

ADB GEF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

(This report covers implementation period from July1,2022 to June30,2023 including recently closed projects covering the reporting period)

ADB Official Project Title: Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific - Prioritizing and Implementing Actions to Reduce Marine Plastic Pollution (Subproject 2)
ADB Project Number: 53068-003

I. GEF PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Ratings:

Development Objective Rating (DO): Satisfactory (S)

Implementation Progress Rating (IP): Satisfactory (S)

Risk Rating: Modest Risk (M)

Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on project implementation activities

Overall, project implementation has made significant progress during this period, due to the engagement of the implementing firm and finalization of institutional arrangements between ADB and the regional executing entity, enabling the project to move forward on all outputs. A few delays have made delivery of outputs slower than planned. Delivery of Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2 is slower than planned, due to delays in procurement of the implementing firm, delays with work plan approval and kickoff of city action plan activities in Viet Nam, and evolving needs in countries leading to a need to shift community pilot activities to focus on digital technologies. The implementing firm (Seureca-DT Global consortium) was engaged in September 2022 and has started activities in Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand, as well as developed a comprehensive approach to digital solutions through the pilot and knowledge activities. A few Outcome 3 activities were delayed due to prolonged discussions in finalizing the institutional arrangements between ADB and the regional executing entity (the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, or COBSEA). After encountering administrative challenges with preparing an engagement with a UN entity, ADB and COBSEA finalized its institutional arrangements in March 2023 and are now collaborating on regional knowledge-sharing outputs under Outcome 3.

Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on Environment and Social Safeguards

Environmental and social risks identified at GEF CEO Endorsement will be minimized with design changes to Outcome 2 community pilots that will focus on digital technology solutions.

Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement

The project team continues to engage various stakeholders in the delivery of project activities, with regular communications and engagement with participating national and city governments and regional executing entity. Engagement with the city government of Tan An, Viet Nam has not yet begun, due to a long work plan approval process with the national government. ADB will continue to work with VASI to facilitate the approval and the entry to Tan An. Engagement with COBSEA as regional executing entity was stalled, due to challenges in the past year finalizing the institutional arrangements with ADB, which was resolved with a loose agreement reallocating budget resources to joint activity expenses. The project also collaborated with a few selected stakeholders on knowledge-sharing activities, particularly through the Circular Economy Webinar Series.

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures

The project has integrated engagement with and participation of women and women's organizations, as well as gender mainstreaming, into city action plan preparation activities. It will also produce a knowledge product looking at the social implications of deploying digital solutions for plastic waste management, including the impacts and opportunities for women.

Knowledge activities/ Products

Progress under Outcome 3 on enhancing partnerships, financing, and knowledge for plastic pollution solutions is on track to meet the targets by project completion, with a number of activities completed or ongoing. Under Output 3.1, three knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities have been completed (including the Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum and two regional project implementation workshops), two are in progress (ongoing Circular Economy Webinar Series and a regional workshop on data management and monitoring approaches for marine litter and plastic pollution for October 2023), and one is planned (regional finance conference for Q2 2024). There are capacity-building programs planned as part of the city action plan development process. Under Output 3.2, knowledge products are being reconfigured into different formats to suit evolving needs, including shorter briefs and toolkits for the digital solutions study and briefs and brochures covering finance. Baseline studies from the Indonesia city action plan process and review of economic instruments for Thailand have been completed, and assessment studies are currently under preparation.

