



ADB GEF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

I. Project Profile

**ADB Official Project Title: Greater Mekong Subregion Forest and Biodiversity Program (GMS – FBP):
Creating Transboundary Links Through a Regional Support Program**

ADB Project Number: RETA - 7987

1. General Information	1	GEF ID (PMIS ID)	44323
	2	Focal Area(s)	Multi-focal Areas
	3	Region	Southeast Asia
	4	Country	GMS Countries (Cambodia, PRC, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam)
	5	Project Title	GMS-FBP creating Transboundary Links Through a Regional Support Project
	6	Project Size (FSP; MSP)	MSP
	7	Trust Fund (GEFTF; SCCF; LDCF)	GEFTF/SCCF
2. Milestone Dates	8	GEF CEO Endorsement Date	(05/15/14)
	9	ADB Approval Date	(10/08/14)
	10	GEF Grant Signing	(10/17/14)
	11	Project Implementation Start Date	(11/01/14)
	12	Date of 1st GEF Grant Disbursement	(06/08/15)
	13	Proposed/Revised Implementation End	(03/31/18)
	14	Actual Implementation End (mm/dd/yy)	NA
3. Funding	15	PPG/PDF Funding (USD)	
	16	GEF Grant (USD)	\$917,431
	17	Total GEF Disbursement as of 30 June 2018 (USD)	\$876,209
	18	Confirmed Co-Finance at CEO Endorsement (USD)	NA
	19	Materialized Co-Finance at project mid-term (USD)	NA
4. Evaluations	20	Materialized Co-Finance at project completion (USD)	NA
	21	Proposed Mid-term date – if applicable (mm/dd/yy)	NA
	22	Actual Mid-Term date - if applicable (mm/dd/yy)	NA
	23	Proposed Terminal Evaluation date – if applicable	(05/30/15)
	24	Actual Terminal Evaluation Date - if applicable (mm/dd/yy)	NA
	25	Tracking Tools Required (Yes/No/ Focal Area TT) Yes	NA
	26	Tracking Tools Date - if applicable (mm/dd/yy) Midterm Tracking Tool Terminal Evaluation Tracking Tool	NA
5. Ratings	27	Overall Implementation Progress Rating (IP)	S
	28	Overall Development Objectives Rating (DO)	S
	29	Overall Risk Rating	L
	30	Overall Project Rating	S

Commented [SP1]: To be updated



6. Status	31	Status : GEF grant	on-going
	32	Implementation Status	FINAL PIR
7. Files	33	PIR File Name	GEFID4652_2018_PIR_ADB_Regional_GMS-FBP

II. Project Contacts

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III. Project Implementation

A. Project Description:

The GMS Forests and Biodiversity Program (GMS FBP) has four national projects and this Regional Support Project. The four national projects focus on biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land and forest management in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam, while this Regional Support Project have identified and strengthened transboundary links to facilitate collaboration and regional knowledge exchange for conservation of three transboundary biodiversity landscapes (TBL): 1) Mekong Headwaters (Yunnan, PR China and Lao PDR), 2) Sino Vietnamese Limestone (Guangxi, PR China and Viet Nam), and 3) Cardamom Mountains (Thailand and Cambodia). The project is being implemented as part of the Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiatives Phase II (CEP-BCI II).

GMS FBP Program Framework

Overall Outcome: Regional Cooperation for Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Landscapes (TBL) Management Strengthened			
<p>Outcome #1: Strengthened cooperation on management of focal TBLs. Indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Active transboundary multi-sectoral working groups in each landscape TBL management strategies developed for the 3 TBLs. MOUs for transboundary collaboration Knowledge products and database with regional knowledge base accessible through a web-based portal 		<p>Outcome #2: Climate resilience and ecosystem based adaptation (EBS) measures integrated into management of focal TBLs Indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Key climate resilience and ecosystem based adaptation (EBA) measures included in landscape management strategies. 	
Output 1.1. Conservation Strategies for 3 TBLs.	Output 1.2 Collaborative arrangement for management of TBLs	Output 2.1 Framework to integrate EBA into conservation strategies of TBLs	Outputs 2.2 Climate vulnerability assessments of the 3 TBLs
Outcome 1.3 Regional knowledge base and exchange mechanisms to enable conservation of TBLs.			

