

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Vietnam's Wetland Protected Areas**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4537 |
| GEF ID | 4760 |
| Title | Conservation of Critical Wetland Protected Areas and Linked Landscapes |
| Country(ies) | Viet Nam, Viet Nam |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| Vietnam has established an extensive national system of protected areas to conserve its biodiversity assets. This project will strengthen the national PA system by addressing specific bio-geographic gaps in wetlands coverage and will overcome deficiencies in wetlands PA management. It will strengthen the PA system by tailoring policy and regulatory frameworks for the specific characteristics of wetlands and by putting in place a sub-system administration for wetland PAs. A diverse array of wetland types comprise 30% of its national territory: at least 39 of 42 defined by the Ramsar Convention are found here. These are extraordinarily biodiversity rich ecosystems also provide essential services for local livelihoods and for national development. This project has been designed to engineer a paradigm shift to manage wetland PA sites and activities in the immediate landscapes to address both direct threats to biodiversity at the wetland sites, and those emanating from the landscape. This is because, wetland PAs, compared to other terrestrial PAs, are more likely to be impacted from activities outside their borders (such as through water abstraction and pollution), which can undermine ecosystem functions vital to the PAs. It will also establish two new protected areas covering globally important wetland sites and ensure their management is effectively embedded into sustainable management of linked landscapes. In doing so the project is consistent with Biodiversity Focal Area Objective 1 ÔÇ£Improve Sustainability of PA SystemsÔÇØ and Outcome 1.1: ÔÇ£Improved management effectiveness of (existing and) new protected areasÔÇØ. The project will also institute mechanisms for sustainable financing of these protected areas, thereby directly contributing to Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management and Output 3: Sustainable financing plans. The projectÔÇÖs work on Component 2 also fits BD2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors as the project is supporting the integration of biodiversity considerations into land use management in critical landscapes linked to wetland protected areas through Component 2ÔÇô which fits with BD Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation and Output 2: National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation.  The Government of Viet Nam has identified conservation of wetlands a priority in its National Portfolio Formulation Exercise for the use of GEF5 STAR resources. Wetland conservation has also been noted as a priority due to the immeasurable social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits to the country ÔÇô including water storage and replenishment, and for the sustenance of economically important inland fisheries. The importance of wetlands is recognised in the Biodiversity Law of 2009 that has explicitly called for the creation of wetland protected areas, and their management through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment .The project is clearly aligned with this Law and will pioneer the application of the associated Decree No. 65/2010/ND-CP on Guiding Implementation of the Biodiversity Law and Decree No. 109/2003/ND-CP on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Wetland Areas. The Viet Nam NBSAP of 1994 has identified the need for wetland conservation and Tam Giang Hai as a priority wetland area for conservation. An additional new protected area sites are indicative and will be confirmed during full project preparation based on global importance. Additionally, the project is also aligned with priorities identified in Viet NamÔÇÖs ÔÇ£National Action Plan on Biodiversity by 2010 and orientations towards 2020ÔÇØ ÔÇô specifically ÔÇ£Increase the total area of wetlands and marine reserves of national and international importanceÔÇØ and ÔÇ£Develop, adopt and implement master plans on wetland and conservation plans for each wetland PAÔÇØ. The project will also contribute significantly to the implementation of the Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Wetlands that is part of the National Strategy for Management of PAs System. This Action Plan calls for the development and updating of policy and legal framework and the conservation of wetlands of international importance. An evaluation of this planÔÇÖs implementation recommended the development of specific guidelines for local conservation planning and sustainable development of wetland areas. The project will contribute to this by focusing on tailoring the PA system framework for the specific challenges of wetlands management and by demonstrating wetlands PA operations that combine site specific and landscapes management to effectively mitigate threats to wetland biodiversity. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Ms. Lisa Farroway (lisa.farroway@undp.org) |
| Programme Associate | Ms. Pakamon Pinprayoon (pakamon.pinprayoon@undp.org) |
| Project Manager | Ms. Thi Thuy Ngoc Kim (kimthuyngoc@gmail.com) |
| CO Focal Point | Ms. Binh Bui (bui.hoa.binh@undp.org)  Mr. Tung Dao (dao.khanh.tung@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Mr. Thuan Nguyen (ndthuan@monre.gov.vn) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. The Chinh Nguyen (ntchinh@isponre.gov.vn) |
| Other Partners | Ms. Thi Thanh Nhan Hoang (thanhnhan.bca@gmail.com) |

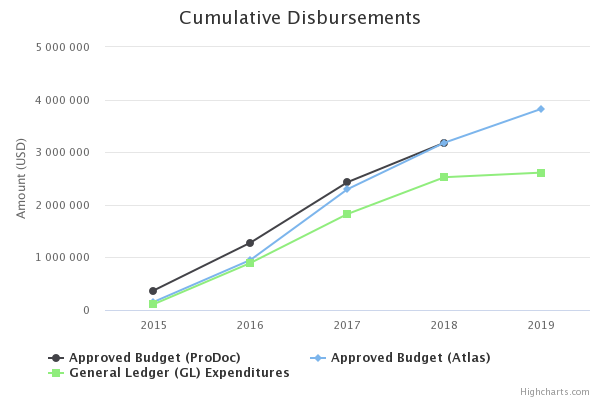
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Moderate |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To establish new wetland protected areas and to create capacities for their effective management to mitigate existing and emerging threats from connected landscapes** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Coverage of natural wetlands within the Wetlands Conservation Area-subsystem | Flooded grasslands and savannas - 0 ha  Mangrove – 0 ha  Estuaries – 0 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | Flooded grasslands and savannas – 14,474 ha ha  Mangrove – 3,024 ha ha  Estuaries – 17,816 ha | The process of establishing 2 WCAs in Thua Thien Hue and Thai Binh is ongoing. In 2017 and Quarter I/2018, the Project has conducted consultative, thematic meetings with provincial/district authorities, LWWG and related stakeholders (approximately 16% are women, mostly from Women Union, Youth Union..) to consult on multiple issues regarding finalization of profile, operational plan, monitoring networks for monitoring 2 WCAs biodiversity to be established for 2 WCAs.  For TTH province, the profile for establishing the TGCH WCA has been sent to different line Departments at TTH provinces /districts for comments/inputs. In addition, the profile has been sent to MONRE to get feedback for finalization.  For TB province, in the profile for TT WCA establishment, a total area of 13,100 ha has been proposed including 1,609 ha of mangroves, 6.280ha of estuaries, 4,700ha of tidal flats, and the rest 511ha of agriculture ponds and other land  The profile has been submitted to Thai Binh People’s Committee (PC) by Thai Binh DONRE via Report No. 16/BC-STNMT dated 19 Jan 2018 for consideration and further direction on the establishment of TT WCA. | Update end of project target of natural wetlands within the WCA subsystem as follows:    Flooded grasslands and savannas – 22.30 ha  Mangrove – 1,159.30 ha  Estuaries – 3,022.30 ha  Tidal flats (in Thai Thuy)- 2,392.00 ha  Sea grass (in TG-CH) - 625.80 ha    As the survey results of the baseline studies conducted in 2016, coverage of natural wetlands in Thai Thuy and Tam Giang – Cau Hai includes: Mangrove: 1,674.7 ha; Flooded grassland: 803 ha; Estuaries: 8,300 ha.    Particular in Thai Thuy, area of mangrove is 1,609 ha; area of estuaries is 6,280 ha; area of tidal flats is 4,700 ha (area of flooded grasslands in TT is almost negligible). In Thai Binh, the total area of the tentative TT WPA has been ratified by the provincial authority at 6,560 hectares. This includes 1,131 hectares of mangroves, 2,392 hectares of tidal flats, 2,834 hectares of estuaries and 203 hectares of other rest types. The area of the buffer zone of is 6,540 ha. Since the important role of tidal flats area in maintaining the TT WCA ecosystem. It is suggested that the area of tidal flats should be one of the project indicators.  In TG-CH, the baseline survey results that area of mangrove is 65.7 ha; area of estuaries is 2,020 ha; area of tidal flats is 579.6 ha; area of flooded grassland is 803 ha; area of sea grass beds is 2,037 ha.  In TTH province, in the 1st phase, area of proposed TG-CH WCA is 2.033,8 ha, the area of the buffer zone of the TG-CH WCA is 17,966.20 ha. TG-CH WCA includes flooded grasslands and savannas – 22.3 ha, mangrove – 28.3 ha, estuaries 188.3 ha and others rest types – 1,777.6 ha (Freshwater plants: 437.6 ha, Rice crop: 421 ha, Lagoon: 142.6 ha, Aquacultural ponds: 150.6 ha, Sea grass: 625.8 ha). Since the important role of sea grasses area in maintaining the TG-CH WCA ecosystem, It is suggested that the area of sea grasses should be one of the project indicators.  .  In close collaboration with Institute of Marine Environment and Natural resources (IMER), ISPONRE has closely worked with DONRE TTH to review and finalize the profile for establishing TGCH WCAs based on comments and recommendations of multiple stakeholders including MONRE, VEA, related communes, related Departments, PPC in TTH province. Provincial appraisal committee of TGCH WCA profile has been established under Decision no. 2672/QD-UBND on November 13, 2018 and committee appraisal meeting was conducted in December 2018 to discuss and assess draft profile for establishing TGCH WCA. The project is now in the process of finalizing the profile and prepare for the submission of TGCH profile for approval in Quarter III, 2019. Besides that, in cooperation with DONRE TTH, the project has implemented other activities supporting to the TG-CH WCA establishment and operation including TG-CH WCA operational plan, developing biodiversity monitoring program of TG-CH WCA. |
