

ADB GEF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

(This report covers implementation period from July1,2023 to June30,2024 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): HS

Implementation Progress Rating (IP): S

Risk Rating: L

Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on project implementation activities

Project implementation has made significant progress across all three project outcomes during the implementation period. While there were initial delays to implement project activities in Viet Nam, this was rectified with a formal kickoff in November 2023. Progress for Viet Nam specific activities, including the city action plan, circular plastic packaging guidelines, and pilot, is now under way as of 30 June. One city action plan for Cirebon, Indonesia, has been finalized. The baseline report for the Manila city action plan was completed, with the final action plan to be delivered in September 2024. Pre-pilot activities to prepare for Outcome 2.2 were also delivered during the implementation period. Outcome 3 has also made progress, with a joint work plan in place between ADB and the regional executing entity, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, or COBSEA.

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

Environmental and social risks identified at GEF CEO Endorsement are minimized with design changes to Outcome 2 community pilots focusing 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 and provincial government of Long An, Viet Nam has been ongoing, with the establishment of an informal project management unit to coordinate with the project team on activities on the ground. Engagement with COBSEA as regional executing entity is also ongoing with a joint work plan in place to carry out shared activities and outline use of resources. The project also collaborated with a few selected stakeholders on knowledge-sharing activities.

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. During the implementation period, under Output 3.1, three regional knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities have been completed and one is in progress. Country workshops have also been organized as part of the city action plan, circular plastic packaging guidelines, and pilot 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. Policy briefs and digital articles on data management and monitoring approaches, bioplastics, and the global plastics treaty have been published.

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. 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

- 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

NOT APPLICABLE.

FOR SCCF/LDCF INDICATORS: NOT APPLICABLE

CORE INDICATOR 1: Total Number of Direct Beneficiaries	Male: Female:
CORE INDICATOR 2: Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)	
CORE INDICATOR 3: Total no. of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience	
CORE INDICATOR 4: Total number of people trained	Male: Female:

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
	14	Proposed/Revised Implementation End (mm/dd/yy)	11/30/25
3. Funding	15	Actual/Proposed Implementation End (mm/dd/yy)	
	16	Actual/Proposed Financial Closure Date (mm/dd/yy)	05/31/26
	17	Actual/Proposed Financial Closure Date (mm/dd/yy)	
	18	PPG/PDF Funding (USD)	
	19	GEF Grant (USD)	\$ 2,000,000
	20	Total GEF Fund Disbursement as of 30 June 2024(USD)	\$ 767,663.62
4. Evaluations	21	Confirmed Co-Finance at CEO Endorsement (USD)	\$73,687,470.29
	21	Materialized Co-Finance at project mid-term (USD)	
	22	Materialized Co-Finance at project completion (USD)	
	23	Actual/Proposed Mid-term date (mm/dd/yy)	N/A
4. Evaluations	24	Actual Mid-Term date - if applicable (mm/dd/yy)	
	25	Proposed Terminal Evaluation date (mm/dd/yy)	
	26	Actual Terminal Evaluation Date (mm/dd/yy)	

III. 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: S

Overall, project implementation has made significant progress during this time period. One major milestone was that the project was able to formally kick off in Viet Nam in November 2023 and is now working closely with an informal project management unit with national, provincial, and city government representatives to deliver project outputs.

All outputs under Outcome 1 are currently in progress. The city action plans under Output 1.1 are in various stages of development. The project team presented the final city action plan for Cirebon, Indonesia in May 2024, while the baseline report findings for Manila, Philippines were presented in April 2024. As of 30 June 2024, data collection is still ongoing in Tan An, Viet Nam. The city action plans for Manila and Tan An are on track to be finalized within 2024, with the action plan for Manila scheduled for presentation in September 2024 and the action plan for Tan An targeted for November 2024. Under Output 1.2, the project team has progressed in developing a study on selected economic instruments for plastic waste management in Thailand, yielding a series of preliminary technical note and leading data collection activities (consumer surveys, key stakeholder interviews) as of 30 June. The project team also kicked off the development of guidelines for circular plastic packaging in Viet Nam through a hybrid consultative workshop held on 18 June. Implementation of outputs under Outcome 2 is also under progress. Under Output 2.1, the project has provided inputs to ADB investments in plastic pollution reduction, including policy-based loans to reduce marine debris in Indonesia and the Philippines. Under Output 2.2, the project team has

commenced research activities on digitalization of the plastics value chain, in preparation for the pilots. During this time period, the project team completed a global and regional screening of digital solutions for plastic waste management, as well as digital maturity assessments for Indonesia and Viet Nam. These will set the foundation for the selection of appropriate digital solutions to be included in the pilot activities.

Delivery of outputs under Outcome 3 is at an advanced stage. A number of regional knowledge-sharing activities and knowledge products have been produced by the project (see Section G).

With the delays from the kickoff in Viet Nam and various minor issues, additional time is needed to deliver all project outputs, particularly under Output 2.2. To accommodate this, the ADB team extended the closing date of its TA to 30 November 2025.

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.

Disbursement at midterm: \$ 767,663.62
Percentage of total GEF disbursement: 38%

Disbursement plan for next 12 months: Q3 2024 – 304,785; Q4 2024 – 497,790; Q1 2025 – 218, 716; Q2 2025 – 175,426

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), provincial governments (Long An province, Viet Nam), and city governments (Cirebon, Manila, Tan An), 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, Manila, and Tan An. In Viet Nam, the team works in close coordination with an informal project management unit made up of relevant government stakeholders, with the provincial government (DONRE Long An) serving as the main focal point. Coordination with all stakeholders is done in close coordination with ADB's Resident Missions in the project countries.

