

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**LME Community of Practice**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4481 |
| GEF ID | 5278 |
| Title | Strengthening Global Governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and Their Coasts through enhanced sharing and application of LME/ICM/MPA knowledge and information tools. |
| Country(ies) | New York - GEF, Regional Centre - Istanbul, New York - GEF |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Water and Oceans |
| Project Implementing Partner | UNESCO |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| A program to improve global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private partners and supporting south-to-south learning and north-to-south learning. A key element of this improved governance is main-streaming cooperation between LME, MPA, and ICM projects in overlapping areas, both for GEF projects and for non-GEF projects. This Full-scale project plans to achieve a multiplier effect using demonstrations of learning tools and toolboxes, to aid practitioners and other key stakeholders, in conducting and learning from GEF projects. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Mr. Vladimir Mamaev (vladimir.mamaev@undp.org) |
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| CO Focal Point | Ms. Marcela Fabianova (marcela.fabianova@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. Julian Barbiere (j.barbiere@unesco.org) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

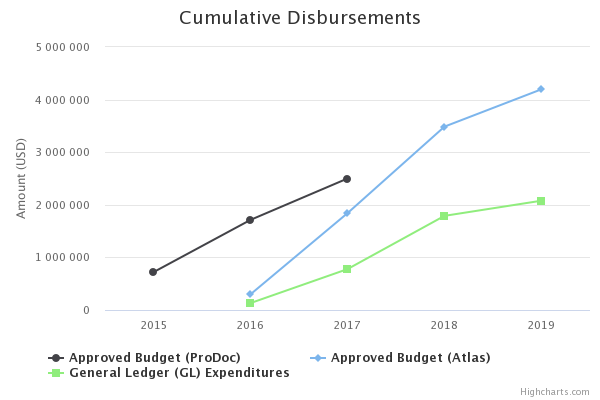
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To improve global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private partners, and supporting south-to-south learning and north-to-south learning.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Global and regional network of partners to enhance ecosystem-based management and to provide support for the GEF-IW LME/ICM/MPA projects to address MPA needs and incorporate climate variability and change.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| \*Enhanced network of partners working together to provide consistent management and ecosystem-based methods and technical support to GEF-LME/ICM/MPA projects.  \*Increased interaction between GEF- LME, MPA and ICM projects and other marine and coastal initiatives supported by GEF and partner organizations.  \*Increased collaboration and coordination between GEF-LME, ICM and MPA projects and partners, within the geographic boundaries of LMEs.  \*Progress towards fully integrated ‘ridge to reef’ ecosystem-based management of freshwater and marine transboundary water systems, based on good governance practices, through increased generation of knowledge and enhanced coordination between GEF-IW surface, ground water and LME and ICM projects. | Outcome 1  Global and regional network of partners to enhance ecosystem-based management and to provide support for the GEF-IW LME/ICM/MPA projects to address MPA needs and incorporate climate variability and change. Enhanced network of partners working together to provide consistent management and ecosystem-based methods and technical support to GEF-LME/ICM/MPA projects.  Increased interaction between GEF- LME, MPA and ICM projects and other marine and coastal initiatives supported by GEF and partner organizations.  Increased collaboration and coordination between GEF-LME, ICM and MPA projects and partners, within the geographic boundaries of LMEs.  Progress towards fully integrated ‘ridge to reef’ ecosystem-based management of freshwater and marine transboundary water systems, based on good governance practices, through increased generation of knowledge and enhanced coordination between GEF-IW surface, ground water and LME and ICM projects. Best-practice ecosystem-based assessment and management and governance techniques to support the recovery of LME goods and services from the IW projects and other analogous initiatives would not be captured or codified. States would therefore not derive maximum benefits from the lessons learned over the past 15 years and the technical expertise of public and private partners that have engaged in the projects to date and are willing to engage with the LME/ICM/MPA-Governance project. States would not benefit from new tools to help embed ICM into the LME framework, to build adaptive institution and reduce vulnerability to climate variability and change, or to integrate actions with other transboundary water systems.  Established network (community of practice) of GEF IW Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts projects, and other marine and coastal initiatives supported by GEF and partner organizations.  Technical and Policy-level LME Governance project Steering Committee established.  Technical Working Groups established to develop new LME governance tools in partnership with GEF- LME/ICM/MPA projects, and other marine and coastal initiatives.  Regional Networks established to enhance interactions and harmonization between GEF- LME, ICM and MPA and other GEF-IW transboundary surface and ground water projects.(jointly with IW:LEARN)  Terms of Reference for Partner Network.  Annual partner network meeting reports  Global directory of LME/ICM/MPA projects, practitioners and institutions.  Annual Steering Committee meeting reports.  Web-based access to database directory available on Project Website and linked to Google maps.  Completed LME strategic approach and assessment toolkits completed.  