (handcraft, fish processing and household products) are benefiting men and women, implemented under LoAs of: DONRE Champhone, PAFO-LFS Savannakhet, Tétraktys, LWU Savannakhet and LWU Pathoumphone.</p>	
	<b>Output Indicator 2.3.3</b> number of villages with visitor facilities for ecotourism established benefiting men and women	10 Villages	<p><b>8 villages</b></p> <p>Villages covered by the five ecotourism sites supported by the project and implemented through LoAs with Tétraktys, in collaboration with district authorities. Cf. Tétraktys LoA Final Report.</p>	
	<b>Output Indicator 2.3.4</b> number of semi-natural reservoirs established benefiting men and women	4 small/medium reservoirs	<p><b>11 small/medium lakes / ponds</b></p> <p>In XC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nongdern lake</li> <li>2. Nongkan wetland</li> <li>3. Nongmaehang wetland</li> <li>4. Koutkhaen Tai wetland</li> <li>5. Koutkhaen Neua wetland</li> <li>6. Taloung wetland</li> <li>7. Laonard community fish pond</li> <li>8. Phaleng community fish pond</li> </ol> <p>In BKN:</p>	

			9. Phapho water storage 10. Phakkha water storage 11. Phakkha Heuy Mah storage	
	<b>Output Indicator 2.3.5</b> Area of riparian forest replanted (ha)	200ha	<b>218.88 ha</b>	
<b>Output 2.4</b> Strengthened individual capacities through effective programmes and innovation systems to support CC resilience strategies	<b>Output Indicator 2.4.1</b> Number of men and women with increased knowledge and awareness to apply CC-resilient wetlands management, CC-resilient agricultural practices and/or non-agricultural livelihood support options	50% of men and women's population in project target area	Final Endline KAP/qualitative survey confirms (25 villages, Champhone District sub-sample) that 84% of men and women surveyed (total 341 persons, 44% women) have very good knowledge and awareness to apply CC-resilient wetlands management, CC-resilient agricultural practices and/or non-agricultural livelihood support options after CAWA project intervention and implementation of activities	
<b>Output 2.5</b> Early warning, disaster risk reduction and early recovery measures and systems in place	<b>Output Indicator 2.5.1</b> Effectiveness of early warning systems in 20 target villages, as measured by promptness of receipt of, and effectiveness of response to, early warning messages	Early warning messages delivered on time to 100% of all events in target villages in year 5, and effective action taken in response by 50% of all affected villagers	Final Endline qualitative survey confirms (25 villages, Champhone District sub-sample) the effectiveness of early warning systems as measured by promptness of receipt of, and effectiveness of response to, early warning messages. 92% of villagers have received early warning messages on time in the last 12 months. 86% of affected villagers have taken effective action in response to the early warning messages in the last 12 months.  Early warning systems for water resources, flood and fish populations functional and effective during flooding period, thanks to project establishment and operation of water level, water quality and fish species / population monitoring systems in XC and BKN.	
<b>Outcome 3</b>				



<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Methodological guidelines for integration of CC adaptation and DRM into local and national plans</p>	<p>Output Indicator 3.1.1 Numbers of methodological guidelines used in planning instruments at different levels</p>	<p>Guidelines used in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provincial and district plans and new proposals.</li> <li>- BKN Ramsar site management plan</li> <li>- Water allocation and abstraction management plans/rules at district level</li> </ul>	<p><b>157</b></p> <p>CC adaptation and DRM guidelines have steered the development of the following Provincial and District plans, with CCA, DRM &amp; NRM measures incorporated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- XC Management Plan;</li> <li>- BKN Management Plan;</li> <li>- Integrated Spatial Plan of Champhone District (draft – MONRE);</li> <li>- 13 government partner agencies’ activity plans (funded through 24 LoAs with FAO-CAWA over 2016-2022) have adaptation, DRM &amp; NRM measures incorporated.</li> </ul> <p>Plus, approximately 132 small-scale village-level management plans developed in XC &amp; BKN sites for: wetland reserves (4); FCZ and fisheries (48); associated dry season water use (13); veterinary centres &amp; vaccine fund (11); handicraft revolving fund &amp; handicraft / fish processing groups (10); LWU focal point &amp; women’s group plans (40); and 5 eco-tourism development sites &amp; district tourism loop plans in XC (6).</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.2</b> Effective learning programme for community, district and provincial stakeholders in planning and M&amp;E for participatory CC adaptation and disaster management.</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator 3.2.1</b> Numbers of stakeholders effectively trained in participatory adaptation and DRM planning and M &amp; E</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 PONRE and 10 PAFO staff in Savannakhet and in Champassack</li> <li>- 10 DONRE and 10 DAFO staff in each of 3 districts surrounding the wetlands</li> <li>- 50 community members from surrounding wetlands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed</b></p>	

<p><b>Output 3.3</b> Institutional mechanisms for intersectoral coordinating CC resilience in wetlands strengthened at national level</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator 3.3.1</b> Existence and frequency of meeting of coordination mechanisms for CC resilience in wetlands</p>	<p>Revise members of committees to integrate new sectors into wetlands management.</p>	<p>National-level institutional coordination &amp; integration efforts during reporting period with CAWA support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Project National Steering Committee (PSC) meetings &amp; multi-ministerial review of CAWA work plan, budget &amp; proposal for time extension (Sept 2022);</li> <li>- High-Level field tour (Jun 2023) with Vice Minister &amp; senior directors, Ministry of Planning &amp; Investment, &amp; senior directors of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Forestry &amp; Ministry of Natural Resources &amp; Environment to raise awareness of Lao PDR's technical &amp; foreign aid supervising institutions of the GEF CAWA results, approach &amp; effectiveness to multi-agency / ministry institutional coordination in the field of CCA –DRM-NRM.</li> </ul>	<p>Additional meetings within the last 6 months July-December 2022 will be updated and reported in the terminal report.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4</b></p>				
<p><b>Output 4.1</b> Reporting and evaluations implemented effectively</p>	<p><b>Output Indicator 4.1.1</b> Number of progress reports (PPR and PIR) submitted</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>12</p>	
	<p><b>Output indicator 4.1.2</b> Midterm and final evaluations implemented</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2 Midterm Review and Terminal Evaluation completed.</p>	
<p><b>Output 4.2</b> M&amp;E system established and implemented to monitor activities, outputs and</p>	<p><b>Output indicator 4.2.1</b> Number of M&amp;E workshops organized</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3</p>	
	<p><b>Output indicator 4.2.2</b> Number of supervision</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>10</p>	

outcomes effectively	and backstopping missions organized		Minister 1 FAO-R 5 LTO 2 FAORAP 1 Vic Minister MPI & Director Generals MONRE, MAF & MoFA 1	
<b>Output 4.3</b> Knowledge management, sharing and communication outputs are delivered effectively	<b>Output Indicator 4.3.1</b> Number of awareness/knowledge-sharing events and activities organized and involved	18	<b>16</b>  World Wetland Day 8 World Environment Day 6 World Food Day 3 Eco-water wetlands by FAORAP 1 AIS 1 High-Level Tour (MPI, MoFA, MONRE, MAF) 1	
	<b>Output indicator 4.3.2</b> Number of people following project online content on websites, portals and social media platforms	2,000	<b>1,576</b>  Only	
	<b>Output indicator 4.3.3</b> Number of knowledge-sharing products (publications, news, stories, videos, IEC materials)	75	<b>128</b>  Technical reports 85 (84 in English; 23 in Lao) News/stories Radio Interview 1 Videos 7 complete & 3 in process IEC materials (posters) 6 Investment location maps 26	