Grievances

N/A

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

Location Name (Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place.)	Latitude (WGS84 Format)	Longitude (WGS84 Format)	GEO Name ID	Location Description (Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example “mini-grid energy system” or “park ranger site”.)	Activity Description (Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, “Installing a mini-grid energy system”.)
Cirebon, West Java Province, Indonesia	-6.709736	108.565842		Cirebon mixed industrial/residential area	Community waste facility, 180 m2, the site is 350 m2
Tan An, Long An Province, Viet Nam	10.684031	106.470128		Phu An Thanh Industrial Zone	Private building currently leased by the Alliance to End Plastics waste

Project map and coordinates

Original coordinates for community pilots are:

Cirebon, West Java Province, Indonesia

Location: 6°42'35.05" S 108°33'57.03 E in a mixed industrial/residential area

Community waste facility, 180 m2, the site is 350 m2

Tan An, Long An Province, Viet Nam

Location: 10°41'02.51" N 106°28'12.46 E in Phu An Thanh Industrial Zone

Private building currently leased by the Alliance to End Plastics waste

The focus of the community pilots (Output 2.2) will shift to digital technology solutions for plastic waste management. While the pilots will still be undertaken in Cirebon and Tan An, due to the digital nature of the pilots, there is no specific site for the demonstrations and therefore no specific geographic coordinates available.

PROJECT MINOR CHANGE IN SCOPE/MINOR AMMENDMENTS

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

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting

- ☐ Results framework
- ☐ Components and cost
- ☐ Institutional and implementation arrangements
- ☐ Financial management
- ☐ Implementation schedule
- ☐ Executing Entity
- ☐ Executing Entity Category
- ☐ Minor project objective change
- ☐ Safeguards
- ☐ Risk analysis
- ☐ Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
- ☐ Co-financing
- ☐ Location of project activity
- ☐ Other

Provide a description of the change that occurred in the related pop-up textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate within this PIR module. Please provide a copy of the memo of amendment.

FOR SCCF/LDCF INDICATORS: (Provide information if applicable) NOT APPLICABLE

Total Number of Beneficiaries	Male: Female:
Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)	
Total no. of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience	
No. of risk and vulnerability assessments, and other relevant scientific and technical assessments carried out and updated	
Total number of people trained	Male: Female:
No. of people trained to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and/or evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	
No. of regional, national and sub-national institutions with strengthened capacities to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and/or evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	
Contribute towards public awareness of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (Tick if relevant)	
Expand access to improved climate information services (Tick if relevant)	
Expand access to improved climate related early-warning information (Tick if relevant)	
No. of regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed or strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures	
No. of sub-national plans and processes developed or strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures	

II. Project Profile

1. General Information	1	GEF ID 10628
	2	Focal Area(s) Multi Focal Area
	3	Region Asia
	4	Country Regional, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam
	5	GEF Project Title Promoting Resource Efficiency and Circularity to Reduce Plastic Pollution for Asia and the Pacific
	6	Project Size (FSP; MSP) MSP
	7	Trust Fund (GEFTF; SCCF; LDCF) GEFTF
2. Milestone Dates	8	GEF CEO Endorsement Date (mm/dd/yy) 09/09/21
	9	ADB Approval Date if the GEF Fund (mm/dd/yy) 03/15/22
	10	GEF Grant Signing of the GEF Fund (mm/dd/yy)
	11	Implementation Start Date of the Project and of the GEF Component (mm/dd/yy) 03/15/22
	12	Date of 1st GEF Grant Disbursement (mm/dd/yy) 10/07/22
	13	Final date of GEF Grant Disbursement (mm/dd/yy) TBA Proposed/Revised Implementation End (mm/dd/yy) 12/31/2024
	14	Actual Implementation End (mm/dd/yy)
3. Funding	15	Expected Financial Closure Date (mm/dd/yy) 6/30/2024
	16	Actual Financial Closure Date (mm/dd/yy) TBA
	17	PPG/PDF Funding (USD) USD 232,650 (MSP USD50,000/FSP 182,650)
	18	GEF Grant (USD) USD 2,000,000
	19	Total GEF Fund Disbursement as of 30 June 2023(USD) USD 380,520.50
	20	Confirmed Co-Finance at CEO Endorsement (USD) USD 987,470.29
	21	Materialized Co-Finance at project mid-term (USD)
4. Evaluations	22	Materialized Co-Finance at project completion (USD)
	23	Proposed Mid-term date (mm/dd/yy) NA
	24	Actual Mid-Term date - if applicable (mm/dd/yy) NA
	25	Proposed Terminal Evaluation date (mm/dd/yy) 09/30/24
	26	Actual Terminal Evaluation Date (mm/dd/yy) TBA
	27	Tracking Tools Required (Yes/No/ Focal Area TT) NA
	28	Tracking Tools Date - if applicable (mm/dd/yy) Midterm Tracking Tool Terminal Evaluation Tracking Tool

