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	Implementing Agency
10951	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	Project Type
GET	EA

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year , PIR Number
9/15/2026	FY 2026 , 3rd 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	Development Objective
Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Overall risk
Low Risk

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
2,100,000.00	1,633,881.23

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

The Enabling Activities Support (EAS) project portfolio in Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Qatar, and Türkiye has made substantial progress in strengthening national readiness for implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Through GEF financial and technical support, participating countries have advanced the review and updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), alignment of national biodiversity targets, assessment of monitoring systems, policy coherence reviews, and the development of biodiversity finance and resource mobilization frameworks. Overall progress toward both outcomes and outputs is rated Satisfactory (S), while the overall risk rating remains Low (L), reflecting sustained UNEP technical support and the effective application of Whole-of-Government (WoG) and Whole-of-Society (WoS) approaches that have strengthened national ownership and stakeholder engagement.

Implementation has progressed steadily across the portfolio, with Fiji having substantially completed activities under all four project components and the remaining countries advancing toward completion by September 2026. Across the six countries, significant progress has been achieved in aligning national biodiversity frameworks with the KMGBF, updating biodiversity targets, strengthening monitoring systems, and enhancing policy and institutional coherence. Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approaches have been widely adopted, contributing to improved coordination, stakeholder participation, and long-term sustainability of project results.

Country Implementation Progress

Bangladesh has made strong progress in revising its NBSAP and aligning national biodiversity targets with the KMGBF. National targets have been updated and stakeholder consultations conducted through a series of national workshops involving government agencies, civil society, youth, and women. The NBSAP revision, monitoring system assessments, policy coherence reviews, and biodiversity finance activities are all advancing well and are expected to be completed within the implementation period. Gender considerations have been integrated throughout the consultation process, ensuring inclusive participation and ownership.

Cook Islands has reached an advanced stage of implementation, completing extensive consultations across all inhabited islands and engaging more than 1,000 stakeholders, including strong representation of women and local communities. Draft NBSAP, monitoring and evaluation, and biodiversity mainstreaming plans have been prepared and are undergoing final technical review. Despite logistical and procurement challenges associated with consultations across remote islands, implementation remains on track and final national validation and endorsement processes are expected in the next phase.

Fiji has substantially completed project implementation, including the revision and finalization of its NBSAP and the submission of updated biodiversity targets aligned with the KMGBF. Significant progress has also been made on monitoring systems, policy coherence assessments, and biodiversity finance planning. Strong stakeholder engagement, including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), has contributed to broad ownership of project outcomes. Remaining activities primarily involve finalizing monitoring and finance-related outputs.

Kiribati has made steady progress in updating national biodiversity targets, developing a monitoring action plan, and advancing biodiversity finance planning. National targets and monitoring frameworks are nearing completion, while the revised NBSAP is undergoing further stakeholder review and validation. Policy coherence assessments have largely been completed, although final endorsement of relevant environmental policy frameworks remains pending. Continued support is focused on completing biodiversity finance analyses and securing formal approvals.

Qatar has successfully completed the review and updating of national biodiversity targets aligned with the KMGBF and conducted national stakeholder consultations to validate proposed targets and implementation priorities. The project is now focused on advancing monitoring systems, policy coherence reviews, and biodiversity finance planning. Strong institutional commitment and gender-inclusive participation have supported steady implementation progress.

Türkiye remains among the most advanced countries in the portfolio, having completed the alignment of its biodiversity strategy and national targets with the KMGBF. Extensive stakeholder engagement involving a broad range of institutions has supported progress on biodiversity monitoring, policy coherence, mainstreaming, and indicator development. Monitoring system assessments have been completed and action planning is at an advanced stage. Remaining work focuses on validating institutional responsibilities, strengthening data-sharing mechanisms, and finalizing monitoring and mainstreaming plans. Strong governance structures and active stakeholder engagement position the project for timely completion.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Implementation across the portfolio has faced common challenges, including logistical constraints related to consultations in geographically dispersed locations, procurement and consultant recruitment delays, fragmented biodiversity datasets, monitoring capacity limitations, and the need for stronger cross-sectoral coordination. Countries have addressed these challenges through adaptive planning, targeted technical assistance, strengthened national coordination mechanisms, and continued stakeholder engagement. In several cases, national institutions maintained implementation momentum through close collaboration with UNEP, technical experts, and partner organizations.

These adaptive measures have enabled countries to sustain progress and remain broadly on track to achieve project objectives. Collectively, the portfolio has strengthened national capacities for biodiversity planning, monitoring, policy alignment, and resource mobilization, providing a solid foundation for effective implementation of the KMGBF and achievement of national biodiversity commitments through 2030.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Countries reported substantial stakeholder engagement during the reporting period, approaches and intensity varied by national context.

- In Türkiye, a national kick-off workshop convened over 160 participants from nearly 90 institutions across six thematic working groups, followed by a Monitoring Action Plan workshop (150+ participants) and a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Action Plan workshop (approximately 100 participants), reflecting strong multi-institutional ownership.
- Cook Islands completed outer-island consultations on the two remaining inhabited islands not reached in 2024, bringing the total to 94 consultations (36 community workshops and 58 one-on-one consultations) reaching 1,061 participants across all 12 inhabited islands.
- Fiji engaged government agencies, civil society, women's groups, youth representatives and IPLCs through national and divisional consultations, applying a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
- Bangladesh convened four stakeholder workshops on stakeholder mapping, gap analysis and national target-setting between July and September 2025, reaching a combined 219 participants.
- Kiribati held a series of bilateral and NGO consultation meetings to finalize national targets, costing and the monitoring action plan, though it also reported delays in receiving stakeholder inputs, requiring follow-up bilateral meetings.

D. Gender Equality

Several countries reported gender-responsive measures during the reporting period.

- In Türkiye, women held key coordination and technical leadership roles within the project team and across working groups (including Deputy Director General, Programme Coordinator and Branch Manager positions), and gender-disaggregated participation data confirmed that women consistently outnumbered men across workshops; indicator design also drew on the COP15 Gender Plan of Action.
- In Cook Islands, women's groups were consulted separately in several outer-island communities to ensure their priorities were captured, and of the 1,061 total consultation participants, 539 were women and 534 were men.
- Fiji designed national and divisional consultations to encourage gender-balanced representation, created safe spaces for women's contributions, and integrated gender considerations directly into the revised NBSAP, recognising women's differentiated roles and traditional knowledge in biodiversity conservation.
- Bangladesh reported on gender equality considerations that informed each of its four national target-setting workshops, supporting inclusive decision-making and helping to ensure that biodiversity governance processes reflected the priorities of women, youth and IPLCs.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge products developed during the reporting period include: Fiji's updated NBSAP, biodiversity monitoring assessment and biodiversity finance analyses; Cook Islands' draft NBSAP (including a Cook Islands Maori translation), a suite of over 250 biodiversity illustrations for awareness materials, and an NBSAP information booklet; Türkiye's Turkish-language glossaries of KMGBF terminology and a standardized indicator reference sheet to support consistent understanding across working groups; Kiribati's consolidated national biodiversity targets, costing and monitoring action plan; Qatar's updated national biodiversity targets and target-level initiatives; and Bangladesh's stakeholder mapping and gap analysis outputs from its four national workshops.

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