## 4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

July 2022 – June 2023 reporting period saw the CAWA project achieve:

- Successful completion of a decentralized, cost-effective, district / provincial agency & community-driven CAWA project delivery approach, which responded well to district & province-level coordination & communication effort. Final delivery of LoA outputs was effective. CAWA's field-level work program resulted in 2 project XC & BKN target sites successfully achieving the project's CCA, DRM, NRM, wetland protection, food security & livelihood objectives.
- Closure of all remaining project LoAs with 8 district & provincial government partners (PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO & PLWU, DLWU) & 1 INGO (Tetraktys) (over May – Nov 2022).
- Harvesting of district & provincial partners' lessons learnt (over Feb – Mar 2023 workshop series) on effectiveness & innovations of project approach, activities / investments & field-level delivery from the network 21 (contracted & non-contracted) active & cooperating government partner agencies, across 4 districts, 2 provinces & representing 4 ministries.
- The project Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted during July 2022 – February 2023. The evaluation of the project (one year before its completion date) had concluded the project has achieved: **Moderately Satisfactory** progress towards achieving the project's development objective; **Satisfactory** overall progress on implementation; & overall risk rating of **likely** to achieve Sustainability.
- Validation of local-level government partners (district & provincial) improved capability to provide successful, cost-effective & local institutional capacity building, technical & institutional / legal support to community-based integrated CCA, DRM, site & natural resource protection & food security / livelihood improvements.
- Validation that a bottom-up approach to integrated CCA-DRM-NRM, food security & livelihood improvement is sustainable, with minimum inputs from external contractor, international consultant or from national level, if supported by direct injection of adequate operational funds & procured inputs, & effective local-level multi-agency / ministerial coordination & communication frameworks.
- Component 1 – Completed in last reporting period.
- Component 2 – Bulk of component 2 field-level delivery was successfully completed in last reporting period, with completion & closure of 9 government partner LoA work plans (i.e. for district & provincial agencies – PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO & LWU). Minor remaining field work was finalized during this reporting period. Output 2.1 was finalized at community, district & provincial level with: a) partner agency attendance & presentation of final results to the Project National Steering Committee (PSC) meeting (Sept 2022); b) partner & cooperating agencies (22 government partners) attending the six project lessons learnt sharing workshops in 4 districts & 2 provinces (Feb-Mar 2023); & c) final national & provincial governor endorsement of Greater XCP Management Plan (& coordination frameworks) (Apr 2023). Outputs 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 & 2.5 were finalized with: a) Tetraktys (France) final LoA completion & hand-over of community based eco-tourism sites & program by Sept 2022 (including capitalization & closure workshop; management handover

instructions; impact assessment & travel agents promotional tour); b) water & fish monitoring program completion under CAWA direct funding (fish catch monitoring with PAFO, DONRE & DAFO both sites to May 2023; water resource monitoring both sites with PONRE to Oct – Nov 2022); c) completion of final community livelihoods support under CAWA direct funding (mushrooms, organic vegetables, snail-raising, fish processing & animal vaccination campaigns during Jul 2022 – Apr 2023, with PAFO, DAFO, DONRE & LWU); & d) completion of final awareness & lessons learnt activity at village level (XCP site World Wetland Day with PONRE & DONRE - Jan - Feb 2023; BKN target villages lessons learnt, with DONRE, DAFO & LWU - Nov 2022).

- Component 3 – was substantially completed during the reporting period with the completion of Component 2 field-level activities and sharing of lessons on success of interventions & approach. Output 3.2 was completed with final review, sharing & compilation of lessons learnt on priority strategies for implementation of innovative CCA, DRM, NRM, livelihood & food security improvement strategies, via: a) village-level lessons learnt workshops in 12 target villages of BKN (Nov 2022); b) 6 district & provincial level partner (with 22 agencies) lessons learnt workshops (Feb – Mar 2023). Output 3.3 was completed with collection & review of lessons learnt from 7 years CAWA implementation (focusing on Component 2 approach to: problem analysis & needs assessment; activity design & effectiveness; budget, procurement & operations planning & delivery; technical support, activity follow-up & monitoring; reporting, coordination & communications). Lessons learnt were shared locally, nationally & regionally during this reporting period and informed district, province, national & regional wetland & floodplains planning & implementation approaches, while providing the basis for national & regional up-scaling. Supporting activities included: a) district & provincial level partner’s lessons learnt workshops series (Feb – Mar 2023); b) national level PSC meeting with all provincial and district partners & Project National Steering Committee (Sept 2022); c) FAO & Ministry of Planning & Investment organized High-Level field visit to CAWA XCP field site to showcase the project results and share lessons with high ranking officials of four ministries (MONRE, MAF, MoFA & MPI) (June 2023); & d) regional level CAWA lessons learnt at the Asian Development Bank’s 26th Annual Meeting of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Working Group on Environment & with Mekong country representatives (inclusive Lao PRD, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia & China) & FAO RAP colleagues.
- Component 4 (evaluations, M&E data-sharing and communications) - Significantly progressed over reporting period with project final steps desk-work. The finalization of project M&E data archive included: a) finalized project activities / villages matrix with final numbers of participants (including women); b) output of inventory table of CAWA physical investment / interventions & villages covered (see Annex 2); c) output of final GIS mapping & spatial data archiving of CAWA investment / intervention locations (see Annex 2 & link to 26 map series for BKN & XCP sites posted on FAO CAWA web-site); & d) final adjusted project log-frame & indicators included in this 2023 PIR. Communications also progressed markedly with: a) finalization of project reports catalogue, providing access to 107 CAWA technical reports (84 in English; 23 in Lao) that is posted on the FAO CAWA web-site; b) final editing & improvement of 7 CAWA videos posted on FAO CAWA web-site (detailed in Section 11 below); c) output of 6 posters to serve as CAWA approach extension / education materials for use by province & district partners to follow-up on replication & scaling-up of CAWA’s community-based approach (detailed in Section 11 below); & d) output of scientific report on CAWA’s 5-year daily fish catch monitoring program, providing ecological details of 198 & 65 native fish spp. In XCP & BKN sites respectively, & fish catch details, over the period June 2018 – May 2023.

To sum up:

- Component 1 – completed last reporting period;
- Component 2 – completed in this reporting period;
- Component 3 – completed in this reporting period, except national-level lessons learnt workshop, final PSC & project closure meeting;
- Component 4 – completed in this reporting period, except final video editing, completion of fish catch monitoring scientific report & output of final project Terminal Evaluation report (by FAO, Rome).