Assumes that key partner organizations will engage in the project, despite possible competing agendas. Assumes all entities are willing to collect and share data in a transparent way. | *(not set or not applicable)* | \*Established network (community of practice) of GEF IW Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts projects, and other marine and coastal initiatives supported by GEF and partner organizations.  \*Technical and Policy-level LME Governance project Steering Committee established.  \*Technical Working Groups established to develop new LME governance tools in partnership with GEF- LME/ICM/MPA projects, and other marine and coastal initiatives.  \*Regional Networks established to enhance interactions and harmonization between GEF- LME, ICM and MPA and other GEF-IW transboundary surface and ground water projects.(jointly with IW:LEARN) | Network of GEF LME/ICM/MPA projects, now extended by inclusion of recent MSP and coastal climate change adaptation projects, was active in the reporting period. Major event was organised in Cape Town, South Africa in late November 2017, when two back-to-back meetings were organised. First, the Meeting to Build Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance gathered more than 150 participants from UNDP, UN Environment, FAO, IOC and other international organisations, NGOs and national representatives to discuss modalities to improve regional ocean governance. The approved a list of recommendations with a view to prepare the roadmap for mid term implementation to be adopted by the same partners later in 2018. The follow up of this initiative was in Seoul in April 2018 during the Second SOI Dialogue Meeting when strong argument for inclusion of LMEs in regional ocean governance was presented to CBD partners. Finally, at the June 2018 GEF Assembly in Da Nang, Vietnam, IW/LME:LEARN coorganised a side event on regional ocean governance together with UN Environment and FAO. The event was attended by a large number of national representatives. To conclude, the activities undertaken in the framework of this initiative are a start of a long and complex process that has to be permanently monitored and stimulated by LME:LEARN and its partners during the life time of the project and also by its successors.  The second major event in Cape Town was the 19th LME Annual Consultative Meeting. The meeting had a somewhat different format as the focus was on training and capacity building. The participants reviewed all 7 toolkits that have been prepared in separate sessions and two course were organised: on economic valuation of "wet" ecosystem services and on data visualisation and management. Many participants commended this format of the LME annual meeting.    Steering Committee, jointly established with the IW:LEARN; had its annual meeting in Athens, Greece in April 2018. Besides the review of the activities, the SC discussed the forthcoming 9th GEF International Waters Conference, and brainstormed on the ideas for the post-project period.    Three technical Working Groups established (Governance, Ecosystem Based management, and Data and Information Management) continued their work, most of it being focused on finalisation of the toolkits. They have reported the progress during the LME19 in Cape Town.    Three Regional Network Meetings were organised (Africa in Zanzibar in August 2017; Latina America and Caribbean in Montevideo in October 2017; and Asia in Bangkok in May 2018). Each meeting was attended by regional projects and practitioners. They discussed issues of regional concern, and modalities of extended cooperation through facilities that are offered by LME:LEARN. A number of Inter-project Collaboration Opportunities (IOC) grants were materialised, which has significantly contributed to the exchange of experience among projects along the South-South "axis".The initial format of the Regional Network Meeting was expanded by the inclusion of the science-to-management sessions and the inclusion of the regional private sector representatives to encourage their involvement in ocean governance at the LME level.    To conclude, the network of partners at global and regional levels was enhanced and consistent technical support to the projects was provided. The new knowledge was generated through the GEF LME:LEARN project while the experiences were successfully exchanged among the projects and partners. | Network of GEF LME/ICM/MPA projects (community of practice), is fully established and it has included recent now extended by inclusion of recent MPA, ICM, MSP and coastal climate change adaptation projects.                  The Joint IW/LME:LEARN Project Steering Committee meeting took place in May 2019 in Geneva, jointly with the IW:LEARN partners.        All technical working groups have been established and have been meeting regularly during the preparation of the marine toolkits. This task has been achieved.                      All six planned meetings for three Regional Networks were held (Africa: Zanzibar in August 2017 and Dakar September 2018; Latin America and Caribbean: Montevideo in October 2017 and Panama in October 2018; Asia: Bangkok in May 2018 and Hanoi in February 2019) and the activity is completed . Four Inter-project Collaboration Opportunities (ICO) grants have been awarded to enhance collaboration between LME, ICM, MSP and MPA projects in the regions with catalytic outcomes such as MSP communities of practice, policy briefs, and applied governance modalities. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Synthesis and incorporation of knowledge into policy-making, capture of best LME governance practices, and development of new methods and tools to enhance the management effectiveness of LMEs and to incorporate ICM, MPAs and climate variability and change within the 5 LME modules.