| Ecosystem Health Index (EHI) monitoring systems for monitoring wetland health developed and in place for WCA sub-system with a focus to reduce threats | Currently no use | *(not set or not applicable)* | Development of EHI and adoption at the sub-system WCA level | Monitoring indicators were selected to be used after WCA establishment in monitoring management responses to reduce threat to wetland biodiversity | The project has finalized the Biodiversity Monitoring Program (BMP) for both TT and TGCH WCA. BMP is developed that is consistent with the typical characteristics of TG-CH WCA, ensuring the feasibility of its implementation to support the management of wetland biodiversity of TG-CH WCA once established.    A set of indicators for biodiversity monitoring of TGCH WCA has been proposed including:  - Pressure: Environmental quality, Climate change, Invasive creatures, Excessive and illegal exploitation pressure, Pressure to use water resources in the WCA area;  - State: Trend in changing of wetlands types, Variation of relevant species,The diversity of creatures,  - Benefit: Output of exploitation and aquaculture, Tourism service, wetlands-based livelihoods,  - Response: Number and validity of policies, Measures for conservation and sustainable development. Based on the developed BMP, the project has implemented to pilot implementation of the BMP in the TG-CH WCA. The result from the pilot monitoring will be used for tracking changes in the status of biodiversity in the TG-CH WCA, and support the decision making on appropriate management solutions by designated authorities responsible for the area.    The biodiversity monitoring program (BMP) for TT wetland has also been developed and finalized in 2018. The program has been finalized based on the pilot results of monitoring indicators in two seasons (rainy and dry seasons) in the tentative TT protected areas. Basically, the BMP is suitable to specific characteristics of TT WCA and ensures the feasible implementation. |
| Hectares of landscape where impacts on wetland biodiversity are avoided, mitigated or offset | No planning provisions for the protection of wetland biodiversity outside formal PAs | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 310,300 hectares covered by provincial development plans/provincial sector development plans where standards and guidelines supporting wetland values integrate effectively preventing impact on wetland biodiversity | For TTH province, the project has finalized study on entry points for mainstreaming wetland conservation into provincial development plan. The study has identified and reviewed potential and suitable entry points for mainstreaming wetland conservation into provincial and/or district development plans and sectoral plans, and presented specific opportunities for mainstreaming in development plans selected for revision in TTH Province during the period of 2017-2020 such as: (i) Adjusted provincial land use planning of TTH Province to 2020; (ii) Biodiversity conservation planning in TTH Province to 2020, vision to 2030; (iii) Plan on Developing and conducting integrated coastal zones management in TTH Province in the period of 2016-2020; (iv) Implementation plan of development of Tam Giang – Cau Hai lagoon in the period of 2017-2020; (v) Tourism development planning of TTH Province, etc.  Based on proposed entry points, the Project has initiated the following assignment to support Department of Investment and Planning (DPI), TTH province to identify the function zones and propose relevant effective instruments for mainstreaming economic development and conservation as an input to formulate the “Master plan for development of Tam Giang - Cau Hai lagoon in TTH province to 2020, vision to 2030” (“Master Plan”).  For TB province, the project is in finalization process of identifying entry points for improved wetland conservation in socio-economic development and guidelines for mainstreaming wetland into sectoral/provincial plans.  With the project support, the total area of 25,600ha of wetlands (including 12,500 ha of Tien Hai NR and 13,100ha of Thai Thuy proposed WCA) has been added to the amended provincial land use planning of Thai Binh to be the land for protected areas of nature and biodiversity (Government Resolution 34/NQ-CP dated 07 May 2018 on amendment of Land Use planning to 2020 and land use plan of the last period (2016-2020) of Thai Binh province);  The project also provides inputs to the Cooperation Regulation on the management, exploitation and use of tidal mudflat in Thai Binh province with regard to sustainable use of wetlands....  Also a plan is in the process for submitting PC for promulgation to provide targeted support to the implementation of the management regulation for the Red River Delta Biosphere Reserve in Thai Thuy District, in which TT WCA is located. Total area of the RRDBR is 105,557ha and the area to be covered in the plan in Thai Binh is 48,149ha including the 7,067ha of Tien Hai NR. | Total area covered by provincial development plans/provincial sector development plans (both in TTH and TB) is 372,179 ha, in which:  Thua Thien Hue province:  283,000 ha – Huong river basin (TTH strategy on water resource development and integrated management of river basin in TTH province to 2020 (including 20,000 ha of TG-CH lagoon)  63,579 ha - natural reserve and biodiversity conservation area including 22,031 ha – Bach Ma National Park and 41,548 ha – Phong Dien Nature Reserve Conservation (Resolution No.72/NQ-CP dated June 6th 2018 on adjustment of land use planning till 2020 and land use plan (2016-2020) of Thua Thien Hue province)  Thai Binh province:  25.600 ha - natural reserve and biodiversity conservation area (Resolution No.34/NQ-CP dated May 7th 2018 on adjustment of land use planning till 2020 and land use plan (2016-2020) of Thai Binh province). The area is also falls in the area of the Red River Delta Biosphere Reserve (RRDBR) - 105,557 ha. The area of proposed Thai Thuy WCA is located within the RRDBR’s buffer zone, with total area of 36,849 ha, the transition zone covers 54,541 ha. The project has worked with RRDBR Management Board to ensure long-term conservation needs of Thai Thuy WCA clearly reflected in RRDBR management framework.    In cooperation with DONRE TTH, the project has supported TTH agencies to integrate wetland management and sustainable use into provincial development planning/plans, in particular supporting to development of TG-CH planning to 2030.    The project has supported TTH agencies to integrate wetland conservation into TTH provincial land use planning in the period of 2016 to 2020, the land use plans of five districts around TG-CH lagoon and development of Multi-sector Regulation for integrated water management of Huong river basin.      In Thai Binh, the provincial social-economic development plan is being developed for the next planning period (from 2020-2025), which is planned to submit for approval by the end of 2020. Therefore, relevant sector is working on its own plan and the project is working closely with DONRE and DARD in mainstreaming wetland conservation and management in their planning process.  In addition, Thai Binh is working on the development of the master plan of provincial economic zone. The project is also working closely with DONRE and the provincial working group to ensure mainstreaming wetland conservation to this planning. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **New wetland PAs and relevant systemic capacities for their effective management established** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Changes to major wetlands-related policies, laws & plans | A number of wetlands inventories and classification systems exist, which need to be consolidated, rationalised and updated.  Decree 109 on the Conservation & Sustainable Development of Wetlands (2003) needs better alignment with Biodiversity Law (2008)  The first Wetlands Action Plan period has come to an end in 2010. | *(not set or not applicable)* | A revised wetlands inventory and database using a unified classification system  A new decree (& associated legal guidance) to replace Decree 109 that supports an ecosystem-based approach to wetlands management & emphasises importance of wetlands-related ecosystem services  A 5-year Wetlands Action Plan towards 2020. | The revised wetland inventory using a unified classification system has been completed by the end of 2016. The project is currently working in the final report for publication.  The draft decree has been finalized following comments from technical meetings and two stakeholder consultations in the South (Can Tho City) and the Central (Nha Trang City). The project has finalized the dossier for the development of a new Decree replacing Decree 109/2003/ND-CP in accordance with the Law on the Promulgation of Legal Documents in 2015 and submitted to the Government a proposal for developing the new Decree on management and sustainable use of wetlands in Report No. 116/TTr-BTNMT dated 22 December 2017.  