### ***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.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating <sup>16</sup>	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating <sup>17</sup>	Comments/reasons <sup>18</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	<b>HS</b>	<b>HS</b>	<i>Ratings/Comments:</i> Development objective progress has been maintained at Highly Satisfactory as recorded for previous 2022 rating. This was based on: consolidation and expansion of delivery, budget expenditure, lessons learnt and results generated from field-progress to achieve all major global environmental objectives and environmental benefits (in cases exceeding original project target) without major shortcomings. This was supported by the effective management of project risk, coordination, communications and delivery derived from 2019 project re-design and adoption of decentralized, cost-effective and capacity development maximising, bottom-up delivery approach. Implementation progress rating has also been maintained at Highly Satisfactory as per previous 2022 rating. This based on the final consolidation and delivery of expanded field-level implementation results from the decentralized, low-cost and bottom-up project delivery approach, with all components now complete (Components 1, 2 and 3), or in excess of original plan (Component 4). This accommodated by a final Dec 2022 project budget neutral time extension to NTE 30 September 2023, as needed to deliver previously delayed Component 3 and 4 results, and an opportunity to improve project delivery as guided by Terminal Evaluation recommendations.
Budget Holder	<b>HS</b>	<b>S</b>	<i>Ratings/comments:</i> The CAWA project design was ambitious, especially with set targets at local and field levels. In this reporting period, the project has overcome the delays caused by COVID-19 since 2021 and has delivered almost final results. The achievement of project objectives rests largely on strong support and effective delivery at the field

<sup>16</sup> **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>17</sup> **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>18</sup> Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

			level thanks to the very effective delivery approach and innovative partnerships with District and Provincial offices of Ministries of Agriculture & Forestry and Environment & Natural Resources, as well as with the Lao Women's Union. This justifies the Satisfactory Implementation progress rating, cost effectiveness and use of budget. On the other hand, excessive achievement of many outcome and output indicators justifies the Highly Satisfactory rating of delivery of project development objectives.
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point<sup>19</sup></b>			<i>Ratings/comments</i>
<b>Lead Technical Officer<sup>20</sup></b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<i>Ratings/comments:</i> The no cost extension was successfully used to ensure completion of project outputs and key government partners have shown stronger engagement at district and provincial levels. Project outputs and knowledge products also effectively communicated, increasing uptake and impact beyond the project timeframe.
<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	The project has completed implementation with very good results. The final evaluation is being finalized and lessons from the project are being used to inform project design for GCF and other project. The project has worked extremely well with local governments and technical staff of Lao Government in the field. It also organized a high level visit to the project sites to showcase its work and to highlight lessons learnt. This is something most projects should be doing more regularly. I look forward to the finalization of the Exit Strategy for the project, as well as final dissemination/ project end workshop.

<sup>19</sup> In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

<sup>20</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

## 5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

*This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)*

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. 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 indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

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



In case the project did not include an **ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:**

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid <sup>21</sup> . 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 a project in which 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 produce 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 were not needed up to point of project completion.

<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 was submitted related to FAO or GEF ESS policies during the total project period (2016 – 2023) or current reporting period.

<sup>21</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit ([Esm-unit@fao.org](mailto:Esm-unit@fao.org)) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf> )

## 6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>22</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
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<sup>22</sup> Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

1	Continued low staffing and technical capacities in MONRE, the national executing partner, which is a newly established ministry, with on-going and disruptive periodic restructuring, fortunately offset by well-established, more stable and technically capable provincial and district level structures	Low	Y	<p>Strengthening of community-based governance structures, backed by project facilitated multi-sector local government and local technical agency integrated support, has offset the limited central government supporting resources.</p> <p>Strengthening of community, civil society and local government agencies capacities under the project capacity development program based on the 'learning-by-doing approach', and sharing of field-level lessons of implementation success, has closed any local capacity gaps and provided good foundation for post project progress.</p> <p>The resulting capable community – local agency partnership requires only light future top-supervision, regional coordination and policy guidance input from central government. Which should be possible despite central government's resources, funds and time input limitations.</p>	<p>Project implementation modality, budget and capacity building focus shifted with 2019 project re-design, from previous focus on over-burdened national partners, to focus on provincial and district agency partners. New active partners had stronger mandates and were better located to support project implementation. The shift facilitated access to capable local agency staffing and skilled technical support over the final 2019 – 2022 period, which was previously under-utilised over the earlier 2016 – 2018 period.</p> <p>Project 2019 spatial expansion (to total wetland landscape), and continued consolidation / expansion of project activities within these added areas over 2019 – 2022, has increased the number and network of community-based governance structures with expansion of number of participating communities.</p> <p>Project 2020 engagement of Lao Women's Union (LWU) in both sites added further civil society support, and facilitated a network of supportive and energised district and village-level women's groups. This needed to multiply delivery of project lessons and local implementation capability with an expanded participation of local women.</p> <p>Project capacity development of local partners (community &amp; local agencies) over 5 years has consolidated and improved possibility of future locally sustained efforts, minus central government input.</p>	
2	Continued focus by national actors on sector-specific rather than	Low	Y	Project has facilitated throughout 2019 – 2023 period Provincial and District partner efforts to strengthen and establish multi-	Project has reached a successful conclusion of a 4- year action program of capacity building with, budget and task allocation to, sub-national community, agency and civil society	

	integrated and collaborative approaches to sustainable natural resources management, climate change adaptation and rural development in general.			<p>sector coordination and management mechanisms. Inclusive of: District and Provincial Vice Governor’s overall coordination efforts; integration of efforts into District and Provincial government planning processes; over-sight by Provincial and District Ramsar Committees; project’s facilitation of multi-stakeholder (multi-sector) local agency planning and Implementation teams; supporting over-arching multi-sector wetland management plans, inclusive of institutional coordination and communication mechanisms and shared data-hubs.</p> <p>Project national focus over 2019 – 2023 had alternatively been restricted to development of linkages to, and sharing of lessons learnt with, climate change, rural development, wetland and disaster management agencies / committees. With aim to deliver concrete experiences and evidence to national partners of the practicalities and benefits of integrated and collaborative multi-sector field-level NRM and development approaches with village, district and province level partners.</p>	<p>(LWU) partners. Focus and implementation approach has resulted in: a) markedly improved inter-sectoral coordination, communication and results delivery of integrated multi-sector CCA – DRM – NRM effort within the wetland sites; b) Increased support of District and Provincial Ramsar steering committees, and District and Provincial Planning processes, to facilitate improved inter-sectoral interaction; and c) improved district – province – national planning, coordination &amp; communication linkages.</p>	
<b>3</b>	Continued growth in pressures on wetlands landscapes (eco-	<b>Mediu m</b>	<b>Y</b>	Development of capacities and mechanisms at local agency and community levels to: a) recognize and monitor CC-driven climate,	Progress has continued through 4 years of implementation (2019 – 2022) of on-ground investments and raising of community, civil society (LWU), district and provincial	