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| \*GEF LME/ICM/MPA projects equipped with new tools that incorporate ICM, MPAs and climate variability and change.  \*Innovative approaches captured and available for use by LME, MPA and ICM practitioners in LME governance.  \*LME/ICM/MPA projects accessing and using the tools to address the emerging priorities and new requirements for GEF.  \*Facilitate the exchange of experiences between LME’s on data and information management issues, and promote the development of common data management approaches for LME/ICM/MPA projects. | LME governance would continue on an ad hoc basis without the benefit of experience sharing and the incorporation of best practices and shared data. | *(not set or not applicable)* | \*Series of validated methods and new tools to address priority transboundary issues and national governance reforms (LME/ICM/MPA and climate variability and change).  \*An LME/ICM/MPA Toolkit for adaptive ecosystem-based governance which incorporates tools on best practice and new GEF6 requirements.  \*Codification of experiences and best practices from GEF LME/ICM/MPA projects and other coastal and marine initiatives supported by GEF and partner organisations for inclusion in LME toolkit of assessment and governance practices.  \*Establishment of an "LME/ IW environmental data management committee". | The drafts of six toolkits have been finalised. All the toolkits contain the latest state-of-the-art and innovative solutions in specific subjects covered by each toolkit. It is expected that the toolkits will be an indispensable companion to current and future LME/ICM/MPA/MSP and coastal climate change adaptation projects financed by GEF and other sources.  The platform where the toolkits will be uploaded has been created and some of the toolkits have already been uploaded there. The objective is to check how the platform will work with a limited number of toolkits in it before the remaining ones will be uploaded. The full version of the toolkits will exist only in the electronic form. However, the companion volume is being prepared, which will briefly present each toolkit and explain how they are interlinked and how best they could be used. This volume will be available in electronic form and as a hard copy.    The Governance toolkit has also been completed and it is being presented and disseminated in the same form as the remaining six toolkits.    All toolkits have been presented in detail during the LME19. Project partners have given comments, which have been integrated in the final version.    The Data and Information Management Assessment report is being prepared. It will advise the PCU to develop the most useful data and information management training tool. This will be confirmed by the DIM Working Group which will meet in August 2018 in Arendal, Norway. | Validated methods and new tools to address priority transboundary issues were identified and incorporated into a series of six marine toolkits. Five of the toolkits have been uploaded on the marine toolkits platform, while the sixth (project development toolkit) is undergoing some revision before being uploaded.      The Toolkit for adaptive ecosystem-based governance has been finalised and uploaded on the marine Toolkits Platform.                    The experiences and best practices from GEF LME/ICM/MPA projects and other coastal and marine initiatives supported by GEF and partner organisations for inclusion were codified and included in the LME Governance Toolkit.                          Data and Information Management Committee has been established and met twice. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Capacity and partnership building through twinning and learning exchanges, workshops and training among LMEs and similar initiatives (e.g. Seascapes).** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| \*Increased collaboration and learning exchanges South-to-South between the GEF LME, MPA and ICM projects, and North-to-South and South-to-North partnerships with non-GEF marine and coastal initiatives (e.g. Seascapes) to build capacity and develop training and education materials.  \*GEF LME/ICM/MPA practitioners trained in new techniques and approaches for ecosystem-based 5-modular assessment, management and governance practices for ecosystem and mitigation of effects of climatic variability and change in LMEs.  \*Increased capacity of GEF LME, ICM and MPA project staff and practitioners, to address the new ecosystem-based governance priorities in GEF6 built through portfolio learning, partnerships, and training. | Training within the LME/ICM/MPA projects provided on an ad-hoc and inequitable basis between regions, host States and stakeholders, dependent on the project and partner resources available in the region. Delivery of the individual projects delayed by lack of capacity and availability of trained practitioners. Project costs increased due to the lack of easily accessible training and educational materials. Existing training materials prepared by learning partners not fully mobilized. No strategy in place to be able to train the number of practitioners needed to be able scale up the Coordination of ecosystem-based management and governance practices. Existing LME projects not be able to build the capacity of participating countries to apply ICM or adapt to climate change and maintain ecosystem resilience. Reduced impact and the level of consistency in the achievable performance of the IW portfolio. | *(not set or not applicable)* | \*Functional dialogue, project twinning, learning exchanges, and training workshops in ecosystem-based governance among GEF LME/ICM/MPA projects and other GEF and non-GEF funded marine and coastal initiatives, such as Seascapes,, to build capacity and for portfolio learning.  \*GEF LME/ICM/MPA practitioners fully trained in ecosystem-based governance techniques and approaches including adaptation to climatic variability and change.  \*New training materials developed in collaboration with learning partners (e.g. IUCN, FAO, IOC, ICES, NOAA, IOI, Conservation International, UNU-INWEH) and through learning exchanges and workshops to address priority issues in GEF6. | With the recruitment of the IW/LME:LEARN Deputy Project Manager/Training and Twinning Specialist the capacity development activities got a major push and respective activities have been significantly accelerated. During the Regional Network meetings major interest has been expressed in twinning and learning exchanges. The PCU has built upon that interest and a a number of twinnings has been established. The LME:LEARN web portal has a page with all the information related to twinning and the project representatives are using it frequently to get the most recent information on the activities.    The Conservation International has developed a Capacity Development guidelines. They are being edited and will be posted soon on the twinning portal.    The training strategy has been developed and is being implemented through training courses. The starting point for the strategy has been the survey prepared prior to the project's start, which has indicated several potential training areas.However, based on an analysis of training resources, the strategy has proposed a focus on marine spatial planning, governance, environmental economics and strategic approach to LMEs. The basic training materials to be used will be the toolkits. Following the strategic directions, the training modules are being prepared using the principles of blended learning, i.e. the combination of online and face-to-face training. Also, a training format has been developed. The face-to-face training courses will always be combined with the Regional Networks meetings. During each meeting 2 training s will be carried out. Since there will be 3 more Regional Network meetings, the objective of having six face-to-face training sessions will be reached. | Six twinnings, following the standardised materials developed for projects for twinning, have been completed between LME, MPA, MSP and ICM projects, which have enhanced the exchange of experience and knowledge among regional projects, the sharing of lessons and best practices. Additional requests for twinnings have been received by the projects. The internet portal established for the purpose of twinning has proven instrumental in facilitating twinning.              The training strategy has been executed, with nine regional trainings on Ocean Governance, Marine Spatial Planning and Economic Valuation completed between September 2018 and February 2019.                The trainings were based on the respective thematic training modules developed in earlier years, in collaboration with the project's partners. Catalytic outcomes of the trainings have included two regional communities of practice on Ocean Governance which are being self-sustained by the members of the LAC and Asia-Pacific networks. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **Communication, dissemination and outreach of GEF LME/ICM/MPA project achievements and lessons learned.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| \*Communication of results to stakeholders, increased awareness of LME issues and engagement in networks through global and regional LME /COPs  \*Strategy developed for showcasing LME and ICM assessment and governance best practices among project partners, stakeholders, resource managers, broader scientific community, government representatives, private companies, universities, schools and the public.  \*Global policy discussions informed and impacted by knowledge and experience of GEF- ecosystem based LME/ICM/MPA governance project. | The global awareness, impact, and legacy of the LME/ICM/MPA projects amongst different stakeholder groups and partners would remain at current levels. | *(not set or not applicable)* | \*Global LME/ICM/MPA- communication platform linking GEF LME, ICM and MPA projects with other relevant initiatives.  \*Lessons from GEF ecosystem-based LME/ICM/MPA projects disseminated through IW:LEARN website, partners and project website.(1% of the overall budget will be spend on IW:Learn related activities)  \*Publication of findings from LME/ICM/MPA projects in peer-reviewed scientific, coastal and ocean management journals.  \*Participation of GEF ecosystem-based LME/ICM/MPA project staff and practitioners in regional and global conferences (e.g, Global Ocean Forum, ICES Science Conferences, etc.). | The LME:LEARN web portal has been regularly updated and the information contained therein revised. This process is ongoing.    The marine hub is a section of the LME:LEARN portal aimed at general public. Ihas been finalised by IUCN, one of the project's partners. It is a beta version for the time being but all its functions are accessible. It is expected that the marine hub will be used by a large number of visitors. The strategy to popularise it is in the making.. The hub has two levels: for the general public, with plenty of attractive features, and a "scholar" section for practitioners.    