The program was originally planned to be implemented in seven TBLs. Following the CEP-BCI MTR in May 2015, it has been decided to focus on three strategic TBLs: the Mekong Headwaters (Yunnan, PRC and Luang Namtha Province of Lao PDR), the Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape (Guangxi, PRC and Cao Bang, Viet Nam), and the Cardamom and Elephant Mountains landscape (Trad and Chanthaburi, Thailand and Pailin and Koh Kong, Cambodia). This is will enable more in-depth analyses, stronger engagement with stakeholders, and a greater likelihood of influencing change. These three landscapes will serve as learning sites for all the GMS countries.

Component 1: Strengthened cooperation on management of focal transboundary landscapes. This component will strengthen collaboration in planning and management of the six transboundary landscapes. The three outcomes of this component are: conservation strategies for the transboundary landscapes (Outcome 1.1); collaborative arrangements for management of the landscapes (Outcome 1.2); and a regional knowledge base and exchange mechanisms (Outcome 1.3).

Component 2: Climate resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) measures integrated into management of focal transboundary landscapes. This component will support the integration of climate resilience and ecosystem based adaptation (EBA) measures into management of the transboundary landscapes. The two main outcomes of this component are: a framework to integrate EBA into conservation strategies (Outcome 2.1) and climate vulnerability assessments of the landscapes (Outcome 2.2).

Together, the components will help to strengthen and create climate-integrated conservation strategies for the select transboundary conservation landscapes of the region. The regional knowledge base and knowledge exchange mechanism overarches both components to provide a conduit for sharing of experiences, tools, approaches, and intelligence for managing the landscapes across national boundaries and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems.

B. Implementation Progress (IP) Rating: (S)

The fifth Environmental Ministers' Meeting held on 31 January 2018 in Chiang Mai Thailand, marked another significant milestone in the regional collaboration for transboundary biodiversity landscape. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Thailand's DNP/MNRE and Cambodia's Environment GDANCP/MoE was signed on 31 January 2018 as part of the EMM-5. Witnesses to the MOU were the Cambodia environment minister, H.E. Say Samal and his Thai counterpart, H.E. Gen. Surasak Karnjanarat. This landmark initiative aims to strengthen and further cooperation on protected area and transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes management giving continuity to the transboundary collaboration under the Core Environment Program, which has remarkably evolved since the first Regional Biodiversity Landscapes Forum that was held as a part of the Fourth GMS Environment Minister Meeting (EMM4) in January 2015. Several landscape approaches were held since then resulting in collaborative mechanisms and joint actions. These collaborative mechanisms provide a solid foundation and mandate for scaling up collaboration on TBL management, and hence implementation of collaborative actions continue to progress significantly in 2017.

The main deliverables during this reporting period are:

- (i) A Guideline on Integration of Climate Change Adaptation into Biodiversity Conservation, with focus on Cao Vit Gibbon species, in Cao Bang province, parts of the Sino-Viet Nam Karst Landscape was developed and endorsed by Cao Bang Provincial People's Committee;
- (ii) A GMS Transboundary Biodiversity Landscape Management Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Forum was successfully organized in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan in June 2017 with over 70 environment conservation officials and researchers participating. Best practices and lessons learned from Sino-Viet Nam Karst TBL, Mekong Headwaters TBL, Cardamom-Elephant Mountains TBL, and other TBLs between China and other non-GMS countries were shared and discussed in the forum. The proceedings of the regional TBL event are available on the [GMS EOC website](#).