II. Project Implementation

A. Project Description:

This regional GEF project is part of a larger ADB Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (TA) Cluster project “Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific,” an \$8.1 million project (approved in 2019) that supports action planning, policy and regulatory reform, pilots, pipeline development, investment preparation, and knowledge sharing in integrated solid waste management systems and circular economy interventions. It will help ADB’s developing member countries deliver their commitments to reduce marine plastic pollution from source to sea, focusing on Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The impact objective of this GEF project is to reduce plastic pollution by focusing on resource efficiency and circular approaches, which contribute to the restoration of coastal and marine ecosystem health in Asia and the Pacific. The project will be organized around three outcome-based components with an emphasis on public-private partnerships and fostering action throughout the region by increasing capacity and sharing knowledge and experiences, covering (i) enabling environments for reducing plastic pollution strengthened, (ii) plastic pollution reduction investment components prepared, and (iii) partnerships, financing, and knowledge for plastic pollution solutions enhanced. Key activities include the preparation of city-level action plans in three cities, development of policies and guidelines for circularity and plastic pollution reduction, implementation of community pilots, and enhancing knowledge, financing, and regional cooperation. GEF funds will be used to support the participation of Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam in the project.

B. Implementation Progress (IP) Rating:

Overall, project implementation has made significant progress during this time period. due to the engagement of the implementing firm and finalization of institutional arrangements between ADB and the regional executing entity, enabling the project to move forward on all outputs. A few delays have made delivery of outputs slower than planned.

There is delay in delivery of Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2 due to various factors. There was a delay in procuring the implementing firm to lead on these outputs. The firm (Seureca-DT Global consortium) was engaged in September 2022, and preparation of Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2 are ongoing and scheduled for completion by December 2024. Further slowing implementation during this period was the engagement with Viet Nam, where Output 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2 activities have not yet kicked off due to the slow work plan approval process by the government counterpart, preventing a formal introduction and kickoff of activities in the city of Tan An. ADB will continue to engage with the government of Viet Nam to ensure that the work plan is approved and eventually facilitate the formal introduction to Tan An city. Finally, with ongoing consultation with stakeholders, evolving priorities arising from the preparation of an anticipated global instrument to address plastic pollution and administrative challenges with procuring recycling equipment have led a shift in the community pilots scope (Output 2.2) to focus on digital technology solutions for plastic waste management. Seureca-DT Global consortium have developed a more expansive approach to looking at digital solutions covering the pilots and building the knowledge base for future development and deployment in the region. A few Outcome 3 activities were delayed due to prolonged discussions in finalizing the institutional arrangements between ADB and the regional executing entity (the

Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, or COBSEA). After encountering administrative challenges with preparing engagement with a UN entity, ADB and COBSEA finalized its institutional arrangements in June 2023 as a loose engagement with resources reallocated to expenses for joint activities, particularly under Outcome 3.

a. GEF Grant Disbursement

First disbursement was 7 October 2022 amounting to US\$11,476.28 as payment for consultants engaged under TA 6669. There was a delay in disbursement due to the procurement process of the implementing firm, which took six months to complete and commenced engagement on 1 September 2022.

b. Stakeholders Engagement

The project team continues to engage various stakeholders in the delivery of project activities. There is regular communication with and engagement of the target national governments (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam) and city governments (particularly Cirebon and Manila), including in consultations and soliciting feedback regarding the methodologies and findings of the city action plan and policy study activities and participation in knowledge-sharing activities. Various government agencies, CSOs, industry associations, MSMEs and informal sector actors, and other stakeholders have been engaged as part of data collection activities ongoing in Cirebon, which will be the same approach in the coming months in Manila. As described in Section B, engagement with Tan An city government has not yet begun, due to a long work plan approval process with the national government. ADB will continue to work with VASI to facilitate the approval and the entry to Tan An.