<p>systems, natural habitat, hydrology and fish migration) (including implications of climate change) beyond the coping limits of the currently proposed adaptation strategies.</p>			<p>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 (i.e. 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 assisted to innovate, adapt and implement combined NRM, wetland site management and CCA – DRM livelihood strategies to address CC changes, combat development and use pressures, and preserve wetland and landscape values.</p> <p>Facilitated dialogue with national and provincial partners to convey ESS impact assessment messages and mitigating advice (via DoE ESS processes) in regard to provincial, national or international development proposals likely to encroach into wetland areas or have serious negative social and environmental impacts (inclusive of impacts on wetland habitat, wetland function, hydrology and water resources and fish migration).</p>	<p>government capacity, to facilitate improved assessment, planning, mitigation and monitoring actions across the wetland landscape and catchments. This was needed to address the growing development pressures on water, wetland, fishery and land resources and associated wetland landscape / ecosystem function.</p> <p>Progress also continued over 2019 – 2022 on efforts to strengthen community utilization, food security and profit from wetland landscape and resource utilization. This has resulted in a 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. This community awareness and district government support, provides a strong basis (i.e. local incentive) for the mobilisation of site and local resources for protection in the face of ‘outside’ and ‘local’ development pressures.</p> <p>The above has been associated with development of 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 the district and provincial integrated land use, natural resource and environmental planning processes. This raised agency awareness and improved planning processes, facilitated by the project, has in turn provided another layer of protection to guard against incidence (imposition) of unduly negative and locally unwanted developments.</p>	
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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	Low	N	<p>Risk continued over 2020 – 2021 of an extension of the then UN staff Covid-19 pandemic national lock-down (on-going over Apr - Nov 2021), and the intermittent Lao government national and provincial lock-downs. The national &amp; provincial partners only becoming fully free of lock-downs from November 2021, operating under safety guidelines. National management of Covid-19 pandemic over 2020 – 2021 remained very effective, yet situation in neighboring Thailand and Vietnam presented medium to high risk that stricter intermittent lock-downs would need to be imposed on UN staff, national and provincial-district partners over the 2021 - 2022 reporting period. This with risk of unsatisfactory delivery of field and GEF progress over remaining project period. Fortunately, this risk and further delays in project field-level implementation did not eventuate.</p> <p>Yet, a further two CAWA budget-neutral extension of project time line by 3 – 4 months was projected to be needed and was in process of planning from mid-2021 as a mitigating action (i.e. proposed NTE shift to around 30 June 2022).</p>	<p>Mitigation steps to address risk of Covid-19 pandemic impacts (lock-downs, border closures &amp; travel restrictions) on project implementation &amp; delivery included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 2019 project re-design removal of international consultant inputs (except CTA, MTR &amp; TE), reducing Covid risk on implementation schedules due to inability of international consultant to travel to &amp; enter Lao PDR;</li> <li>b) 2019 project re-design of field-level task allocation to provincial, district or community partners, reducing Covid risk on implementation schedules with local partners less affected by Covid lock-downs than national-level partners;</li> <li>c) Jun '20 recruitment of Lao resident international as MTR team leader solving MTR delay caused by Covid related national border closure &amp; FAO Jan '20 selection of Rome-based expert (unable to enter Laos);</li> <li>d) 1<sup>st</sup> project 9-month no-cost extension to NTE 28 Feb 2021 (Aug – Dec '20 processed). MTR recommended added project time to achieve delivery result in view of early project delays &amp; 2020 Covid-19 related delays (including MTR).</li> <li>e) 2<sup>nd</sup>. project 4-month no-cost extension to NTE 30 June, 2022 (Mar – Aug '21 processed. Necessitated by continued 2021 Covid-19 related implementation delays.</li> <li>f) Project amendment, renewal &amp; time extension (to Apr 2022) of 9 partner LoAs (Aug – Dec 2021 processed). To adjust for previous 2021 Covid-19 implementation delays &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup>. project extension.</li> </ul>	
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	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>22</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
					<p>g) 3<sup>rd</sup>. project 6-month no cost extension to NTE 31 Dec 2022 (processed Apr – Jun '22). Additional time to required process LoA &amp; project closure steps, in view of previous 2021 Covid-19 delays &amp; extended final LoA periods.</p> <p>h) Final partner LoA renewal up to Sept 2022 (May 2022 processed) to adjust for 2021 Covid-19 implementation delays &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. project extension.</p> <p>i) Final &amp; 4<sup>th</sup>. project 9-month no-cost extension to NTE 30 September 2023 (Sept – Dec 2022 processed). Additional time to process project communications, M&amp;E &amp; closure steps in view of previous Covid-19 related field program completion delays.</p>	

**Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):**

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<p>Project has maintained a: low risk of limited national government staffing input and technical capacity; low risk of national-level of inter-sectoral planning, collaboration, coordination and implementation challenges; medium risk of resumed growth in pressures on wetlands landscapes / fisheries / water resources over-whelming or overriding existing established coping strategies; and low risk of Covid-19 pandemic disruption of project implementation and results delivery.</p> <p>The maintenance of three risk categories at low and one at medium level, would suggest the overall project has remained predominantly 'low' risk, as found previously in 2022.</p>



## 7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> Review ToC with stakeholders to create consensus through a series of target network actions and events</p>	<p><b>Agreed by Project Management.</b> Project TOC was presented and discussed post-MTR with: a) district, provincial and national stakeholders (PPC meetings Savannakhet &amp; Champasak, April 2022 with district &amp; provincial stakeholders; b) scheduled with national stakeholders in the re-scheduled final PSC meeting Sept 2022; and c) aim to gain shared understanding on how the observed and monitored 3 years of project field activities were designed to contribute to higher-level TOC to address the multiple objectives of the GEF CAWA project</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> Hire an International Short-Term Institution Building Specialist to prepare a strategy and roadmap towards an institutional framework for wetlands management in Lao PDR</p>	<p><b>Not agreed by Project Management.</b> International consultant (institutional specialist) already employed by CAWA in 2017 to output institutional review and roadmap for wetlands management (MTR team missed this point). Further refinement of multi-sectoral institutional structures and approaches for wetland site management were advanced over 2019 – 2022 CAWA PONRE under the Savannakhet Greater Xe Champhone Management Plan program. Project team and PONRE Savannakhet further developed the provincial-district focused institutional approach for wetland CCA-DRM-NRM management in reporting period under the Greater XC management provincial – district planning processes (Output 2.1) – with Feb-Mar 2022 District, April 2022 Provincial and May – June 2022 National draft management plan reviews. This Greater XC Management final draft plan presents CAWA’s output on required community - district - provincial institutional framework for wetland management, and roadmap for approach at other sites. This CAWA-facilitated output from combined district-province-national planning process, supported by extensive wetland institutional experience of CAWA and local / national government teams, replaces the need for late input from a new international consultant to repeat study on institutional conclusions which was already conducted by CAWA in 2017 by another international consultant</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> Revise the capacity building strategy in the light of the new institutional strategy and roadmap</p>	<p><b>Not agreed by Project Management.</b> Project wetland management institutional strategy and roadmap was already in place pre-MTR over 2019-2020, and was further advanced post-MTR over 2021-2022, as noted above. Similarly, CAWA local government capacity building approach and strategy was also well established and well advance pre-MTR over 2019-2020 with a ‘learning by doing’ focus on capacity development for wetland integrated approach and project management. This approach and strategy further expanded and consolidated over post-MTR 2021-2022 period in XC and BKN.</p>