- (iii) Through the spatial multi-criteria analysis approach for landscape evaluation and planning, biodiversity corridor systems, including transboundary corridors between Guangxi and Cao Bang in the Sino-Viet Nam Karst TBL, have been identified, planned, mapped, and established for the target TBLs (Mekong Headwater and Sino-Viet Nam Karst). The Guidelines for the Corridor establishment and management have been also prepared and applied;
- (iv) The Framework for joint TBL Management Strategy and Action Plans for the Sino-Viet Nam Karst, including the identification of joint TBL activities between Guangxi, SRC and Cao Bang of Viet Nam has been prepared;
- (v) The CEP supported Nabanhe-Mangao Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Project was very successful. This project led to the institutionalization of biodiversity conservation corridor approach to biodiversity and habitat conservation and restoration in Yunnan. It also resulted in the replication of eco-based development activities to nine newly established biodiversity conservation corridors (BCCs) throughout Xishuangbanna Prefecture with funding from the local and provincial governments of Yunnan, PRC;
- (vi) An investment proposal on “Sustainable Biodiversity Landscape and Corridor Management in the Cao Bang Province in Response to Climate Change” has been formulated for approval by the Cao Bang Province Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA) of MONRE, Viet Nam;
- (vii) A Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Integration of CCA into Biodiversity Conservation was successfully organized in Cao Bang in December 2017 with over 80 environment conservation officials and researchers from the Cao Bang province in Viet Nam and Thailand’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). Included in the event was the MNRE study visit to Cao Bang from 24 November to 1 December 2017.
- (viii) With EOC support, the Yunnan Environmental Protection Department (YEPD) published seven knowledge briefs on Yunnan’s CEP-supported biodiversity conservation work.
- (ix) Officials from Guangxi Environmental Protection Department (GEPD) conducted structured learning visits to select protected areas in Cambodia and Myanmar and shared experiences and knowledge with their counterparts in the respective host countries; and
- (x) The Viet Nam PFES M&E Framework has been successfully developed and piloted in Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam provinces. The final workshop on PFES M&E and WebGIS was successfully organized by the Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in collaboration with WWF and CEP in December 2017 in Ha Noi.

a. GEF Grant Disbursement

On schedule

b. Gender Action Plan Implementation Status

Not applicable

c. Social and Environmental Safeguard Plan Implementation Status

Not applicable

C. Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) Objective/ Development Objective (DO) Rating: S

GEB/DO Status:

The CEP promotes the effective management of biodiversity conservation in critical TBLs in the GMS. It supports sustainable livelihoods for local communities and aims to enhance the performance of investments in nearby economic corridors by maintaining and improving the flow of ecosystem goods and services. CEP is also providing regional support on cross-fertilization lessons and experience between four GEF national projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam that focus on biodiversity conservation and sustainable land and forest management. CEP has identified and strengthened transboundary links to facilitate collaboration and regional knowledge exchange for conservation of three TBLs: the Mekong Headwaters (Yunnan, PRC and three Northern Provinces of Lao PDR), the Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape (Guangxi, PRC and Cao Bang, Viet Nam), and the Cardamom and Elephant Mountains landscape (Trad and Chanthaburi, Thailand and Pailin and Koh Kong, Cambodia), which are rich in natural endowments of global significance.

D. Risk Rating: L

Main risks to the Project are associated with maintaining effective partnerships and communications, risks management strategies have been identified and well managed.

E. Overall Rating of the Project: S

F. Additional Comments – Good Practices And Lessons Learned:

Operating the MOUs for collaboration in the TBLs remains a challenge, as management is multi-sectoral by nature and stretches across administrative boundaries. In the absence of clear policy and institutional frameworks for such landscapes, it is challenging to develop a joint TBL management action plan based on biodiversity and socioeconomic assessments conducted separately by different biodiversity landscape steering committees. Furthermore, the concepts of TBL and corridor management, and landscape approach are new to GMS countries, their officials and local communities.

However, CEP continues to encourage parties in the MOUs to work together on practical areas such as joint wild elephant conservation in the Mekong Headwaters, the transboundary conservation action plan of Cao Vit Gibbon in Sino- Viet Nam Karst TBLs and exchange visits between Thai DNP officials and Cambodia GDANCP officials on Cardamom – Elephants mountains TBL.