Specific working sub group to develop strategy for highlighting LME, ICM and MPA has not been established within the Partner Network. However, the Steering Committee at its regular meeting has been discussing the issue, and it could be considered as adequate replacement. The TOR for the Communications Expert to assist individual LME projects have been drafted and the recruitment process has started. It is expected that the expert will visit 9 active LME projects and propose tailored solution to their communications needs.    The TOR for the expert to prepare the strategy for showcasing best practice sis in preparation. LME projects have been contacted to propose themes for a series of policy briefs. The response has been partial. The PCU has prepared the TOR for policy briefs and will make an initial proposal for 9 policy briefs to be confirmed in consultation with the above mentioned LME projects.    The PCU has hired a communications consultant who is preparing news items, revising and updating the information contained at the web portal. The expert has prepared the service brochure which has been widely distributed.    The overall visibility of the LME:LEARN as well as of LMEs in general has been significantly improved during the reporting period. | The LME:LEARN web portal, functioning as the Global LME/ICM/MPA- communication platform, has been established and regularly updated and the information contained therein revised. Two communications experts have assisted five LME projects to develop their communications strategies.    Lessons from LME/ICM/MPA projects have been regularly presented in the Newsletter , which is followed by more than 1700 subscribers (more than 50 marine related communications during the reporting period). The LME hub project partner IUCN executed numerous enhancements to the overall design and layout of the LME Hub, including the direct feeds for project news were also added.    Two volumes of LME related peer-reviewed scientific papers were published in the Environmental Development Journal. Two more volumes are in preparation.    Ten policy briefs were prepared. The briefs cover subjects of general interest to the LME community.    The project has supported participation of GEF ecosystem-based LME/ICM/MPA project staff and practitioners in several major ocean events: SDG14 Conference in New York, EAS Congress in Philippines, MPA Congress in Chile,. New events are planned. In addition, the LME projects' staff participated in several side events organised by the LME:LEARN at various major events. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 5**  **Project Management: establish a functioning Project Coordination Unit at IOC, encouraging participation by Partner Network, including short-time visits, seconding of personnel, etc. Work closely with NOAA in transitioning their non-science and technical support capacity to the Project Unit.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| \*Functioning, minimalistic Project Coordination Unit focusing management of partner activities established.  \*Strategy for LME Governance best practices for the long-term for the GEF portfolio, with overlapping interests within LME, ICM, and MPA domains prepared. | Governance of LMEs would remain at status quo, with no long-term strategy incorporating best practices to guide LME management. | *(not set or not applicable)* | \*Monitoring and Evaluation (mid-term and terminal evaluations) conducted.  \*Establishment of unit that will manage project, ensuring cooperation with partner network.  \*Development of a long-term LME global governance strategy. | The joint IW/LME:LEARN PCU has now been fully staffed. It is fulfilling regularly its tasks regarding the financial management and reporting obligations. | Mid-term evaluation has been finalised and management response prepared and adopted.. The terminal evaluation TOR is prepared.    The joint IW/LME:LEARN PCU has now been fully staffed. It is fulfilling regularly its tasks regarding the financial management and reporting obligations.        The strategy will be developed before the closure of the project, based on the overall project's results. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 83.12% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 83.12% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,077,999 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 75,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 2,500,000 |
| Co-financing | 13,254,599 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Apr 12, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | May 27, 2015 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Mar 17, 2016 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Mar 16, 2016 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Mar 31, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Sep 17, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Feb 29, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Mar 17, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Mar 17, 2020 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-05-06 |