	<p>Community, village authorities and local agencies were observed to be happy and appreciative of the approach over 3 years of field implementation (2019 – 2022) 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.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> Project partners should agree on a budget-neutral extension of at least one year</p>	<p><b>Agreed by Project Management.</b> Additional to post-MTR budget-neutral project extension to NTE 28 February 2022 (Sept – Dec 2020 processed), further successive budget neutral extensions have been submitted to NTE 30 June 2022 (Mar – Aug 2021 processed) and to NTE 31 December 2022 (Apr - Jun 2022 processed; May 2022 TE recommended), and agreed with by FAO GEF unit, Rome.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b> Project should focus on establishing good models in inner core villages first, before scaling up to outer core villages and district.</p>	<p><b>Agreed by Project Management.</b> Project management agreed in principle with suggested approach post-MTR. Yet, took issue with MTR missing recognition that Project had already conducted the ‘good model / core village’ steps over 2017 – 2019 early implementation. Project 2019 – 2022 implementation continued over reporting period with the scale-up approach adopted in the 2019 project redesign. Original ProDoc proposed limited 22 core villages (close to Ramsar site) was adopted over Project Years 1 – 3 to develop a ‘good model’ approach, Project Year 4 (2019) project re-design revised and up-scaled this approach: a) following community and district-provincial agency opinion that previous limited focus was too small and in-effective to be maintained (in view of large available project budget); and b) to allow CAWA’s application of global best-practice wetland management by scaling-up implementation (and stakeholder capacity development) to cover the total wetland landscape and a more effective spatial spread of focus villages through this area. Project has continued over 2021-2022 with late-2019 scaled-up focus, which now translated into 74 contact villages over 3 districts in Greater XC wetland, 14 contact villages in BKN wetland, and a project implementation approach which facilitates site protection, NRM efforts and livelihood lessons learnt to assist natural wetland landscape function across the total landscape (i.e. inclusive floods, water, fish and wildlife movement through landscape supported by a network of natural wetland habitats).</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b> Project should do a participatory evaluation of CCA measures to improve quality and chances of replication before end 2020</p>	<p><b>Agreed by Project Management.</b> Project management agreed in principle with added participatory planning and evaluation. Yet, took issue that MTR missed recognition that much of the work was already done pre-MTR over 2019 – 2020 period. This included 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). Evaluations again repeated with district and provincial partners (PONRE, DONRE, PAFO, DAFO, LWU and Tetraktys) in redesign of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. round of partner LoAs (Sept 2020 – Jan 2021) and amendment / time extension of same LoAs (Sept – Dec 2021). These evaluations expanded and improved delivery of tested and community preferred CCA – NRM - livelihood options over project’s final 2021-22 field workplan at XC and BKN based on community-level meetings, participatory planning and consent.</p>

<p><b>Recommendation 7:</b> Project should have good models on the ground for conservation of flooded forests by reforestation with native species established before June 2021</p>	<p><b>Agreed by Project Management.</b> Project management agreed on need for wetland habitat restoration including flooded forests, weed removal, herbaceous habitat, hydrology and fish migration restoration. Yet, took issue on MTR stress on flooded forests alone, rather than the CAWA adopted multi-habitat and site function approach. Project also noted the MTR had missed review of 2018 – 2019 work done already on topic of restoration and reforestation (i.e IUCN reforestation planning with local communities 2018-2019; DAFO &amp; DONRE 2019-2020 tree nursery establishment and operation to support flooded and riparian forest restoration with native species; and 2018 – 2021 wetland clearing / invasive weed control programs of PONRE, DONRE and CAWA. CAWA further expanded on the previous approaches with extended 2021 – 2022 wetland clearing in BKN (DONRE) and continued tree nursery operation and completed riparian and flooded forest reforestation programs in XC (DONRE &amp; DAFO).</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 8:</b> 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><b>Not agreed by Project Management.</b> Project management disagreed post-MTR on any moves to shift livelihoods focus away from options focused on wetlands which were designed to support project TOC and GEF project objectives. Numerous wetland livelihood and NRM issues required focus over the 2019 – 2022 3 year field work program to improve wetland site / fisheries management and supporting NRM, CCA and DRM (e.g. wetland habitat conservation &amp; establishment of micro-reserves; native fisheries management &amp; FCZ establishment; dry season water management to support both; riparian / flood forest restoration &amp; weed clearance). Shift of focus away from wetlands and closely adjacent areas, to more distant adjacent uplands, only for added forestry livelihood option reasons, was rejected and concluded to only disturb project focus, budget allocation and time needed to improve CCA-DRM-NRM in wetland landscapes.</p>

<p><b>Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize</b></p>	<p>Project exit strategy for field / community level for CCA, DRM, NRM, food security and livelihood activities rests upon hand-over of project responsibilities to CAWA established networks of functioning, district government and technical agency supported, village-level committees, with responsibility for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. wetland site and fishery management (wetland reserve &amp; FCZ committees);</li> <li>b. NRM / livelihood / food security committees (dry season water use);</li> <li>c. village cluster veterinary committees for veterinary centers &amp; vaccine revolving funds operation;</li> <li>d. village cluster committees for handicraft revolving funds &amp; supported fish processing &amp; handicraft production groups;</li> <li>e. LWU supported village-level gender focal points &amp; LWU representative in the village committee for gender mainstreaming &amp; women’s livelihoods;</li> </ol>
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	<p>f. village ambassador / tourism facilitators &amp; village committees to manage &amp; operate eco-tourism investment sites, supported by Champhone tourist loop multi-village district committee.</p> <p>Project exit strategy for continued district and provincial agency CCA, DRM, NRM, food security, livelihood and natural resource data collection / early warning planning and implementation support rests upon:</p> <p>a. acceptance of agencies that the CAWA integrated multi-sectoral TOC approach has shown promise and is worthy of continuing;</p> <p>b. provision of government’s own or other donor funds to implement the CAWA developed over-arching multi-district Greater XC Wetland Management Plan (inclusive coordination, communication, integrated planning, land use &amp; development controls, flood water flows &amp; dry season shallow water storage, fish migration, fish / water resource data collection &amp; data sharing);</p> <p>c. provision of government’s own or other donor funds to adjust IUCN-developed BKN Management Plan to support bottom-up village managed site, fishery, NRM, water use &amp; livelihood development established by CAWA under village-level committees; and</p> <p>d. allocation of funds under an up-scaled GEF8 LDCF proposal (covering 8 extra lowland Lao province) to use XC and BKN wetland sites, district and provincial partners and CAWA lessons learnt / output examples, as a learning / training resource using sites for study tour focus and local government / community partners as trainer-of-trainers for information hand-over to other provincial government and agency teams.</p> <p>Project exit strategy for continued national agency involvement in integrated multi-sectoral CCA, DRM, NRM, food security, livelihood and natural resource data collection / early warning planning and implementation support rests upon:</p> <p>a. hand-over of CAWA lessons learnt (implementation modalities, multi-sectoral agency partnerships, over-arching wetland landscape plans, innovative / successful site management and livelihood development approaches) to inform MONRE and MAF ministerial policies, planning processes and implementation support;</p> <p>b. above lessons-learnt handover followed-up and supported by an up-scaled GEF8 LDCF proposal (for 8 added lowland Lao provinces), using XC and BKN pilot sites and GEF CAWA lessons as training resource for national lowland floodplain management under climate change and flood threat.</p>
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## 8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines<sup>23</sup>. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	Adjusted wording & refined focus of Outcomes 1, 2 and Outcome 3 and associated indicators (new wording shown in red in Section 2)	June 2020 – Sept 2021 processed (including MTR review); 5 <sup>th</sup> . PIR June 2021 submitted	CTA, FAO Laos MTR team
Components and cost	Component 4 - System developed & implemented for monitoring, systematization & dissemination of results & lessons learned – proposed & added to results framework	- June 2019 proposed addition in 3 <sup>rd</sup> . PIR Section 1 Action Plan - June 2021 added in 5 <sup>th</sup> . PIR Section 2	CTA, FAO Laos
Institutional and implementation arrangements	- Reduction of INGO partners (3 to 2) & international consultants <sup>10</sup> to 3); - Expansion from 4 provincial agency partners (including crop agencies) to 7 provincial / district agencies (minus crop agencies) - Addition of provincial / district civil society & gender agencies (LWU)	- May – Sept 2019 processed  - May – Sept 2019 processed; Oct 2019 – Jan 2020 agreed  - Feb – Jun 2020 processed; Jun – Aug 2020 agreed	BH / FAO-R FAO Laos
Financial management	<b>None</b>		
Implementation schedule	--1 <sup>st</sup> . budget-neutral project extension to NTE 28 February 2022 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> . budget-neutral project extension to NTE 30 June 2022 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> . budget-neutral project extension to NTE 31 December 2022	- Sept – Dec 2020 processed; Dec 2020 agreed - Mar – Aug 2021 processed; Dec 2021 agreed - Apr - Jun 2022 processed; May 2022 agreed - Sept - Nov processed; Dec 2022 agreed	GEF Unit, FAO Rome