There is also regular engagement with UNEP via COBSEA as the project regional executing entity, particularly through various knowledge-sharing events and joint planning of the upcoming regional workshop on data management and monitoring approaches scheduled for October 2023. As described in Section B, the main challenge in the past year was finalizing the institutional arrangements for the regional executing entity, which was resolved with a loose agreement reallocating budget resources to joint activity expenses.

During the implementation period, the project also collaborated with a few selected stakeholders on knowledge-sharing activities, such as co-organizing a site visit to a bottle-to-bottle recycling facility with Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, organizing Circular Economy Webinars with WWF (covering women's roles in waste management and maritime plastic pollution), and participating in Indonesia NPAP knowledge-sharing events.

c. Gender Action Plan Implementation Status

The project implementing firm has engaged several experts (2 social research and community engagement specialists, 1 gender and social inclusion specialist) to ensure that engagement with and participation of women and women's organizations, as well as gender mainstreaming, is integrated into the city action plan preparation and pilot activities. As part of the pilot program, the project will produce a knowledge product looking at the social implications of deploying digital solutions for plastic waste management, including the impacts and opportunities for women.

One Circular Economy Webinar was co-organized with WWF on the role of women in waste management in the Philippines on 30 March 2023.

d. Social and Environmental Safeguard Plan Implementation Status

The focus of the Environmental and Social Assessment Review Framework was on the management of two material recovery facilities that were part of the original community pilot design under Outcome 2. During the implementation period, it was decided to shift the scope of the pilots to focus on digital technology solutions for plastic waste management. This was due to DMCs' evolving needs with the preparation of the anticipated global plastics treaty, as well as administrative challenges with procuring equipment. Due to the pilots' digital nature, there will no longer be any physical sites built or equipment procured, thereby avoiding and further minimizing environmental and social risks to the target communities.

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

Project activities implemented during this period are still at early stages.

Under Outcome 1, city action plan preparations are in the data collection phase in Cirebon and Manila and not yet started in Tan An. Likewise, support for policy and guideline preparations have not yet started. With the engagement of the implementing firm, the project is on track to achieve GEB targets.

Under Outcome 2, support to the preparation of investments or investment components is ongoing, and the project is on track to achieve GEB targets by project completion. As described throughout this report, the design of the community pilots will change to cover digital technology solutions, which would enhance GEBs by easier replication and ability to reach a wider population of people.

Knowledge-sharing activities under Outcome 3 are ongoing and are on track to achieve GEBs.

D. Risk Rating:

As referenced in Section B, there are ongoing delays relating to engagement with Viet Nam that have prevented the formal introduction and kickoff of project activities in Tan An, which is the focal site of 1 city action plan (Output 1.1), guidelines for plastic packaging and digital solutions (Output 1.2), and 1 community pilot (Output 2.2). The delay with approving the project work plan is stretched to 9 months, with key local experts engaged by the implementing firm on hold. With time running out to carry out activities meaningfully and substantively, there is a risk that GEBs to be achieved through Viet Nam activities may not be fully achieved. ADB is proactively engaging with the government of Viet Nam and exploring all options to ensure the work plan is approved in a timely fashion. At the same time, ADB is exploring options for moving key activities, such as identifying new pilot sites in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Prior to the implementation period, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly slowed down project activities, particularly those under Outcomes 1 and 2. ADB opened its doors for full hybrid office operations, including missions, in July 2022, enabling field travel to resume and bringing implementation up to speed. We do not foresee any further delays directly resulting from the pandemic at this point in time.