On May 04, 2018 the Government has the Official Letter No. 4050/VPCP-BNN to officially agree on the development of the new Decree and direct MONRE to work with relevant ministries to submit the Decree for issuance by quarter IV/2018.  MONRE has set up the Composing Panel and Edition Team of the new Decree at Decision 1022/QĐ-BTNMT dated 28 Mar 2018. The Edition Team has met early June, 2018 to discuss on the new Decree contents. Currently, BCA has submitted the Draft Decree to VEA/MONRE Leaders for publishing the draft Decree on Government website to get inputs from the public and also other ministries and sectors.  National action plan on wetland: The project is now in the process of developing the national wetlands action plan. So far, the draft action plan has been completed and being revised upon comments and inputs from consultancy meetings. The plan shall be submitted to MONRE for approval and promulgation by the end of 2018.  The project has initiated the development of a Circular guiding the implementation of the new proposed Decree on wetlands management and sustainable use. So far, we have organized meetings to discuss on the key contents of the Circular and shall sign the consultant contract to help develop the Circular. | MONRE has submitted the draft Decree on wetland conservation and sustainable use to the Government for promulgation at the document number 91/TTr-BTNMT dated 30 November 2018. Decree on Wetland Conservation management has been adopted at Decree No.66/2019/ND-CP dated July 29th 2019 on sustainable conservation and use of wetlands  The wetland national action plan and draft circular guiding the new Decree have been completed by the consultant and handed over to BCA for processing the official submission for approval. BCA shall coordinate this process and submit to the competent authority for issuance. |
| Capacity of MONRE to implement wetlands-related policies, legislation, strategies and programmes as measured by the Capacity Development Scorecard | 0.21 | *(not set or not applicable)* | > 45% | No updated Capacity Development Scores for MONRE were prepared during the reporting year.  The project has completed capacity and training needs assessment (CTNA) for the national level. Training materials are in finalization process to be prepared for pilot training in Quarter II/2018. To maximize integration and common understanding for decision making along vertical command lines, training materials as feasible are being harmonized between national and provincial levels.  At national level, upon the completion of training materials, one training course has been organized to the government officers at central level. Feedbacks from trainees have been collected and shall be a basis for adjusting the training design, contents, and materials for improvement to the next training tentatively conducted in quarter 4/2018. Thereafter, training materials shall be finalized for printing and distribution to all wetland-related government officers at central level in support of their daily work and capacity building. | No updated Capacity Development Scores for MONRE were prepared during the reporting year.    At national level, the project has completed two training courses on wetland management and conservation for wetland-related central-level government officers under MONRE, MARD in 2018. The trainees also include lecturers from universities or institutions that include wetland/biodiversity training curriculum. They are the ones who train students that shall become wetland or natural resource related workers. Training document has been finalized and ready for printing to distribute to a wider targeted groups.  Ramsar handbooks are also translated into Vietnamese for editing and printing so that they shall be distributed together with the training document to government officers working in this field. |
| Extent (ha) of the two areas formally proclaimed and managed as the Tam-Giang Cau Hai WCA and Thai Thay WCA | 0 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | 21, 620 ha as the TGCH WCA  13,696 as the TT WCA | The process of establishing 2 WCAs in Thua Thien Hue and Thai Binh is ongoing. In 2017 and Quarter I/2018, the Project has conducted consultative, thematic meetings with provincial/district authorities, LWWG and related stakeholders to consult on multiple issues regarding finalization of profile, operational plan, monitoring networks for monitoring 2 WCAs biodiversity to be established for 2 WCAs.  For TTH province, the profile for establishing the TGCH WCA has been sent to MONRE to get feedback for finalization.  For TB province, after completing the Profile for TT WCA establishment, by the first quarter of 2018, the project worked with DONRE of Thai Binh to submit to the PC the Report No. 16 / BC-STNMT dated 19/01/2018 on the profile for establishment of Thai Thuy WCA, which was then followed up with the the Report No. 46/BC-STNMT dated 29 Mar 2018 and the Report No. 119/BC-STNMT dated 18 June, 2018 to urge for the direction from Thai Binh PC on the establishment of TT WCA and TT WCA management board  In parallel, MONRE has issued the Officer Letter 1540/BTNMT-TCMT dated March, 2018 guiding the piloting of procedures and process of appraising the profile for establishment of provincial WCA. MONRE has also issued the Official Letter 2175/BTNMT-TCMT dated April 27, 2018 and 2755/BTNMT-TCMT dated May 29, 2018 to urge Thai Binh PC on the establishment of TT WCA.  Thai Binh is working on the detailed zoning for the provincial economic zone in coastal areas (upon the Prime Minister Decision 36/2017/QD-TTg dated 29 July 2017 on the establishment of Thai Binh economic zone), therefore, the PC delay the establishment for TT WCA until the issuance of detailed zoning of the economic zone to avoid any overlaps in the zonings of two areas. Recently, DONRE of Thai Binh has prepared the Official Letter as directed by the PC of Thai Binh in response to MONRE Letter 1540/BTNMT-TCMT, which shall direct DONRE to work with the management board of provincial economic and industrial zones to clarify any overlaps in the areas of proposed TT WCA and the economic zone.  One positive point during this time, however, is that the area for planned protected area has been specified in the Government Resolution 34/NQ-CP on amendment of land use planning to 2020 and land use plan for the last period (2016-2020) of Thai Binh province, with 25,600ha of both Tien Hai NR (12,500ha) and Thai Thuy WCA (13,100ha) as recommended in the profile for TT WCA establishment. The area of TT WCA is 13,100ha instead of 13,696ha followed the Decision 45/QD-TTg dated 08 Jan 2014 on master plan of nation-wide biodiveristy conservation by 2020, with a vision to 2030, in which TT is planned to be a NR of 13,100ha. | Updated end of project as follows:    - 20,000 ha as the TGCH WCA (including 2033,8 ha formally proclaimed and 17,966.20 of the linked landscape)    - 13,100 as the TT WCA (including 6,560ha formally proclaimed and 6,540ha of the linked landscape)    Tam Giang – Cau Hai WCA: Decision 45/QD-TTg dated January 8th 2014 of Prime Minister on approval of National Biodiversity planning till 2020, vision to 2030, TGCH WCA has ratified total area of TGCH WCA at 20,000 ha. TGCH WCA is expected to be established and operated in 2 phases: (i) phase 1 from 2019 to 2022 and (ii) phase 2 from 2023 to 2025. In the 1st phase, area of TGCH WCA is 2033,8 ha, the area of the managed buffer zone of the TG-CH WCA is 17,966.20 ha. In the 2nd phase, area of TGCH WCA is 3.507,13 ha, area of managed buffer zone is 16,492.87 ha.      The project has also closely worked with DONRE TTH and IMER to finalize the profile for establishing TGCH WCA after receiving comments and recommendations from relevant agencies including VEA, MONRE, related communes, Departments. Also, provincial appraisal committee has been established and 01 meeting of the committee has been organized in December 2018. Comments and recommendations have been incorporated in the proposals for submission to TTH PPC for approval.  Thai Thuy wetland protected area: By April 12, 2019 the provincial Standing Committee has ratified the establishment of TT WPA. The area of TT WCA is identified at 6,560 ha. The rest area of 6,540 ha as to the initial planned 13,100 ha is planned as linked landscapes.  Specifically, upon MONRE urge on the TT WPA establishment, Thai Binh PC had an official answer at the document no 2475/UBND-NNTNMT dated 12 July 2018, in which it’s stated that the appraisal of TT WPA establishment profile shall be conducted after the approval of master plan on Thai Binh economic zone. UNDP and MONRE leaders urged on a meeting with Thai Binh authority to accelerate the establishment of TT WPA on 7 November, 2018. At the meeting, Leaders of Thai Binh PC, MONRE and UNDP had agreed that there would be no overlap between the land for TT WPA and Thai Binh economic zone. Thai BInh working group (established under Decision 3053/QD-UBND) and UNDP consultant have worked together to identify options for demarcating the boundaries of TT WPA and TB economic zone as well as assess the impact from the economic zone setup to the biodiversity of TT wetlands. By January, 2019, the boundary of TT WPA had been identified and agreed among Thai Binh authority with a total area of 6,560ha. The appraisal board for TT WPA establishment project was established under Decision 115/QD-UBND dated 10 Jan 2019. From January to May, TB DONRE has worked with relevant agencies on the management arrangements of the TT WCA to report to the provincial Standing Comittee of Thai Binh. By April 12, the provincial Standing Comittee of Thai Binh has agreed with the establishment of TT WPA. The appraisal board for TT WPA establishment project has met on 22 May 2019 and 19/19 members ratify the project under the condition of further adjustments to their comments. Thai Binh DONRE is waiting for feedback from MONRE and MARD on the the management arrangements of the TT WPA and the TT WPA establishment project. After receiving the feedbacks from MONRE and MARD, DONRE shall finalize the TT WPA project and submit to the Thai Binh PC for approval and issuing the decision on TT WPA establishment.  Update on the size of 2 WCAs is based on thorough review of research outputs and consultation process with relevant stakeholders including relevant agencies, authorities and community around the WCA, taking into account of harmonization between economic development and environmental protection. |