23 Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

	- 4 <sup>th</sup> . budget-neutral project extension to NTE 30 September 2023		
Executing Entity	<b>None</b>		
Executing Entity Category	<b>None</b>		
Minor project objective change	Refined wording of overall development objective, & Outcome 1 and Outcome 3 objectives	June 2020 – Sept 2021 processed (including MTR review); 5 <sup>th</sup> . PIR June 2021 submitted	CTA, FAO Laos MTR team
Safeguards	<b>None</b>		
Risk analysis	<b>None</b>		
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	<b>None</b>		
Co-financing	<b>None</b>		
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)	<b>None</b>		

## 9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
<b>Government institutions</b>			
LWU Pathoumphone*	LOA/LAO/2020-013 & lessons learnt	cf. LoA Final Report	English language progress reporting
LWU Savannakhet*	LOA/LAO/2020-015 & lessons learnt	cf. LoA Final Report	English language progress reporting
DONRE_Pathoumphone	LOA/LAO/2021-004 & CAWA funded Post-LoA field activities & lessons learnt	cf. LoA Final Report & CAWA staff BTORs	English language progress reporting & FAO field-work funding procedure outside LoAs
DAFO_Champhone	CAWA funded Post-LoA field activities & lessons learnt	cf. CAWA staff BTORs & fishery monitoring reports	FAO field-work funding procedure outside LoAs
DONRE_Champhone	CAWA funded Post-LoA field activities & lessons learnt	cf. CAWA staff BTORs & CAWA staff BTORs	FAO field-work funding procedure outside LoAs
PONRE Champasak	LOA/LAO/2021-010 & CAWA funded Post-LoA field activities & lessons learnt	cf. LoA Final Report & CAWA staff BTORs	English language progress reporting & FAO field-work funding procedure outside LoAs
PONRE-SVK	LOA/LAO/2021-011 & CAWA funded Post-LoA field activities & lessons learnt	cf. LoA Final Report & CAWA staff BTORs	English language progress reporting & FAO field-work funding procedure outside LoAs
Livestock and Fisheries Section _ Pakse	CAWA funded Post-LoA field activities & lessons learnt	cf. CAWA staff BTORs & fishery monitoring reports	FAO field-work funding procedure outside LoAs
Livestock and Fisheries Section _ Savannakhet	CAWA funded Post-LoA field activities & lessons learnt	cf. CAWA staff BTORs & fishery monitoring reports	FAO field-work funding procedure outside LoAs
<b>NGOs<sup>24</sup></b>			
Tetraktys	LOA/LAO/2022-009 & lessons learnt	cf. LoA Final Report	None
<b>Private sector entities</b>			

<sup>24</sup> Non-government organizations

<b>Others<sup>25</sup></b>			
<b>New stakeholders identified</b>			

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<sup>25</sup> They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women’s groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then



## 10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) <u>during this reporting period.</u>		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	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 Gender Report, 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 Gender Mainstreaming Framework and Strategy (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.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	The most effective measure contributing to promote gender equality and women's empowerment for the project was the LWU facilitated setting-up of gender committees at provincial, district, cluster and community levels. All villages supported these initiatives with the clear role of the committees understood by all levels of the CAWA project partners - to support gender mainstreaming effectiveness and gender outcomes.

Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	In villages where the project has implemented NRM activities such as fish conservation zones, wetlands demarcation and water use management, women have actively participated in the whole process from the initial consultations to drafting regulations and finally using the resources in a way that enhance wetland protection and livelihood development.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Implemented in the LoAs of the Lao Women's Union (LWU) of Savannakhet province Pathoumphone district, the project has significantly contributed to improve women's participation and decision making through multiple angles: i) gender mainstreaming training for the LWU and implementing partners at provincial and district levels and for the project communities on key topics related to women's rights and protection and the structure of the women's advancement committees; ii) participatory consultation meetings to scope community desires, needs and ability in relation to gender mainstreaming interventions at village level, i.e. the potential production activities of each village, problems encountered by villages and the way forward for project implementation; iii) Support the identification and strengthening of local gender focal points or 'gender champions' (within LWU, partner agencies, village cluster and community) with a clear mandate, responsibility and focus on raising awareness and communicating on gender issues especially gender norms and uneven power relations, advocating the role of gender mainstreaming in planning and decision making in all the project and government activities. The emphasis is on developing full ownership and participation of these local focal points to continue this work sustainably.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	The project generated socio-economic benefits for women through various activities involved: i) establishment of gender revolving funds and committees for handicraft and value-added processing activities in several villages with trainings on gender revolving fund management, handicraft, household use products, fish processing, vegetable processing and weaving; ii) adaptation livelihood activities such as dry season

		vegetable production, chicken raising and fish processing.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	<p><i>Please provide progress on gender sensitive indicators of the project results framework.</i></p> <p>Project 2019 internal review of log frame and M&amp;E framework further proposed integration of gender-specific indicators and the FAO gender marker system to highlight project achievement related to gender objectives. M&amp;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&amp;E framework greatly to improve tracking of performance on women's inclusion in policy, planning and implementation processes.</p>
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	<p>Gender expertise is included as sub-task of the Knowledge Management and Participation Expert. National-based project team top-supervision ensured gender-sensitive planning, implementation, capacity development and 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 LoAs with LWU of Pathoumphone district and LWU of Savannakhet province with 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.</p>
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	<p>The project integrates gender-specific indicators and the FAO gender marker system to highlight project achievement related to gender objectives.</p>

## 11. Knowledge Management Activities

**Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, during this reporting period.**

Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.