There is also regular engagement with UNEP via COBSEA as the project regional executing entity, particularly through various knowledge-sharing activities. ADB and COBSEA developed a joint work plan of activities for 2024 that includes collaboration on knowledge sharing and capacity building activities, as well as overall support and awareness raising on the global plastics treaty. Broader engagement between ADB and COBSEA on oceans is being explored.

During the implementation period, the project also collaborated with a few selected stakeholders on knowledge-sharing activities, such as collaborating with Save Philippine Seas on the Circular Economy Training Series, organizing site visits to Green Antz (a green construction materials company in the Philippines) and Alner (a reusable packaging and refilling solutions provider in Indonesia), and organizing the Circular Economy Webinar Series featuring a number of circular business models and solutions.

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.

Knowledge-sharing sessions with a gender lens on circular economy and plastic pollution reduction have been organized over the implementation period. This includes a session on “Applying the Gender Lens in the Circular Economy” as part of the first installment of the Circular Economy Training Series held in February 2024, and a session on “Gender Lens in Accessing Financing for Plastics Circularity” as part of the Accelerating Investments for Plastic Circularity regional capacity building activity held in June 2024.

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: HS

With ongoing implementation across all three Outcomes (see Section B), the project is making good progress on achieving the GEB targets. With the focus of the community pilots on digital technology solutions, easier replication and ability to reach a wider population of people can potentially surpass the GEB targets.

D. Risk Rating: L

With the delays from the late kickoff in Viet Nam, there is a risk that an accelerated timeline may not produce high quality outputs that can meaningfully and substantively achieve the GEB targets. The project team aims to mitigate this risk with the extension of the TA closing date and project implementation period to 2025, so that there is ample time to deliver high quality project outputs.

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. Good Practices And Lessons Learned:

None.

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 regional knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities were completed during the implementation period, including: (i) Bangkok Plastics Week, a regional workshop on data management and monitoring approaches for plastic pollution and marine litter (9-12 October 2023, Bangkok, Thailand), which replaced the regional workshop on circular plastics business opportunities (due to delays in Viet Nam); (ii) Accelerating the Circular Economy: Integrating Circularity into Programs, Projects, and Policies, a regional training series on circular economy (1st session held in-person on 21-23 February 2024, 2nd session held virtually on 14 and 21 May 2024); (iii) Accelerating Investments for Plastic Circularity, a regional capacity building event on the financing landscape for plastics circularity investments (26-27 June 2024, Jakarta, Indonesia); and (iv) Circular Economy Webinar Series, with 11 webinars organized during the implementation period (ongoing since June 2022). The project also supported country-level workshops to support development of key activities, including consultative workshops in Indonesia (Jakarta and Cirebon), Philippines (Manila), and Viet Nam (Tan An and Hanoi) to present project activities, such as baseline reports for the city action plans, digital maturity assessment findings, and to convene stakeholders for key activities, including the circular plastics packaging guidelines and the digital pilots.

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 economic instruments and innovative financing mechanisms. Baseline studies from the Cirebon and Manila city action plan process and review of economic instruments for Thailand have been completed, and assessment studies are currently under preparation. Apart of these, the project supported the publication of two policy briefs – one on the bioplastics value chain and its implications for Southeast Asia, and one on the opportunities to address both plastic pollution and climate change under the anticipated global plastics treaty

– as well as three digital articles looking at data management and monitoring solutions for marine litter and plastic pollution.

2) Materials include:

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

Policy Brief: Is There a Case for Bioplastics? Experience from Thailand - <https://www.adb.org/publications/case-bioplastics-experience-thailand>

Policy Brief: Addressing Plastic Pollution for Climate Benefits: Opportunities in the Global Plastics Treaty for Asia and the Pacific - <https://www.adb.org/publications/addressing-plastic-pollution-climate-benefits>

Explainer: Addressing the Challenges of Southeast Asia's Growing Biomaterial Industry - <https://development.asia/explainer/addressing-challenges-southeast-asias-growing-biomaterial-industry>

Summary: Harmonizing Marine Plastic Pollution Data in the East Asian Seas - <https://development.asia/summary/harmonizing-marine-plastic-pollution-data-east-asian-seas>

Case Study: Reducing Viet Nam's Plastic Pollution through Digital Data - <https://development.asia/case-study/reducing-viet-nams-plastic-pollution-through-digital-data>

Insight: Understanding the Potential of Informal Waste Recycling in Chennai - <https://development.asia/insight/understanding-potential-informal-waste-recycling-chennai>

Policy Brief: Scaling Up Support to Reduce Plastic Pollution and Mitigate Climate Change - <https://development.asia/policy-brief/scaling-support-reduce-plastic-pollution-and-mitigate-climate-change>

Bangkok Plastics Week - <https://events.development.asia/learning-events/bangkok-plastics-week>

ADB Circular Economy Training Series: Accelerating the Circular Economy: Integrating Circularity into Programs, Projects, and Policies - <https://events.development.asia/learning-events/adb-circular-economy-training-series-accelerating-circular-economy-integrating>

Accelerating Investments for Plastic Circularity - <https://events.development.asia/learning-events/accelerating-investments-plastic-circularity>

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 on digital solutions for plastic waste management in Asia and the Pacific
- Briefs on financing and economic instruments 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

ANNEX B. Project Contacts

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ANNEX C: 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.