| Income from various sources for the management of the WCA PA Subsystem | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Income from various sources covers at least the recurrent costs of TGCH WCA and TT WCA as defined by the business plans developed for each | Two studies on identifying threats/pressures to two proposed WCAs and income generation options have been completed which clearly identify the main pressures and propose specific income options to overcome pressures at two sites.  For TTH province, the project is coordinating with Provincial Extension Center of Thua Thien Hue Province, DONRE TTH to implement the livelihood interventions for the communes around TG-CH lagoon. Specific models for income generation for the community around the core zones has been prioritized including  (1) The model applied in the northern part of the lagoon: The interspersed cage culture of Grass Carp – Tilapia in Quang Thai commune (Quang Dien district) and Dien Hoa commune (Phong Dien district) ;  (2) The model applied in the central part of the lagoon: Rabbitfish (Siganus) – Shrimp - Seaweed culture in Phu Thuan, Vinh Phu communes (Phu Vang district) and Vinh Giang, Loc Binh communes (Phu Loc district);  (3) Replicated model of Shrimp - Crab - Mugilidae culture in Ru Cha mangrove of Huong Phong commune, Huong Tra district, to support ecotourism in the area.  For TT WCA, the management plan for TT WCA management board has been drafted and being discussed with local agencies in Thai Binh for finalization in quarter 3, 2018. The plan will also discuss about the financing for the operation of the WCA and management board.  The project is recruiting the consultant firm to support Thai Thuy district in designing and implementing the pilot model of sustainable clam culture. This model shall help not just to improve the livelihood of local community in the TT WCA area, but to mitigate negative impact from clam culture to the TT wetland. | In Thai Binh, a management plan including the business plan has been prepared to support the operation of TT WPA once its establishment is in place. A number of activities that can generate income for the management of TT WPA have been identified in the management plan. Estimation of budget for recurrent costs of TT WPA has been identified in the plan. The project also has support for the initial stage of TT WPA operation including budget for boundary demarcating, recurrent cost for the first year, purchasing necessary equipment for administration and patrol jobs.  In addition, according to the document number 656-TB/TU dated 12 April 2019 informing the conclusion of the provincial Standing Committee regarding the establishment of TT WPA, the finance for conducting regular tasks and paying staff salaries is secured by state budget source allocated for the province. This is one secured source of finance for the operation of the TT WCA in the initial stage of operation in addition to budget source from the project.    In Thua Thien Hue, the project has cooperated with DONRE TTH, Agricultural Extension Center TTH to implement sustainable livelihood solutions in Thua Thien Hue province. Specifically, 03 successful models have been implemented in 05 districts of Thua Thien Hue province which create livelihood for 16 households participating in the project. In which, there are 08 households participating in the polyculture model of mullets - shrimps - seaweed in Phu Thuan commune (02 households), Vinh Phu commune (02 households), Phu Vang district; Vinh Giang commune (02 households) and Loc Binh commune (02 households), Phu Loc district. There are 04 households that in the model of raising grass carp and tilapia in cages in Quang Thai commune (02 households), Quang Dien district and Dien Hoa commune (02 households), Phong Dien district. 4 households have involved in the polyculture of tiger shrimps - crabs – mullets in Ru Cha mangrove forest, Huong Phong commune, Huong Tra Township. The average profit per household is more than 25 million VND (Phu Loc: 26.26 million VND / household, Phu Vang: 23.81 million VND / household). Although economic efficiency only increased by 10-15% compared to the households which are not in the model, the model raised the awareness of protecting the environment of the people and contributing to the development of eco-friendly aquaculture. |
| METT scores in each of TGCH WCA and TT WCA | TGCH WCA: 0%  TT WCA: 0% | *(not set or not applicable)* | TGCH WCA: > 40%  TT WCA: > 40% | As none of the 2 WCAs envisioned to be established with support of the project has been gazetted, the METT scores for both WCAs have not yet been updated. | The METT scores for both WCAs have been updated. Specifically, METT score of TGCH WCA is 31, METT score of TT WCA is 26. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Integrity of wetland PAs are secured within the wider wetland connected landscapes** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Biodiversity conservation strengthened through monetary and non-monetary valuation of ecosystem services | No comprehensive (evidence-based) valuation of the ecosystem services exists | *(not set or not applicable)* | EIAs of any major development activity in Thua Thien-Hue and Thai Binh Provinces include sections referring to impacts on environmental services as a result of widely communicated assessment of the value of Tam Giang-Cau Hai and Thai Thuy wetlands’ ecosystem services | In-depth studies on assessment and valuation of ES in the proposed TH-CH WCA and TT WCA have been completed. The valuation has assessed the value of TG-CH and TT. Two scenarios on with WCA and without WCA were proposed and compared to prove the value of establishment of WCA versus without WCA. The valuation has used for demonstration for decision makers on the need of WCA establishment.  Following the receipt of comments, the two valuation studies have currently been finalized for publication and wide dissemination. | In-depth studies on assessment and valuation of ES in the proposed TH-CH WCA and TT WCA have been completed in 2017 The results of studies on assessment and valuation of ES was used to develop profile for 2 WCA in term of providing information of benefits of ES in 2 proposed WCA and the values from establishment of 2 WCA compared with business as usual  EIAs have been implemented in both Thai Binh and Thua Thien Hue for preparation of profile for establishing 2 WCAs. In Thai Binh, due to the development of industrial zone and economic zone in the region following the Prime Ministerial Decision 36/QĐ-TTg signed in 2017, there has been a separate activity to identify the potential impacts on wetland ecosystems and biodiversity from industrial zone development within and near the boundaries of the planned Thai Thuy Wetland Protected Area and to identify the solution for establishing the Thai Thuy Wetland Protected Area. |
| Threats reduced by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and the PA system within the sectoral and development planning frameworks, indicated by effective intersectoral coordination and plans incorporating BD conservation measures. | No provincial inter-sectoral coordination mechanism for BD conservation and PAs at Landscape Level    Provincial sectoral plans do not include adequate measures for BD conservation    District Development Plans do not currently include any reference to wetlands values of TGCH or TT | *(not set or not applicable)* | Two Local Wetlands Working Groups with good representation from key stakeholders and experts established and supporting WCA Management Boards & PPCs more generally in TTH Province and TB Province to strengthen application of key standards & regulations that support wetlands conservation and sustainable use  Four Provincial Sector Plans (Thai Binh Province: Agriculture and Aquaculture sectors; Thua Thien Hue Province: Agriculture and Fishing sectors) incorporate wetland biodiversity friendly standards for application in relation to activities under that sector  6 District Development Plans zone the different land use types within the WCAs and remaining areas within district boundaries. Zoning includes prescriptions for strict protection areas among others seagrass beds, mangrove and mudflat protection zones. | For TTH province, the project has supported to conducting meetings of LWWG in 2017 and Quarter I/2018 (13% of LWWG members are women, in most meetings 15% are women) to consult on issues regarding the profile, LWWG mechanism, output of ecosystem services valuation.  For TB province, the project is in finalization process of identifying entry points for improved wetland conservation in socio-economic development. A review on current sectoral plans/document at provincial and Thai Thuy district level have been conducted to identify gaps/issues related to wetland and also recommendations for wetland conservation mainstreaming points. Guidelines on roadmap for the province in mainstreaming wetland into provincial plans/document have also been provided.  