The project has a knowledge management strategy & has added Component 4 to the results matrix which contains Output 4.3 “Knowledge management, sharing and communication outputs are delivered effectively”. The project collects and documents lessons learned through workshops with beneficiaries, and through LoA reports on activities submitted by our district, provincial, and international implementing partners. The project focused on a bottom-up implementation-based approach, with aim to deliver field-evidence of CCA-DRM-NRM improvement & local livelihood / food security up-lifting results & a “learning-by-doing” capacity development output for communities & local agencies. It is intended that these results & outputs will be passed-up as evidence to inform provincial, national & regional level policy, planning & implementation processes on topic of integrated site & landscape-level CCA – DRM – NRM – local livelihood – development management within lowland floodplains & wetlands.

Good project practices and innovations include:

- **Natural wetland protection and site management** (wetland demarcation, wetland reserves, fish conservation zones, community-led wetland clearing of invasive species, wetland and river bank reforestation and tree nurseries, wetland water use management and land use planning to accommodate wetlands);
- **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)
- **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 (e.g. flood impacted wet season rice and aquaculture with foreign fish); to low impact / low risk / higher profit livelihoods (e.g. organic

	<p>vegetables; poultry and larger livestock production supported by veterinary centres and fodder production; community-based eco – and cultural tourism development; handicraft production and NTFP / fish processing; dry season rice with improved water use and wetland water storage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Data collection to support wetland management</b> (rainfall, river discharge, water level, ground-water level, water quality, fish catch (species, size, weight, migratory or not, with egg or not, and equipment) and fish marketing data).</li> <li>• <b>Overall multi-sector wetland &amp; floodplain landscape management plans</b> to integrate, coordinate and communicate on all above CCA-DRM-NRM implementation steps</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the project has piloted the following processes in Lao wetlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participatory and gender-sensitive vulnerability and disaster risk assessment (VDRA)</li> <li>- Participatory adaptation planning based on local strengths and potentials</li> <li>- Wetland management training for community and government site managers</li> <li>- Combined CCA, DRM, NRM, environmental impact, livelihood &amp; food security objectives</li> <li>- Addressed using combined landscape-, ecosystem-, nature- &amp; community-based approaches to project design &amp; implementation</li> </ul>
<p>Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges <b>this year</b>.</p>	<p>The project has a communications plan and strategy established at the arrival of the Knowledge Sharing Specialist in 2019. Referring to the project updated results matrix, the Communications Plan will help achieve Component 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Global communications</i> – global message delivery has been improved through final updated editing of FAO CAWA web site to: reflect post-2019 re-designed project approach &amp; focus; post the final CAWA technical reports catalogue; &amp; posting final project map outputs in the “CAWA Investments &amp; Interventions: Inventory of Outputs &amp; Map Locations” report;</li> <li>- <i>Regional communications</i> – supported by Component 2 field completion, a communications message on CAWA over-arching lessons learnt, approach &amp; results was delivered regionally in Bangkok Thailand to: a) 26th Annual Meeting of</li> </ul>

	<p>Greater Mekong Sub-Region Working Group (Bangkok) (Asian Development Bank funded) &amp; Mekong region country representatives from Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia &amp; China); &amp; b) FAO regional &amp; FAO Rome colleagues via Brown Bag presentation at FAO RAP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>National communications</i> – supported by finalized M&amp;E outputs &amp; maps of CAWA investment / interventions &amp; villages covered (see Annex 2) improved communication of CAWA physical delivery, results &amp; approach was made to High-Level government officials, inclusive: a) Vice Minister, MONRE CAWA results &amp; GEF8 follow-up (May 2023); &amp; Vice Minister MPI (&amp; senior Directors of MONRE, MAF, MoFA &amp; MPI) during FAO-MPI High-Level CAWA field visit (June 2023);</li> <li>- <i>Scientific communication</i> – Output of draft final “CAWA 2018 – 2023 Fish Catch Monitoring in the Greater Xe Champhone Wetland &amp; Bueng Kiat Ngong Wetland Complex, Savannakhet &amp; Champasack Provinces, Lao PDR” scientific report on CAWA’s 5-year daily fish catch monitoring program, providing ecological details of 198 &amp; 65 native fish spp. In XCP &amp; BKN sites respectively, &amp; fish catch details, over the period June 2018 – May 2023</li> <li>- <i>General Communication progress</i> –</li> <li>- Finalized CAWA technical reports catalogue, providing access to 107 CAWA technical reports (84 in English; 23 in Lao) (posted FAO CAWA web-site);</li> <li>- Final editing &amp; improvement of 7 CAWA videos (posted on FAO CAWA web-site) titled: a) Dry season organic vegetable - livelihood shift from flood-risky wet season rice in Lao PDR; b) Ramsar wetlands in Lao PDR; c) Overview of GEF funded FAO CAWA project in Lao PDR; d) FAO’s veterinary volunteers in Lao People’s Democratic Republic; e) Souban – A Fish Farming Entrepreneur and Leader; f) Laos Vegetable Garden in Wetland Areas; &amp; g) Lao Students Learn Water, Wetlands &amp; Life Inseparable On World Wetland Day 2021</li> <li>- Output of 6 posters of CAWA extension / education materials on topics of: a) Protection of Wetland, Fishery and Improvement of natural resources management; b) Development of a small fish breeding center; c) Climate change adaptation and reducing the impact to the wetland; d) Techniques for organic vegetables planting; e) CAWA Theory of Change; f) Conservation Tourism;</li> </ul>
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	<p>- Output of CAWA Component 2 investment / intervention locations in 14 XCP maps &amp; 12 BKN maps, published in "CAWA Investments &amp; Interventions: Inventory of Outputs &amp; Map Locations" report (posted on FAO CAWA website).</p>
<p>Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.</p>	<p>Grandma Pien, 54, is one of the local diligent farmers who participated in our CAWA project. She has actively engaged with the activities, gaining more insight and tips on organic vegetable gardening and managing organic / natural pesticides and compost, while also bringing home new crop seeds, disseminated by the project. Previously, grandma Pien and her husband does paddy field farming as their dominant form of living but would face challenges, especially during the rainy season. They weren't unable to cultivate any crops and had a shortage of plant produce leading to less income. Currently, that had changed, grandma Pien has now been able to financially support her family by selling organic vegetables she grows on her land.</p> <p>"The project had given me some plant seeds that can be grown easily with all the plants that I am already growing, also I learned how to effectively get rid of chemical pesticides and manage by crops so I have crops to sell every day. I am making up to 5 hundred thousand kips a day selling vegetables."</p>  <p>Photo credits: ©FAO/K. Sengsavang</p>
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	<p><a href="https://www.fao.org/in-action/climate-adaptation-in-wetland-areas-in-lao-pdr-cawa/en/">https://www.fao.org/in-action/climate-adaptation-in-wetland-areas-in-lao-pdr-cawa/en/</a></p> <p><a href="https://cawa-hqfao.opendata.arcgis.com/">https://cawa-hqfao.opendata.arcgis.com/</a></p> <p>Ecotourism program in XC: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/XeChamphoneLoop">https://www.facebook.com/XeChamphoneLoop</a></p>

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<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 104 technical reports (84 in English; 23 in Lao) – see CAWA reports catalogue on web site</li> <li>- 7 videos completed</li> <li>- 6 extension posters</li> <li>- 1 radio interview (Lao Youth Radio)</li> <li>- 26 investment location maps – see report on web site</li> <li>- 1 draft scientific report (fish catch monitoring)</li> <li>- Other communications assets included project leaflet, theory of change poster &amp; eco-tourism leaflets, signboards &amp; IECs.</li> </ul>
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point’s name and contact details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Sitthideth, Knowledge Management Expert</li>   <li>• Mr. Kingsada, Knowledge Sharing Specialist</li>   <li>• Mr. Phommathep, IEC Specialist</li> </ul>



## 12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

**Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.**

If applicable, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities.

