

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9232
Project Name:	Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries
Countr(ies):	Regional, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar
Implementing Agency:	IUCN

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries

Country

Regional, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar

GEF ID

9232

Implementing Agency

IUCN

Executing Entity

National Government Agencies, FREDAs, Global Environment Centre

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/5/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 6th PIR

Objective

To sustainably manage peatland ecosystems in targeted countries and to conserve biodiversity and reduce GHG emissions

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

3,168,700.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,623,609.05

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

3/14/2018

Agency Approval

4/18/2018

Implementation Start

5/7/2019

First Disbursement

12/1/2018

Expected MTR 3/1/2022	Actual MTR 11/30/2023
Expected Completion 12/31/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

The project has made moderately satisfactory progress with its overall progress:

- Outcome 1 is Moderately Satisfactory with Output 1.1 at 95% complete and Output 1.2 at 100% complete. Some targets were exceeded or near target (excluding Myanmar).
- Outcome 2 is Highly Satisfactory with outputs at 100% complete with all targets exceeded by a significant amount (excluding Myanmar).
- Outcome 3 is Moderately Satisfactory with outputs at 95% complete and some targets not able to be reached (excluding Myanmar).
- Outcome 4 is Satisfactory with outputs 100% complete and targets exceeded or reached (excluding Myanmar).

Within this reporting period:

- Outcome 1: Lao PDR and Cambodia PMU's finalised their peatland survey reports and maps. The maps are being validated by GEC and will be completed in Q3 2025. This final validation will then complete this Outcome.
- Outcome 2: The Lao PDR National Action Plan for Peatlands (NAPP) and the Cambodian Coastal Peatland Action Plan (instead of the NAPP) was finalised which completes this Outcome.
- Outcome 3: The livelihoods support ended in Q1 2024 and no further support was provided during this reporting period. The final completion of this component is dependent on the submission of the livelihoods monitoring reports now due in Q3 2025.
- Outcome 4: The final output consisting of 'Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Peatlands in the Mekong' was finalised by GEC in July 2024.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Project implementation has suffered from numerous challenges since the project started that included:

- The 2020-2021 CoVID pandemic that delayed training and particularly field implementation that eventually required the project to be extended to 2025.

- The Myanmar coup that required the suspension of the Myanmar component and its budget. The CTA and RCU had to be relocated to the Lao PDR.
- The delays impacted the budget such that by 2023, the budget for a full time CTA was no longer available and a part-time CTA has been overseeing the project since and severely reduced travel budgets making monitoring of progress difficult.

During this reporting period, the main challenge has been for the 2 PMUs to submit their final outstanding technical reports so that the RCU can close the project. This action was pending a decision on project closure which has now been taken. The CTA met with the 2 project directors at least twice during the reporting period to remind them of the outstanding reports.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

There has been no further stakeholder engagement during the reporting period. The outcomes are as follows:

Civil society organisations

In Lao PDR: NGOs and international organisations such as WCS, WWF, WCA, IUCN and CDE have directly participated in project activities and awareness raising events.

In Cambodia: NLC staff were engaged during the peatland training and awareness raising activities. The intention was to engage with a wider range of NGOs during the livelihood design stage however there were no other NGOs working in the project site area to collaborate with.

Local communities

In Lao PDR: Local communities including village authorities and the villagers of the three target villages (Thongxay, Kala, and Kaeng Nang Ang Villages) have been engaged and consulted regularly during the project implementation particularly during the peatland demarcation and the livelihood designs. Local communities communicated their livelihood preferences, and these have gone into the livelihood support plans. Livelihoods implementation continued through this reporting period.

In Cambodia: Similarly, local communities including village authorities and the villagers in the two communities (Boeung Kachhang and Koh Kapik) have been engaged and consulted regularly during the project implementation particularly during the peatland demarcation and the livelihood designs. Local communities communicated their livelihood preferences, and these have gone into the livelihood support plans. Livelihoods implementation continued through this reporting period.

Indigenous Peoples

In Lao PDR: There are no ethnic minority groups in the final 3 project villages of Thongxay, Kala, and Keng Nang Ang that were targeted for livelihoods support. The villages are populated by the Lao Loum, or the majority lowland Lao ethnic group. Most of the wetland villages around the project area are considered Lao Loum, with only Ban Houayko, an outer village of the wetlands, made up of the Brao ethnic minority group.

In Cambodia: Not considered applicable.

Private sector

In Lao PDR: The private sector will be engaged in the process of marketing and promoting after the community products such as handicrafts have been developed/promoted.

In Cambodia: Livelihood activities in the two communities (Boeung Kachhang and Koh Kapik) have not been relevant to the private sector.