Provincial Sector Plans:  - The amended provincial land use planning (Government Resolution 34/NQ-CP on amendment of land use planning to 2020 and land use plan for the last period (2016-2020) of Thai Binh province) has specified the total area of 25,600ha for protected areas of nature and biodiversity  - A plan is being finalized to submit for approval to support the implementation of the management regulation for the Red River Delta Biosphere Reserve in Thai Thuy District, in which TT WCA is located.  For TTH province, all districts and cities, including five districts around TG-CH lagoon, will adjust their land use master plans for the period of 2017-2020 and their annual land use plans, based on the adjusted provincial land use planning supposed to be approved by beginning of next year. The District LU Plans for 2017-2020 are supposed to be submitted to TTH PPC for approval by June 2018. These are opportunities to mainstream wetland conservation and sustainable use into the plans. The district-level land use planning process will identify different land use options and will serve as the framework for all subsequent sector planning in the province and districts. The project is now supporting the assignment to mainstream wetland conservation into land use plans at district level in TTH and also supporting the TTH DONRE to develop a Multi-sector Regulation for integrated management of Huong river basin to enhance collaboration of relevant sectors and local authorities for sustainable management of Huong river basin. | In TTH, the project continues supports to meetings of Local Wetland Working Group (LWWG) to collect inputs and comments for the profile, integrating wetland into provincial development planning and so on. Comments and recommendations from these meetings have been considered and incorporated in reports of consultant team of certain activity of the project. The LWWG in Thai Binh continues to work and closely support the establishment of TT WPA. They are also members of the working group set up by Thai Binh PC to deal with the harmonization between the TT WPA and Thai Binh economic zone.      Provincial Sector Plans:    - In collaboration with TTH province, the project has continued to support and enhance integrated wetland conservation mainstreaming into 5 land use plan at district level, as well as development of multi-sector Regulation for Huong River integrated management and adjustment of land use planning till 2020 and land use plan (2016-2020) of TTH province. Land use planning in TTH and 5 land use plans at district level has been approved as follows:  + Decision No.850/QD-UBND dated April 3rd 2019 on approval of adjustment of land use planning till 2020 of TTH province;  + Decision No.1233/QD-UBND dated May 20th 2019 on approval of adjustment of land use planning till 2020 of Quang Dien district, TTH province;  + Decision No.1386/QD-UBND dated June 8th 2019 on approval of adjustment of land use planning till 2020 of Phu Vang district, TTH province;  + Decision No.938/QD-UBND dated April 13th 2019 on approval of adjustment of land use planning till 2020 of Phu Loc district, TTH province;  + Decision No.847/QD-UBND dated April 3rd 2019 on approval of adjustment of land use planning till 2020 of Phong Dien district, TTH province;  + Decision No.1087/QD-UBND dated May 4th 2019 on approval of adjustment of land use planning till 2020 of Huong Tra commune, TTH province;  Besides that, the project has supported the Department of Investment and Planning (DPI), TTH province to identify the function zones and propose relevant effective instruments for mainstreaming economic development and conservation as an input to formulate the “Master plan for development of Tam Giang - Cau Hai lagoon in TTH province to 2020, vision to 2030”.    - In Thai Binh, apart from the provincial land use planning (Government Resolution 34/NQ-CP on amendment of land use planning to 2020 and land use plan for the last period (2016-2020) of Thai Binh province), the plan on the management of the Red River Delta Biosphere Reserve section in Thai Binh province, the project is working with local agencies to mainstream wetland conservation in the master planning of the provincial economic zone. This zone covers the majority of coastal areas of Thai Binh so the mainstreaming of wetland conservation and management in this planning play a key role in ensuring the sustainable use of wetland in the province.  Decision 1089/QD-TT dated 31 August 2018 approving the mission on making the master plan for Thai Binh economic zone to 2040, vision to 2050 requires the planning of functional zones must include mangroves and protected areas and clarifies SEA requirements. This is the foundation and also the obligation for mainstreaming wetland conservation in the master planning process of Thai BInh economic zone. |
| Level of water pollution levels around O Lau in TGCH & Thuy Trong in TT as a result of improved agricultural & aquacultural practices | Baselines to be established in Year 1[1] | *(not set or not applicable)* | Reduction in pollution level against the baseline levels. Targets to be agreed in Year 1 | The level of water pollution levels around O Lau in TGCH and Thuy Trong in TT has not been updated since the baseline survey in 2016.  Statistics on water quality in Thai Thuy has been updated after the pilot monitoring of biodiversity indicators in the dry season. We shall update the statistics in the rainy season in 2018 for comparison. Basically, water quality in Thai Thuy is still within the regulated standard of Vietnam. | Updated baseline as follows:  - Around O Lau in TG-CH: Fairly good condition, all measured parameters reached the allowed limit for the water surface quality, class A of Vietnam Standard (QCVN 08:2008/BTNMT on surface water quality)  - Around Thuy Truong in TT: satisfied with Vietnam Standards (QCVN 08:2008/BTNMT and QCVN10:2008 on Quality of coastal seawater) but there are signs of pollution and water quality degradation    The pilot monitoring was conducted and show that the water quality is in acceptable standard. |
| Extent of coverage of clam culture on the intertidal mudflats in Thai Thuy WCA | Baseline to be established in Year 1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | No increase in clam culture on the intertidal mudflat | According to the Decision 2602/QD-UBND dated 04 Oct 2017 approving the master plan for aquaculture development of Thai Binh in period 2017-2020, vision to 2030 , the total area for clam culture in the tidal flat of Thai Thuy district shall be increased to 2,312ha by 2020 and remain the same until 2030. However, the PC of Thai Binh issued Official Letter 4437/UBND-NNTNMT dated asking to stop the lease of tidal mudflats in Thuy Xuan, Thuy Hai for the project of adjusting dyke line #8. The lease of mudflat for aquaculture is also ceased to wait until the detailed zoning of the economic and industrial zone. The project shall continue its efforts to work with the relevant agencies in the province and TT district to determine the area allowed for aquaculture activities to ensure the sustainable use of TT wetlands, which shall be based on the profile for TT WCA establishment. | Updated baseline: Clam area in TT is 1,114 ha    The lease of tidal flats for clam culture is still on cease as the detailed planning of the economic zone has yet been developed. Therefore, there is no increase in clam culture on the intertidal mudflat. |
| Catch per Effort of Siganus in TGCH WCA as a result of further establishment of aquatic reserves and Fishery Associations, ensuring us of appropriate gear and enforcing existing regulations on destructive gear and fishing practices | Baseline to be established in Year 1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Increase in Catch per Effort of Siganus against the baseline | The Catch per Effort was assessed while conducting the study on identifying of threats to TG-CH WCA, however data has not been updated since 2016. | Updated baseline: Catch per Effort of Siganus fingerling in TGCH WCA in 2016 is 0 tons    In 2015, Catch per Effort of Siganus fingerlings in TGCH WCA is 1.143 tons (according to the report of DARD TTH in 2016). In 2016, at the time of the project baseline study being conducted, the Catch per Effort of Siganus fingerlings was zero due to the impact of the Formosa incident.  For Siganus in TG-CH, a very small volume of natural mature Siganus is captured annually. In fact, the Siganus fingerling are harvested in the estuaries (such as Thuan An, Tu Hien and Lang Co) and raised in ponds. The Siganus fingerling is imported from other provinces (such as Quang Nam, Binh Dinh and so on) to meet the local demand of Siganus fingerling.    Catch per Effort of Siganus fingerling in TGCH is not closely related to the further establishment of aquatic reserves and Fishery Associations while there is almost no capture activity of natural mature Siganus,    Therefore this indicator is suggested to be removed from the logframe. |
| **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): | 82.13% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 82.13% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,611,955 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 100,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,180,287 |
| Co-financing | 14,891,600 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 5, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Dec 3, 2013 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jun 9, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Oct 28, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 1, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Jan 1, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Sep 1, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jun 8, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Dec 8, 2020 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-11-07 |

