

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10951
Project Name:	Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (ASIA-PACIFIC 1)
Countr(ies):	Regional, Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Qatar, Tonga, Türkiye
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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## I. Overview

### A. Description

Project name

Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (ASIA-PACIFIC 1)

Country

Regional, Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Qatar, Tonga, Türkiye

GEF ID

10951

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bangladesh; National Environment Service (NES), Cook Islands; Department of Environment, Ministry of Waterways & Environment, Fiji; Environment and Conservation Division (ECO), Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD), Kiribati; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Qatar; Tonga Department of Environment, Ministry of MEIDECC, Tonga; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Turkey

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

EA

PIR Submission

9/12/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 2nd PIR

Objective

To fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by providing financial and technical support to GEF-eligible Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in their work to review and align their national targets, NBSAPs, policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks and finance with the Global Biodiversity Framework

### B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,100,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,557,301.48

## C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 4/13/2022	Agency Approval 7/13/2022
Implementation Start 5/30/2023	First Disbursement 5/23/2023
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 2/28/2025	Actual Completion

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

### A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

During the reporting period, the implementation of the GBF EAS Project has advanced through a series of strategic and inclusive activities aimed at aligning the national biodiversity planning process with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The project commenced with a launching workshop that convened key stakeholders from various sectors and local committees, fostering broad-based awareness and information sharing. This was followed by a target alignment workshop, which introduced GBF goals and facilitated the initial drafting of national targets through participatory discussions.

#### Country-Specific Status

Bangladesh is working to align its national biodiversity strategy with the GBF. The country has a previous National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) from 2020. The current effort is to identify legal and policy gaps and integrate the GBF into its existing frameworks. This includes a strong focus on recognizing and integrating the knowledge and practices of indigenous communities.

The Cook Islands is a leader in this area, having already set an ambitious target of protecting 25% of its land as a Protected Area. It is exploring new approaches, such as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), to help meet the GBF's 30x30 target. The country is in the process of updating its NBSAP, with the current plan being over 20 years old.

Fiji has a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2020–2025. The country is now working to align this plan with the GBF. This includes a focus on integrating biodiversity conservation into national development policies, ensuring a 'whole-of-government and whole-of-society' approach to meet the new global targets.

Kiribati has a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that was adopted in 2007 and was reviewed in 2016. It is now reviewing its plan to align with the GBF. This work includes a focus on enhancing resilience to climate change through mangrove restoration and strengthening its protected areas.

Qatar is participating in the GBF-EAS project. The country has a national strategy on climate change and the environment that outlines a commitment to biodiversity conservation, which is integrated with its National Vision 2030. The current work focuses on aligning its policies and frameworks with the GBF.

Tonga has a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Framework (NBSAF). With GEF and UNEP support, the country is reviewing this framework to ensure it remains committed to the objectives of the CBD and to meeting its new national priorities.

Türkiye has an NBSAP from 2001 that was updated for the 2008-2018 period. The country is now working on a new strategy to align with the GBF, including strengthening its monitoring systems for biodiversity and ensuring the new plan is actionable.

On submission of targets to CBD, Fiji, Tonga, and Bangladesh have all submitted older National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and targets to the CBD's online database. These submissions were aligned with the previous Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However, they are all currently in the process of reviewing and updating these plans to meet the new, more ambitious GBF targets.

Türkiye has an NBSAP from 2001 that was updated for the 2008-2018 period. It is now actively working on a new strategy to align with the GBF and has made public commitments to this effort, but the final, revised document and targets are not yet formally submitted. Cook Islands, Kiribati, and Qatar are also actively engaged in the process of reviewing their national plans and developing new targets. Their final submissions are expected as they complete this process.

#### **B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities**

While no significant risks have been identified at this stage, challenges related to fund disbursement have emerged due to new government regulations, among others. Nonetheless, efforts have been made including through internal execution modalities being considered for some countries to mitigate these delays.

#### **C. Stakeholder Engagement**

Several countries have made efforts to engage various stakeholders in this project. To strengthen political support, some countries like the organised awareness workshops with the Select Committee on Environment, emphasizing the importance of legislative backing for the GBF-aligned NBSAP. Additionally, a steering committee workshop was conducted to review project documentation, define roles, and establish Terms of Reference to guide effective and timely implementation.

#### **D. Gender Equality**

Cook Islands has made a commitment to gender equality in its environmental planning. The Cook Islands' National Sustainable Development Plan emphasizes women's participation in decision-making and access to resources. Projects on the islands have specifically targeted women through initiatives like home garden programs to enhance food security and local biodiversity.

Fiji has a strong focus on gender-responsive conservation projects, particularly in the context of climate change adaptation. A project called 'AQUA-Pearl' supports gender-responsive, community-led aquaculture, which aims to provide women with skills and opportunities. The country is also working to adopt a gender-responsive approach to nature-based solutions.

Kiribati while faced with significant gender inequalities, Kiribati is taking steps to address them through its national policies. The country's gender strategy aims to empower women by supporting their participation in income-generating activities related to fishing and agriculture, recognizing their essential role in sustaining household livelihoods.

Qatar has a national framework for gender equality, which is a foundational step for its environmental policies. The country's national strategy is to enhance gender equality in all sectors, including the environment, which is considered a key component of sustainable development.

Tonga has made significant progress in this area. With support from UN Women, the country conducted a specialized Gender and Environment Survey to collect comprehensive data on the roles and vulnerabilities of men and women in the face of climate change and environmental degradation. This data is crucial for designing policies and programs that are truly gender responsive.

Türkiye's national development and environmental policies recognize the need for a just transition. The country has conducted a gender analysis of its environmental policies to ensure that they are inclusive and do not exacerbate existing inequalities. Efforts are being made to ensure women's representation in all stages of environmental policymaking.

#### E. Knowledge Management

Implementation of knowledge management approaches is on-going.

### III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result 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 Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

### IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

### V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