| 2019-05-07 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The project sought and recieved an closure extension of one full year.    While the project achieved major objectives in all its components, and succeeded in strengthening the capacity of LME community to govern more efficiently the LMEs, more time is needed raise the awareness and improve their management capacity. Several lines of activity will need additional time to implement the designated objectives such as twinning and learning exchange, and the Inter-project Collaboration Opportunity (ICO) mechanism. In most of the respective initiatives, time needed to organise exchange of experiences was much longer than expected. Some training activities, such as Data and Information Management, were delayed because of the objective reasons (consultant’s illness). The project would also need to close with an adequate degree of sustainability achieved, and the activities in this regard will be carried out in 2019. They will culminate in the LME21 meeting, which is being preceded by an intensive consultation process among current and eventual future stakeholders interested in supporting the LME community, financially and in-kind. The LME:LEARN has been a platform to coordinate interagency activities in Regional Ocean Governance. This will be another important line of activity in the extension period resulting in an enhanced role LMEs will play in it. The activities will include in the frequent consultation with the regional ocean governance partners and a creation of the respective platform. Also, the PCU will prepare the next Annual Consultation Meeting of the LMEs (LME21). All the additional activities will result in a greater impact of the project and its results will benefit the LME community for the period after the project will be terminated. In addition, the Mid Term Review recommended that LME:LEARN should consider applying for an extension to coincide with the closure of IW:LEARN. It would allow for sufficient time for the project to finalize all its outputs and give projects the opportunity to integrate the knowledge and better achieve outcomes. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Project was extended by one year, as described above. The extension is fully justifiable. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The overall health and performance of the GEF LME:LEARN project continues to be strong. The project has delivered all regional network meetings, all regional training workshops, most of the twinnings and Inter project Collaboration Opportunity initiatives. Partnership meetings have been regularly held on an annual basis, and a special meeting on regional ocean governance was held. Website enhancements, DIM training, seven thematic technical toolkits, LME marine hub aimed at general public, and training modules developed have significantly contributed to the project's knowledge sharing objective.    Most of the performance targets have been met. My assessment is that the project is well on the course to reaching all planned targets by the end of its implementation in March 2020. The project’s workplan for the period has been mostly implemented.    With regard to risks, no new risks have been identified in the project implementation. None of the existing risks, as identified in the ProDoc, are identified as critical. That being said, my comments on these risks are:    1. A key risk to this project is that key partner organizations decide not to engage in the project or to collaborate with each other due to competing agendas. Such conflicts could compromise the quality of the results achievable by the project. However, to date the partners have collaborated effectively to deliver content-rich events (such as Cape Town Partnership Building Meeting on Regional Ocean Governance, and LME Annual Meetings) and products (such as the Governance Toolkit). There are increased transaction costs with managing the larger partnership but so far the PCU is able to handle it.    2. The challenges of coordinating a large number of different partner organizations, which jeopardizes or results in slow progress on key outputs. So far, this has not proven to be an issue.    3. Failure of the new IW:LEARN project and other partners to produce key deliverables for the ground- and surface water CoPs that would also benefit the LME/ICM/MPA-Governance project.  So far, this has not proven to be an issue.    4. GEF LME/ICM/MPA project staff and practitioners do not have time to engage in learning and experience sharing activities, particularly those that might expose weaknesses in project design and implementation. The respective projects have shown great interest and enthusiasm for the learning and knowledge/experience exchange products.    5. The benefits of the LME/ICM/MPA Governance project may not be realised until after the closure of the 4 year project, if the project is not self-sustaining at the end of the 4 years. This risk is not yet relevant. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project is global and supports number of GEFI W LME projects in creating a sustainable Network of GEF LME/ICM/MPA projects, now extended by inclusion of recent MSP and coastal climate change adaptation projects, was active in the reporting period.  During the reporting period the PCU has implemented several important activities including:  • Regarding Networking (Component 1), the project continued its efforts to strengthen the global governance of large marine ecosystems and their coasts. The second round of regional network meetings commenced in this reporting period alongside the launch of an introductory virtual training course on governance and MSP, followed by face-to-face training at the regional network meetings. The first took place in Dakar for the Africa region, with 30 participants from 14 countries, and the second in Panama City for the LAC region, with 53 participants. Both meetings also included private sector engagement sessions with 3-4 companies each in partnership with World Ocean Council, as well as science-to management sessions. The second Asia and Pacific Regional Network Meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, with more than 40 participants present. The private sector session was particularly successful, with the presence of several powerful regional economic actors. The meeting was complemented by two training sessions: Marine Spatial Planning, and Governance.  • The project conducted its first two Inter-Project Collaboration Opportunities, supporting CERMES and Caribbean States on Governance performance, CLME+ and PEMSEA on business community engagement. Four more inter-project collaboration opportunities (ICO) grants have been awarded to enhance collaboration between LME, ICM, MSP and MPA projects in the regions with catalytic outcomes such as MSP communities of practice, policy briefs, and applied governance modalities. Between 18-22 February 2019, representatives from the Barcelona Convention visited the Benguela Current Convention to share best practice on ICM and MSP in the Mediterranean Region. The second exchange between these partners will take place 7-11 October 2019 in Split, Croatia at the PAP/RAC Centre.  • The 20th Annual Large Marine Ecosystem Consultation took place in Marrakech with around 100 participants attending. In addition to being the global forum for GEF-funded and other marine and coastal practitioners, leaders and institutions, Regional Seas organisations and Fisheries Bodies, the meeting gave further impetus to the Cape Town process on regional Ocean governance. Finally, the participants attended the training sessions on MSP and marine toolkits. The preparations for the LME21 Annual Consultative Meeting, to be held in Cartagena (Colombia) on 18-20 September 2019, are well under way.  • With regard to Knowledge Sharing (Component 2) the project finalized the layout/design of 6 of the 7 guidance toolkits (Environmental Economics, Governance, Marine Spatial Planning, Stakeholder Engagement, LME Strategic Approach, LME Scorecard). All tookits are available in PDF and online formats and a dedicated part of the website was established. The project developed a guidance brochure to disseminate and market the toolkits. Toolkits were disseminated online, while Governance and MSP toolkits served as the background documents for training courses, which were organised in Hanoi, Vietnam in conjunction with the Regional Network Meeting.  • In terms of data and information management, progress was made in terms of a LME spatial metadata catalogue as well as a proposed data and information management plan for the LME portfolio. The Data and Information (DIM) Guidelines and action Plan, together with the Data Catalogue and a List of LME Indicators, were finalized and discussed and approved at the DIM Working Group Meeting in Paris on 2-4 July 2019.  • The project’s web site has been permanently updated.  • In terms of Capacity Building (Component 3), as previously mentioned the project put together a virtual “101” training course on governance and marine spatial planning, followed by a “202” level course delivered face-to-face at two training events in Dakar and Panama (as previously described above). Partner CI developed standardized materials for projects for twinning and learning exchanges. The PCU finalized a training strategy. GEF LME:LEARN has completed its training commitments, delivering a total of nine regional trainings on Ocean Governance, Marine Spatial Planning and Economic Valuation. This activity has benefited 161 participants from 43 countries. As of May 2019, the online course content and material developed for Ocean Governance and Marine Spatial Planning is open to all interested persons and accessible via the website.  • Six twinnings have been completed between LME, MPA, MSP and ICM projects, which have enhanced the exchange of experience, sharing of lessons and best practices. The final twinning on CoastSnap took place 28-31 January 2019 in Suva and was attended by 8 Pacific Ridge to Reef projects.  • In terms of Global Dialogue support, the Marine Commodities project received travel assistance to attend the FishCrimes Symposium. The project participated in two global dialogue events, namely the GEF Assembly, organizing a side event on regional ocean governance. A similar event was organized at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi with over 200 people in attendance. Finally, the project supported four LME projects (South China Sea, Indonesian Seas, Bay of Bengal and Yellow Sea) to the East Asian Seas Congress where it supported two events in the course of the Congress to showcase project results and build partnerships. A side event on LME has been organised during the IOC Assembly in July 2019, and preparatory work carried out for the Session on Ecosystem Based Approach in Regional Ocean Governance to be held during the Marine Regions Forum in Berlin in October 2019.  • In terms of Communications and Outreach (Component 4), partner IUCN executed numerous enhancements to the overall design and layout of the Large Marine Ecosystem Hub. They added global data layers for LME boundaries (including layers highlighting active LME’s and those with featured content on the Hub), LME Ocean Health Index, National EEZ Boundaries, Protected Areas, Marine Protected Areas, FAO Fishing Areas, Marine World Heritage Sites, Continental Shelf, Coral Reefs, Mangroves, Seagrass, Seamounts, Ocean Pollution and Commercial Activity/Impact. They also added direct feeds for project news.  No critical risks were identified during the reporting period.  