# 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.** |
| Overall, all project activities planned in the annual work plan have been implemented, and notable progress in implementation has been made, the completion of specific activities was regularly slower than anticipated. In 2018, the project has conducted Mid Term Review. The Mid-term Review (MTR) was conducted from July to December 2018 and the final MTR report has been submitted by the consultation team in January 2019. The MTR has supported to review the progress of project activities, identify certain challenges in the whole implementation and based on that, 10 recommendations have been provided in response to challenges and to provide mechanisms to correct weaknesses that could ultimately lead to improved results. |

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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.** |
| There was a delay in conducting the project Mid-Term Review. The MTR was completed by 27th March 2019, which was only three months before the project end date as per signed project document. Therefore, necessary adjustments of the project logframe and indicators for extension have not yet been endorsed. |

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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.** |
| There was a delay in the completion of the mid-term review, although this still took place between 2nd and 3rd PIRs in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidelines. This was however tactically late for the project. The former RTA had recommended the completion of the MTR from the time of the 2017 PIR in an adaptive response to the challenges with establishing one of the target wetland PAs. There was further slippage in completion of the MTR due to procurement delays . The MTR was satisfactorily concluded over the reporting period and the MTR management response has been finalized and endorsed. Some actions from this are still outstanding such as the provision of Board-endorsed results framework changes for consideration of RTA and incorporation within PIMS+ once endorsed. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The PM rates project progress towards development objectives as of 30 June 2019 as moderately satisfactory.  The project has followed up with previous results in the process of reviewing and revising current legal framework and policy for wetland conservation, including: (1) adoption of new decree on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands to replace Decree 109/2003/ND-CP; (2) draft Circular guiding the implementation of the new Decree; and (3) five-year national wetlands action plan. In the process of drafting these policies and regulations, the project has closely consulted with relevant agencies to collect comments and recommendation for revision. Decree on Wetland Conservation management has been adopted at Decree No.66/2019/ND-CP dated July 29th 2019 on sustainable conservation and use of wetlands. Draft circular guiding implementation of new Decree has been developed and finalized based on consulted Decree. Draft 5 year national wetlands action plan has been finalized.  Regarding establishment and operation of 2 WCAs in Thua Thien Hue and Thai Binh, in 2018, the project has thrived to speed up process in reviewing and finalizing profile for establishing 2 WCAs in Thua Thien Hue and Thai Binh. Specifically, in this year, Provincial Appraisal Committees have been established in 2 provinces to provide appraisal of the profile for official submission to 2 PPCs for approval.  Also, in 2018, in close collaboration with national consultant team and DONREs in 2 provinces, the project has contributed to developing regulations for operating 2 WCAs, biodiversity monitoring program in 2 WCAs. The outputs of these studies have contributed significantly to the revision and finalization of the profile for establishing TGCH and TT WCA. Based on developed BMP, the project has worked with DONRE TTH to pilot selected monitoring indicators in TGCH WCA.  Regarding strengthened national and provincial capacity in wetlands conservation, the project has collaborated with national consultant team and DONRE to develop and finalize national and provincial training materials in wetlands conservation, management and sustainable use. Two training workshops have been conducted at central level and two training workshops have been conducted at provincial level in Thua Thien Hue and Thai Binh. Training materials are continued to be revised and edited based on trainees’ responses. In 2018, National Wetland Working Group and 2 Local Wetland Working Groups in 2 provinces continue to work as a consultancy mechanism to the project activities through participation in technical meetings. Comments and recommendations from these meetings have been considered and incorporated in reports of consultant team of certain activity of the project.  Regarding communication aspects, the project continues to implement operation of the project website and publications as well as finalize the design and printing of 01 project brochure, 04 factsheets, 02 policy briefs for communication purposes of the project. Also, in 2018, the project has organized the photo competition "Wetlands: Conservation and Development" that attracts the collection of more than 400 photos that raised the awareness of community and citizens on the importance of wetlands.  In 2018, the project continued to support provincial agencies in integrating wetland conservation into provincial and district development plans, in particular supporting to development of TG-CH planning to 2030, integrating wetland conservation into TTH provincial land use planning in the period of 2016 to 2020, the land use plans of five districts around TG-CH lagoon and development of Multisector Regulation for integrated water management of Huong river basin. In TB, the project continues to revise the review report on wetland-related documents in TB and recommendations on integrating wetland conservation into TB provincial and TT district development plans based on inputs from technical meetings with relevant agencies in TB and TT district. The report has been transferred to TB DONRE and TT PC for further application in mainstreaming wetland conservation and sustainable use to the development of legal document, plans and planning of TT district and TB province.  In TTH, in 2018, the project in cooperation with TTH Agriculture Extension Center has conducted the activity “Support the implementation of livelihood interventions in TTH province”. The income generation models applied in five districts around the lagoon focus on sustainable aquaculture farming models (interspersed culture). The models have been well received by surrounding households in the lagoon and have very positive feedback on the sustainability of the models as well as the effectiveness brought for their life. With the advantages of the models such as reducing natural risks in comparison with mono-cultural models, bringing sustainable income for the local people and not being harmful for the lagoon environment while not using chemicals, antibiotics and variable self-prepared food, the models are not only great significance in securing local community livelihoods but also are sustainable solutions that contribute to reducing pressure to threaten the biodiversity of the lagoon.  In 2018, the project implementation has achieved significant initial results with close coordinating and actively implementation of ISPONRE, BCA, UNDP and two provinces to accelerate the project activities. On the other hand, barriers to the establishment of TT WCA have removed due to consistent direction of the leaders of MONRE, UNDP and TB province. However, there have been certain challenges. First of all, the Annual Work plan 2019 has not been approved by MONRE, resulted in delay of project procurement plan 2019. Despite positive feedbacks for 2 provinces, the establishment of two WCAs has been relatively slow compared to the plan (in particular the TT WCA establishment has been delayed in the first nine months of 2018 due to the policy of establishing an economic zone in TB province) that resulted in the implementation of other activities and causes the extension of project timeframe in order to achieve project outcomes. Specifically, activities of livelihood interventions, boundary demarcation and activities that support the operation of the WCAs were requested to move to 2019. The Mid-term Review (MTR) was conducted from July to December 2018 and the final MTR report has been submitted by the consultation team in January 2019. The activity has been completed later than planned so the project timeframe has not been extended until April 2019 (under Decision No.884/QD-BTNMT dated April 12th 2019). Not to mention, VAT refund for the period from October, 2016 to September, 2018 has not been returned so there is not enough budget for disbursement of completed activities as planned in the AWP 2018 for project component/sub PMU. Although there have been certain advice and guidance from relevant agencies, this issue has not been solved.  