G. Knowledge Management:

The CEP website continued to provide stakeholders with up-to-date information on the program. During the reporting period, 38 news articles were written, 15 project pages were updated, and 18 events were featured. Social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc.) was utilized extensively to promote CEP work and share that of partners, with a significant increase of impression and engagement from 300 posts and on the EOC's Twitter and Facebook pages. Among those were 220 new likes of Facebook pages and 60 new followers of Twitter page.

Guangxi Environment Protection Department with the support of CEP documented key lessons learned and best practices derived from the implementation of CEP in Guangxi. These included the following technical reports: (i) Demonstration proposal and plan of habitat restoration in Jingxi, Guangxi (Chinese and English), (ii) Demonstration proposal and plan of Seed Capital Phase II (Chinese and English), (iii) Impact Assessment of CEP Phase I Implantation in Guangxi (Chinese and English), (iv) Operating Guidance of Seed Capital management (Chinese and English), (v) Practices of Habitat Restoration demonstration (Chinese and English) Practices of Seed Capital Phase II (Chinese and English), (vi) Proposal of Guangxi Biodiversity Corridor Initiative Phase II (Chinese and English), (vii) Guangxi Biodiversity Survey Report Phase II (Chinese and English), (viii) Guideline of Habitat Restoration in Karst area (Chinese and English), (ix) Guangxi BSAP (2013–2030) (English), and (x) Reports of Study Tour to Yunnan, Cambodia and Myanmar (Chinese and English); and dissemination materials: (i) 5 project brochures (Chinese and English), (ii) 6 project posters (Chinese and English), (iii) 6 project posters (Chinese).

H. Location Data:

The project is being implemented in three transboundary biodiversity landscapes:

- a. Mekong Headwaters TBL between Yunnan Province of PRC and Luang Namtha Province of Lao PDR;
- b. Sino-Vietnam Karst TBL between Guangxi Province of PRC and Cao Bang Province of Viet Nam;
and
- c. Cardamom and Elephant Mountains landscape between Trad and Chanthaburi Provinces of Thailand and Pailin and Koh Kong Provinces of Cambodia.

For Projects that have conducted Midterm Review Mission and Project Completion Mission (from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017)

IV. Materialized Cofinancing

Co-financing Table

(For projects which underwent a mid-term review/evaluation or terminal evaluation in FY)

Materialized Co-financing

[Please refer to the PIF template on the GEF webpage]

Sources of Co-financing ¹	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm	Actual Amount Materialized at Closing
		TOTAL			

Explain "Other Sources of Co-financing": _____

Reminder: Kindly include in your submission a copy of the following:

1. For projects that conducted **Midterm Review Mission**: Copy of the MOU Midterm Review Mission; BTOR and Updated Tracking Tools
2. For projects that conducted **Project Completion Mission**: Copy of the PCR, Copy of the MOU Midterm Review Mission; and Updated Tracking Tools

¹ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Other

² Type of Co-financing may include: Grant, Soft Loan, Hard Loan, Guarantee, In-Kind, Other



Signature:

Name of Project Officer: Pavit Ramachandran

Position: Senior Environmental Specialist

Date: 10 July 2017

Endorsed by:

Division Director

Annex 1: DEFINITION OF RATINGS

Implementation Progress Ratings

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Implementation of **all** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.

Satisfactory (S): Implementation of **most** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that is subject to remedial action.

Moderately Satisfactory (MS): Implementation of **some** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **some** components requiring remedial action.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): Implementation of **some** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **most** components requiring remedial action..

Unsatisfactory (U): Implementation of **most** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): Implementation of **none** of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Global Environment Objective/Development Objective Ratings

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.

Satisfactory (S): Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.

Moderately Satisfactory (MS): Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives.

Unsatisfactory (U): Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

Risk Rating

Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risks of projects should be rated on the following scale:

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

Substantial Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.

Modest Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.

Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.