Do indigenous peoples and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

The findings on village demographics from the VA indicate in Greater Xe Champhone site that three ethnic groups are present within the communities surrounding the Greater Xe Champhone wetland. In two villages, Nakhathang (Champhone) and Tamli (Xonnabury), Makong community were found, and in three villages, Dondaeng, Taleo and Phomkhor, there are Phouthai. The most common group and dominant within twelve of the initial villages surveyed in Champhone district, and lowland Lao PDR in general are Lao Loum. In Beung Kiat Ngong Lao Loum also predominated among the villages surrounding the wetland core and catchment villages. Overall at both sites, no additional vulnerability due to ethnicity was considered to be an issue. The minority ethnic groups identified were considered not vulnerable compared with the dominant Lao Loum ethnic group.

### 13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing <sup>26</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing <sup>27</sup>	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	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	500,000	
National Government	MAF	In kind	500,000	150,000	500,000	
Bilateral Aid Agency	KfW	Cash	2,187,380	200,000	2,187,380	
Other Multilateral Agency	World Bank	Grant	8,430,000	7,000,000		
Other Multilateral Agency	IWMI	Grant	600,000	75,000 USD (CCAFS in 2016) + 50,000 USD (CCAFS in 2017) + 20,000 USD in 2018		
Other Multilateral Agency	IUCN	Grant	2,400,000	615,000 (BMUB) 280,000 (KfW) 30,000		

<sup>26</sup>Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

<sup>27</sup>Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions

[https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF\\_FI\\_GN\\_01\\_Cofinancing\\_Guidelines\\_2018.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf)

Other Multilateral Agency	FAO	Grant	750,000	200,000		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	15,367,380	8,770,000	3,187,380	3,187,380

**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

<b>Development Objectives Rating.</b> A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
<b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <b>all</b> its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
<b>Satisfactory (S)</b>	Project is expected to achieve <b>most</b> of its <b>major</b> global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
<b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>	Project is expected to achieve <b>most</b> of its major <b>relevant</b> 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
<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b>	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <b>achieve only some</b> of its major global environmental objectives
<b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>	Project is expected <b>not</b> to achieve <b>most</b> of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
<b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, <b>any</b> of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

<b>Implementation Progress Rating.</b> A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
<b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>	Implementation of <b>all</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
<b>Satisfactory (S)</b>	Implementation of <b>most</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
<b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>	Implementation of <b>some</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with <b>some</b> components requiring remedial action
<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b>	Implementation of <b>some</b> components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with <b>most</b> components requiring remedial action.
<b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>	Implementation of <b>most</b> components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
<b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>	Implementation of <b>none</b> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

<b>Risk rating</b> will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
<b>High Risk (H)</b>	There is a probability of greater than <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
<b>Substantial Risk (S)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>51%</b> and <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
<b>Moderate Risk (M)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>26%</b> and <b>50%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
<b>Low Risk (L)</b>	There is a probability of up to <b>25%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

## Annex 2.

### GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description

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

**Table 1** below provides final inventory and accounting of 38 types of CAWA Component 2 village-level investment / intervention (livelihood, food security, NRM or baseline data collecting focused), and numbers of villages involved, within the Greater Xe Champhone (XCP) & Bueng Kiat Ngong (BKN) wetland sites, spread across 4 districts (Champhone, Songkhone, Xonnabuly & Pathoumphone) in 2 provinces (Savannakhet & Champasak). The total of 541 separate village level interventions delivered have differing locations dependent on the focus village or actual location of wetland / water body. Mapping summary of geo-locations of these interventions can be found in the 14 XCP site maps & 12 BKN site maps presented in the 'CAWA Investments & Interventions: Inventory of Outputs & Map Locations'' report (posted under Outputs & Maps on the FAO CAWA website - <https://www.fao.org/in-action/climate-adaptation-in-wetland-areas-in-lao-pdr-cawa/en/>)

Due to large number the geographic coordinates of each intervention were not recorded or tabulated.

Table 1 – CAWA Investments / Interventions and Target Village numbers within 4 focus district

No.	CAWA Interventions / Investments	Champhone	Songkhone	Xonnabouly	Pathoumphone	Total
<b>Wetlands</b>						
1	Wetland reserve establishment	12				12
2	Wetland clearing / weed control	9	3	2	5	19
3	Water Hyacinth compost production	3				3
4	Forest nursery establishment & operation	2				2
5	Wetland / riparian reforestation	18				18
6	Reforestation planning (IUCN)	14				14
<b>Fishery</b>						
7	Fish conservation zone - establishment	11	5	6	10	32
8	Existing fish conservation zone - review & support	5	10	6		21
9	Household fish breeding Centres	2		1	2	5
10	Fish pond development	2			7	9
11	Fish processing	4	2	1	12	19
12	Fish in rice fields	4				4
13	Snail-raising & production	2				2
<b>Livestock</b>						
14	Veterinary centres, volunteers & vaccine fund	20	12	8	12	52
15	Fodder production (grasses & fodder trees)	15	7	7	12	41
16	Fodder tree nursery establishment & operation				1	1
17	Local duck & chicken production & revolving fund	8	7	6	12	33
18	Animal vaccination program	20	12	8	12	52
<b>Vegetables</b>						
19	Organic vegetable production	22	2	1	12	37
20	Mushroom production	3			8	11
<b>Crops</b>						
21	Rice seed production training	2				2
22	Pesticide reduction & Sustainable Rice Production	4				4
<b>Water Resources</b>						
23	Dry season water use agreements	5			8	13
24	Dry season natural water storage repair	3			2	5
25	Small scale irrigation repair				1	1
26	Drinking water wells improvement				2	2
<b>Handicrafts &amp; NTFPs</b>						
27	NTFP participatory planning (IUCN)	16				16
28	Handicraft training & revolving funds	4	1	4	3	12
29	Household organic detergents	8			12	20
30	Local handicrafts for tourism sites	8				8
<b>Eco-Tourism</b>						
31	Eco-tourism investment sites	5				5
<b>Natural Resource Data Collection</b>						
32	Fish catch monitoring sites (spp. & catch details)	3	2	1	4	10
33	Fish marketing sites (spp. & sales data)	4			3	7
34	Rainfall gauge sites (daily rain)				8	8
35	Lake & river water level sites (daily levels)	6	2	3	7	18
36	Ground water sites (level & quality) (monthly)				8	8
37	Stream flow (discharge) sites (monthly)				4	4
38	Water quality monitoring sites (monthly)	6	2	3		11
<b>Village-Level Intervention / Investment Totals</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>541</b>