Project is on track with slights delays, the project team has requested a 1 year extension to align the LME:Learn project with the IW:Learn project, that was fully supported by the project SC and approved by the UNDP-GEF executive coordinator.    IP  The project has a very effective PCU, led by a very successful and knowledgeable PM, supported by a deputy and a CTA. To date the project has 83,12% delivery rate and is well aligned with the approved project document.  In terms of project management, the project completed various reporting requirements for UNDP and UNESCO. The fourth joint project steering committee meeting was held successfully in Geneva, May 2019. The project also concluded its mid-term evaluation process and the associated mid-term management response. A condensed project steering committee meeting took place at IWC9 in Marrakech to discuss this in November 2018.    The project is rated Satisfactory for its implementation progress. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: No |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: Yes |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN0:** no noticeable contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| not applicable |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| Although the UNDP-GEF LME:LEARN does not have a specific gender equality and empowerment of women component or activity, the fact that it is a project implemented jointly with the IW:LEARN, allows it to appropriate some of the results of the latter's relevant gender activity. It is implemented in partnership between IW:LEARN and UNESCO-WWAP and WWF. It addresses some of these issues through activities that support gender mainstreaming. The activity introduces systematic consideration of gender equity, women empowerment, and social inclusion in GEF’s international waters portfolio approach for the improved management of transboundary waters and for more in general integrated water resources management initiatives. This is accelerating the global recognition of this fundamental aspect of water resources management, and will improve project performance, scale of social impact and the likelihood of sustainability. The overall aim is to provide GEF IW projects, including the LME and other associated projects, with the elements and tools for training project staff and client country experts on water and gender issues and how to incorporate gender considerations into water policies, in different project contexts. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| The GEF Independent Evaluation Office has assessed the GEF’s activities in support of gender mainstreaming in 2013. It stated that, “Gender is a highly important dimension in the GEF theory of change, as it is one of the main avenues by which to achieve behavioural change that will lead to broader adoption of sustainable solutions to global environmental problems.” The lack of sex-disaggregated data is a major obstacle to the production of scientific evidence on gender inequalities related to water and to the formulation of evidence-based policies. Investing in engendering water contributes to strengthening social inclusion, eradicating poverty and advancing environmental sustainability. This is no different for the GEF LME:LEARN project who strives to improve gender balance in its activities to the extent possible, thus empowering its stakeholders in projects, regional/basin organizations, agencies and participating countries. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| None identified |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| None identified |

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 4481 ESSP Checklist LMELearn-vm 21 Nov 2014.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4481/213330/1661645/1661926/PIMS%204481%20ESSP%20Checklist%20LMELearn-vm%2021%20Nov%202014.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| Not Applicable |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| GEF LME:LEARN is a service-oriented project, providing an array of partnership-building, training, information management and programmatic support to the GEF LME/MPA/ICM/MSP and coastal climate change adaptation projects. By supporting each of these projects it is supporting each of those projects' management units and their broad stakeholder base by extension. By improving the management of the respective projects and helping them to realize their outcomes, the LME:LEARN is improving livelihoods of people in benefiting from those shared marine systems. The project has personally touched large number of stakeholders with its various learning activities. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| www.marine.iwlearn.net  www.facebook.com/iwlearn  www.twitter.com/iwlearn  www.youtube.com/gefiwlearn |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4481 LME LEARN CEO Endorsement Request\_resubmission\_15 May 2015.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4481/213330/1661658/1661939/PIMS%204481%20LME%20LEARN%20CEO%20Endorsement%20Request_resubmission_15%20May%202015.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| being the global in scope, the projects has greatly improved interconnectedness within the LME Community of Practice, largely thanks to annual LME meetings as well as ICO, twinning and networking activities. private sector representatives have been incorporated in proceedings of regional meetings and have stimulated great interest form the respective regional communities. Other partners, notably the international organisations have been actively involved in the implementation of the project. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.