Other relevant stakeholders as identified in the projects' Stakeholder Analysis

In Lao PDR: University and other government line agencies have been engaged.

In Cambodia: Youth engagement was previously conducted through volunteer programs where youth teams were involved in the peatland mapping trainings, survey as well as awareness materials developments (peatland promotional video, sketch books for kids, and children's song). The completed awareness materials have been distributed widely to schools in a broader scale youth awareness raising campaign.

D. Gender Equality

There have been no further project activities during this reporting period. The final outcomes on gender responsive measures are as follows:

Output Indicator 2.1 A

Number of key stakeholders at national, sub-national and local level trained in peatland assessment, rehabilitation and management. (disaggregated by gender)

Target 2.1 A little over 150 key stakeholders (as opposed to 225 target) from national and sub-national levels have been trained in peatland assessment, rehabilitation and management of

peatland ecosystems.

Outcome Indicator 3 B

Number of community members who have adopted sustainable livelihood practices that allow for sustainable management and use of peatland areas

Target 3 B 96 households including 96 women (as opposed to target of 500 community members with at least 250 women) have adopted sustainable livelihood practices

Output Indicator 3.1 B

Number of community members (disaggregated by gender) trained in sustainable livelihood practices.

Target 3.1 B 75 households including 75 women (as opposed to target of 100 community members with at least 50 women) trained in sustainable livelihood practices in the selected target villages of Koh Kapik and Boeung Kachhang within PKWS.

Output Indicator 3.1 B

Number of community members (disaggregated by gender) trained in sustainable livelihood practices.

Target 3.2 B 21 households including 21 women (as opposed to target of 100 community members and at least 50 women) trained in sustainable livelihood practices in the selected target villages in BKN.

Output Indicator 4.1 C

Number of key stakeholders (disaggregated by gender) participating in exchange visit

Target 4.1 C A total of 49 key stakeholders including 8 females (as opposed to target of 40 key stakeholders) participate in exchange visits to other Mekong countries.

Output Indicator 4.2 A

Number of key stakeholders (disaggregated by gender) participating in regional project inception workshop and annual PSC meetings

Target 4.2 To date, 54 key stakeholders (as opposed to target of 9 key stakeholders - 3 per country) have participated at a regional project inception workshop and annual PSC meetings.

Output Indicator 4.2 B

Number of key stakeholders (women and men) participating in regional workshop on peatlands (during the last year of the project cycle)

Target 4.2 B 29 (25 men and 4 female) key stakeholders (as opposed to target of 18 key stakeholders) (women and men) participate in regional workshop on peatlands management.

Note: The above stakeholder and gender number targets include Myanmar which cannot be achieved because of the suspension of the Myanmar component.

E. Knowledge Management

The project does not have a specific knowledge management approach or strategy as this is a GEF 6 cycle project. In the reporting period, The Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Peatlands were finalised by GEC in July 2024.

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ban Kala	14.80978	106.15148	1661895

Location Description:

Village

Activity Description:

Socio-economic surveys, awareness raising and livelihood support

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ban Thongxay	14.78326	106.12518	1658462

Location Description:

Village

Activity Description:

Socio-economic surveys, awareness raising and livelihood support

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ban Keng Neng Ang	14.767971	106.168123	

Location Description:

Village

Activity Description:

Socio-economic surveys, awareness raising and livelihood support

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Beung Baphat	14.78443	106.1426	

Location Description:

Peatland

Activity Description:

Peatland surveys and demarcation, biodiversity survey

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nong Papeo	14.772136	106.12912	

Location Description:

Peatland

Activity Description:

Peatland surveys and demarcation, biodiversity survey

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vientiane	17.96667	102.6	1651944

Location Description:

Capital city

Activity Description:

Online trainings, participation at regional ASEAN peatland events, Mainstreaming of peatlands into National policy and strategies.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Boeung Kachhang	11.567501	102.963672	

Location Description:

Village

Activity Description:

Socio-economic surveys, awareness raising and livelihood support

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Koh Kapik	11.454658	103.015001	

Location Description:

Village

Activity Description:

Socio-economic surveys, awareness raising and livelihood support

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Phnom Penh	11.56245	104.91601	1821306

Location Description:

Capital city

Activity Description:

Online trainings, participation at regional ASEAN peatland events, Mainstreaming of peatlands into National policy and strategies.

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title GEF ID 9232_6th PIR_2025
Document Category M and E Document	Title GEF ID 9232_6th PIR_Risk Register
Document Category M and E Document	Title Guidelines For Mekong Peatland Conservation