Overall, all project activities planned in the annual work plan have been implemented, and notable progress in implementation has been made, the completion of specific activities was regularly slower than anticipated. Also, based on 10 recommendations of Mid Term Review, the project has closely reviewed the project progress and actions have been taken in response to project challenges. Following the recommendation 1 on extension the project timeframe, the project timeframe has been extended under Decision No.884/QD-BTNMT dated April 12th 2019. As suggested by MTR team to strengthen communications and awareness activities, the project has strengthened project communications and awareness-raising. For sustainability, the project continues to maintain project website as a channel to publish project events, information-sharing platform. Also, the project has conducted more outreach activities, specifically, the project is now in the process of developing a video clip on important role of wetlands for dissemination. To ensure greater interagency cooperation and interaction, the project has continued to promote cooperation with MARD through organizing activities for more frequent engagement and interaction between MONRE/MARD and DONRE/DARD. Following recommendation on strengthening the harmonization of wetlands conservation within provincial plans and policies, the project has supported Thua Thien Hue province in mainstreaming of wetland conservation planning within provincial planning processes. Also, in the reporting year, PMU has conducted meeting with the participation of Vice Minister of MONRE (also Head of Project Steering Committee), President of PPC Thai Binh and UNDP to solve the issues regarding harmonization of conservation and development in Thai Binh. Besides that, following recommendation to ensure that business planning as a key feature of Wetland Conservation Area planning, the project is now in the process of finalization of detailed operational plan for 2 WCAs. The project also strengthens to promote gender issues through participation of a large contingent of women and women’s organizations in implementation of project activities. Also, the project has continued to promote sustainability of NWWG/LWWGs in guiding future wetland conservation efforts through organization of meetings to consult for relevant issues regarding WCAs profiling.  Specifically, as suggested by MTR team to review the Strategic Results Framework, the project has conducted thorough review and proposed revision of certain indicators in the Strategic Results Framework. In details, based on output of baseline survey for development of profile for establishing 2 WCAs, the project has updated baseline of the following indicators: Level of water pollution levels, coverage of clam culture in tidal flats in Thai Thuy and Catch per Effort of Siganus in TGCH WCA and also revised end of targets for indicators regarding coverage of natural wetlands within the Wetlands Conservation Area-subsystem. Also, based on consultation with provincial stakeholders, research outputs and taking into account of selected species and harmonization between biodiversity conservation and development, the project has narrowed downed the extent (ha) of the two areas formally proclaimed and managed as the Tam Giang - Cau Hai WCA and Thai Thuy WCA. Revision of Strategic results framework has been submitted to Head of Project Steering Committee and Head of Project Steering Committee has agreed with changes in SRF. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The overall rating for DO is moderate satisfactory and is the same as PM's rating. This rating is given based on that of both DO and IP rating.  The project is making fairly good progress towards targets and rated satisfactory for progress towards development objectives over the period from August 2018 - July 2019 as following:    The Outcome 1 "New wetland PAs and relevant systemic capacities for their effective management established" is on track, which is evidenced by new decree on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands has been finalized and submitted for approval, and a 5 - year national wetlands action plan has been finalized.    Capacity building for central and local officials on wetlands conservation, management and sustainable use is also on track through completion of national and provincial training materials, followed by training of central level and provincial officials and authorities.    The establishment of two new WCA in Thai Binh and Thua Thien Hue is on track over the last period. The Provincial Appraisal Committees have been established in 2 provinces to review and appraise the profile for official submission to 2 PPCs for approval. Regulations for operating 2 WCAs, biodiversity monitoring program in 2 WCAs are being developed.    The Outcome 2 "Integrity of wetland PAs are secured within the wider wetland connected landscapes" is on track over the last period evidenced by supports provided to development of TG-CH planning to 2030, which includes wetland conservation into TTH provincial land use planning for the period of 2016 to 2020, the land use plans of five districts around TG-CH lagoon and development of Multi-sector Regulation for integrated water management of Huong river basin. As for Thai Binh, recommendations on integrating wetland conservation into the provincial and district development plans are provided to provincial authorities and local government.    In regards of livelihood, the project in cooperation with Thua Thien Hue Agriculture Extension Center has conducted the activity “Support the implementation of livelihood interventions in TTH province”. The income generation models applied in five districts around the lagoon focus on sustainable aquaculture farming models (interspersed culture).    Over the reporting period, the implementation progress is also rated as moderate satisfactory. In general, the project team is making good progress for component 1 on Wetland policy/legislation development/revision. The final draft of Decree on Wetland Conservation management has been submitted to the Government for approval. A circular guiding implementation of the Decree is under development. A set of manual and training materials for Wetland management capacity building have been developed and trainings of staff members at national and sub-national levels are conducted.. A national action plan on Wetland Conservation has been finalized. The project also provided technical support to revision of the Law on Biodiversity to ensure Wetland areas are well addressed.    As for establishment of the WCA in Thai Thuy and Tam Giang-Cau Hai, in 2019 the project has made progress in solving the key bottleneck and come up with decisions of local government in establishment of the two WCA. The project also provide crucial technical support to local authorities and task force in harmonizing between WCA and Local Economic development. Consequently, dossiers of the two WCA establishment have been finalized and submitted for approval. The Thai Binh and Thua Thien Hue provincial governments are now taking steps of appraisal for adopting their final decision. This is a major output of the project in late 2018 and first half of 2019.    UNDP Viet Nam provided technical support through scientific studies such as Biodiversity Impact Assessment to provide academic evidence on impacts of industrial zones and/or economic development zone on Wetland conservation as well as suggested solutions for harmonization between WC and Economic development. This support has helped local government to sort out the bottlenecks and make final decision on WCA establishment.    There is an issue regarding the VAT refund for the period from October, 2016 to September, 2018 has not been made due to unclear roles appointed to ISPONRE (as the IP) and BCA (as the CIP). The CIP could not get VAT expended under their implementation refunded because only the IP (ISPONRE) can claim for VAT refund as per the Government's tax regulations. This has been pending for almost two years leading to a lack of roughly $25,000 for implementation of activities as planned and financial report creating a low disbursement rate since this budget has been reallocated for activities of the next quarters. The MONRE and Tax General Office are working on solutions for solving the problem yet regardless what the solutions will be, this cash needs to be returned to UNDP eventually.    The implementation progress of 2019 was slow due to delays in approval of the project extension, followed by delay in approval of the project AWP and Procurement Plan. Although the extension was initial in Q4 2018, the approval of extension by the Government was issued in late April and the AWP was only approved in Jun 2019. During this approval process, no activities can be implemented. Therefore, the actual implementation of activities only started in late Jun 2019.    Over this reporting period, the PSC held a number of meetings but to solve the conflict in establishment of Thai Thuy WCA. The latest PSC meeting on 7th November 2018, which falls under this reporting period also discussed the project extension and acceleration of project delivery. Nevertheless, in 2019 no PSC meeting was conducted. Meanwhile, the Project Management Board held series of meetings to solve out the problem of VAT claim in the effort to speed up the project delivery. | |