E. Overall Rating of the Project:**Overall Rating: S****F. Additional Comments – Good Practices And Lessons Learned:****G. Knowledge activities / products:**

- 1) Progress under Outcome 3 on enhancing partnerships, financing, and knowledge for plastic pollution solutions is on track to meet the targets by project completion, with a number of activities completed or ongoing. Under Output 3.1, several knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities have been completed (including the Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum 26-28 January 2022 and two regional project implementation workshops on 30-31 March 2022 and 17-18 January 2023) or are in progress (including the Circular Economy Webinar Series starting June 2022). The regional workshop on circular plastics business opportunities has been replaced with a regional workshop on data management and monitoring approaches for plastic pollution and marine litter (due to ongoing delays in Viet Nam), which is under development and will take place on 10 October 2023. The regional finance conference is planned for June 2024. Under Output 3.2, knowledge products are being reconfigured into different formats to suit evolving needs. The flagship study on digital technologies will be broken down into shorter briefs and toolkits covering pertinent issues related to deploying digital solutions for plastic waste management in Asia and the Pacific (including social implications, cybersecurity, and a digital maturity assessment for countries), while the finance knowledge products will be reconfigured into briefs and brochures covering project preparation, economic instruments, and innovative financing mechanisms. Baseline studies from the Indonesia city action plan process and review of economic instruments for Thailand have been completed, and assessment studies are currently under preparation. The project also supported a stakeholder engagement workshop to help prepare a cost-benefit analysis and policy review study on opportunities to strengthen the bioplastics value chain in Thailand and Southeast Asia.

- 2) Materials include:

Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum – ADB Knowledge Event Page: <https://events.development.asia/learning-events/healthy-oceans-tech-and-finance-forum-innovative-solutions-asia-and-pacific>

ADB Data Room: Circular Economy: <https://events.development.asia/learning-events/adb-data-room-circular-economy>

A Systems Approach for Transitioning Southeast Asia to a Circular Economy (20 August 2022): <https://development.asia/policy-brief/systems-approach-transitioning-southeast-asia-circular-economy>

How Innovative Technologies and Business Models Enable a Circular Plastics Economy (27 September 2022): <https://development.asia/explainer/how-innovative-technologies-and-business-models-enable-circular-plastics-economy>

Climate Mitigation Opportunities in the Planned Global Plastics Treaty (20 December 2022):
<https://development.asia/explainer/climate-mitigation-opportunities-planned-global-plastics-treaty>

Opportunities in Applying Digital Solutions to Plastic Waste Management in Viet Nam (17 April 2023): <https://development.asia/summary/opportunities-applying-digital-solutions-plastic-waste-management-viet-nam>

3) Proposed upcoming KM Materials include:

- Baseline and waste management studies for Cirebon, Manila, and Tan An city level action plan
- Baseline study on policies and regulations for plastic waste management in Thailand
- Assessment studies on economic instruments and specifications for plastic recycling market in Thailand
- Policy briefs and toolkit on digital solutions for plastic waste management in Asia and the Pacific
- Briefs and brochures on financing for circular economy in Asia and the Pacific
- Data governance framework and open data platform for plastic waste management
- Workshop and conference proceedings

H. Location Data:

Cirebon, West Java Province, Indonesia

Location: 6°42'35.05" S 108°33'57.03 E in a mixed industrial/residential area

Community waste facility, 180 m2, the site is 350 m2

Tan An, Long An Province, Viet Nam

Location: 10°41'02.51" N 106°28'12.46 E in Phu An Thanh Industrial Zone

Private building currently leased by the Alliance to End Plastics waste

Signature:



Name of Project Officer: James Baker

Position: Senior Circular Economy Specialist (Plastic Wastes)

Date:

Endorsed by: Yoko Watanabe

Division Director

ANNEX A. Project Contacts

ADB Project Officer

James Baker
Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department
jbaker@adb.org

EA Project Officer
Name and Agency
Email

Co-Implementing Partner

Vincent Aloysius
Seureca
Vincent.alloysius@veolia.com

Project Coordinator/Manager

Erin Sinogba
Project and Knowledge Management Lead (Consultant)
Asian Development Bank
Esinogba.consultant@adb.org

ANNEX B: 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.