| **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** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the third PIR for this project that is expanding and strengthening the wetland protected area sub-system in Vietnam. The project’s MTR was completed over the reporting period synthesizing some challenges with achieving project results and implementation bottlenecks. Based on the findings of the MTR and compounding delays with the establishment of one of the two project wetland PAs, a project extension was requested by the Implementing Partner MONRE and endorsed by the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator. This provides an additional 18 months for the project to work towards its targets, meaning that the implementation delays may only result in overall minor shortfalls in target achievement, giving the rating of ‘moderately satisfactory’ for progress towards development objective (DO). The project is generally well-managed but is experiencing some implementation challenges related to government approvals and funds management which are impeding on delivery in 2019. These are not yet fully resolved resulting in the implementation progress (IP) rating of ‘moderately unsatisfactory’. The DO rating is consistent across all PIR assessors, showing broad agreement on the extent to which the project is expected to achieve its targets and desired results. My IP rating is lower than that given by the UNDP Country Office, but I consider this justified based on the low 2019 delivery to date and substantial delays in work plan approval. This year’s DO rating is the same as that in the last PIR, and the IP rating a decline from the ‘moderately satisfactory’ rating of last year.    PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO)    The project’s objective is to establish new protected areas covering globally important wetland sites and to ensure their management is effectively embedded into sustainable landscape management, achieved through two outcomes: (1) Establishing and effectively managing two new wetland PAs; (2) Securing the integrity of wetland PAs from development activities in the linked landscapes. The MTR conducted over the reporting period assessed progress towards Outcome 1 as ‘moderately satisfactory’ and Outcome 2 as ‘satisfactory’ and I broadly agree with this assessment, along with noting some potential shortfalls in target achievement at objective level that justify the DO rating given.  Progress towards the objective is measured by the coverage of natural wetlands within the wetlands conservation area subsystem, adoption of an Ecosystem Health Index (EHI) and reduction of development threats to wetlands. On the cumulative coverage of wetlands within the PA system, the reporting in the DO progress tab is not well collated, but overall the targets are unlikely to be met due to the reduction in the size of the Thua Thien Hue wetland conservation area (WCA). The Project Board is expected to endorse a reduction in the overall targets for this indicator however this is not allowed under UNDP-GEF policy and therefore an unavoidable target shortfall is expected, unless PA expansion efforts can be progressed elsewhere. A Biodiversity Monitoring Program for both wetland conservation areas have been finalized and monitoring is underway to track change. This achieves the target of establishing an “EHI”, however there is no reported progress on the adoption of this monitoring system across the wetland PA sub-system. Achievement of that target is unclear, although it can feasibly still be achieved by project close with strong support from government. The target of reducing wetland threats has been achieved through the development of provincial development plans incorporated wetland values over some 372,000 ha, exceeding the project target of 310,000 ha. The PMU is continuing to support provincial authorities (DONRE and DARD) to integrate wetland values and needs into other planning, e.g. provincial socio-economic development planning and economic zone master planning. These will be important mainstreaming outputs of the project and efforts should continue until project close even if targets appear achieved.  Progress under Outcome 1 is impeded by the government’s reduction in the size of Thua Thien Hue WCA due to a conflict with a proposed development zone (the PA is now being proposed at 6,560 ha compared to the originally-planned 13,696 ha). A PMU proposal to reduce the PA expansion target accordingly is being presented to the Project Board, and will then be endorsed by the RTA as it represents the best possible PA expansion outcome for the project. The Tam Giang-Cau Hai WCA is proceeding quicker and will be established in two phases, totaling some 20,000 ha. With enhanced efforts it is still possible for the project to achieve a reduced PA expansion score by operational close. The METT scores at mid-term show improvements for Tam Giang-Cau Hai and Thai Thuy to 31 and 26 respectively, towards end-of-project targets of >40. Baseline scores are listed as 0 which is unusual although will not detract from the validity of the targets. A monitoring oversight is the failure to complete an updated capacity development scorecard prior to the MTR. This is still outstanding and the PMU is requested to re-apply the scorecard to confirm the project is on track to meet targeted improvements in capacity. There is a large volume of activity reported on improving financing mechanisms for management of the wetland PA subsystem but no clear assessment of the costs of management and current funding levels. Without this it is not abundantly clear whether the target is on track. The PMU should try to clarify the reporting against this indicator prior to the next PIR (e.g. listing the funding needs for the wetland PA subsystem management and extent of funds provided from different sources).  Under Outcome 2, there is clearer progress towards the five indicators measuring integrity of wetland PAs from development threats in the wider landscapes. The project has made significant progress by already achieving the target of EIAs within the two target provinces, and the establishment of local wetlands working groups to strengthen multi-sector coordination for biodiversity conservation. Both groups have been actively meeting for some time now throughout the PA establishment process. The MTR noted that additional financial support might be needed to ensure the continued functioning of these entities – this should be included in the project exit strategy and captured within the costs for wetland PA management under Outcome 1. The project has also supported integration of biodiversity conservation within land use planning in Thua Thien Hue province and approved 5 land use plans at district level, and work with local agencies to mainstream wetland conservation in master planning of the provincial economic zone in Thai Binh. Water pollution monitoring has been completed and shows that water at both sites is at generally acceptable quality. However, the project baselines have never been clearly established. This information is requested from the PMU to bring into the results framework as part of the consolidated post-MTR changes. This will facilitate easier reporting and assessment of progress in future PIRs and the terminal evaluation. The baseline for clam culture on mudflats has been confirmed at 1,114 ha and there has been no expansion in this farming while economic zone planning is completed – maintaining the project target of no increase in clam production in the meantime, but with some risk that this might not stay achieved as it is dependent on the outcomes of the zoning process. The measurement of catch per effort of Siganus catch per unit effort is difficult to assess and as recommended by the MTR, this is proposed to be removed from the results framework.  The PMU has proposed changes in the results framework as summarized above and in the DO progress tab. These are pending final endorsement by the Project Steering Committee and will then be endorsed by the RTA with the exception of the requested change to downgrade the objective indicator target that is outside of UNDP-GEF allowable changes. At the same time, the PMU should also provide clear baseline data that can be added to the results framework, setting up the project for easier monitoring in future PIRs.    PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO)    The project is well-managed with a good PMU, although challenges with slow government approvals have delayed work plan implementation and delivery over the past year so not all elements are on track. Over the reporting period an 18-month project extension was requested and granted by the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator, in part to respond to these delays (along with challenges in establishing one of the two project WCAs). Delivery challenges and slow approvals result in the IP rating of ‘moderately unsatisfactory’.  Over the reporting period, the Project Steering Committee was very active in helping resolve the competing interests around the establishment of the Thuy Thien WCA. This was ultimately successfully negotiated as a smaller-sized PA that will be adjacent to the development zone (further detail on this is provided in the PM and UNDP CO assessments). Government agencies have worked closely together to secure the establishment of the two wetland PAs. In late 2018, the Project Steering Committee met to endorse the MTR management response and agreed to submit a project extension request to allow both PAs to be established.  Delivery has been impeded by protracted approval processes related to the project extension (which also requires official endorsement within government) and the annual work plan. The government approval of the extension was issued in late April and the work plan approved in June 2019. This means that essentially six months of implementation were lost as the process could not implement activities during this time. This explains why the mid-term 2019 delivery is at a low 14% of approved budget. Delivery for 2018 was a moderate 79%.  Adaptive management has been good. The project has faced substantial challenges over the establishment of Thuy Thien WCA that have required a flexible and adaptive response. The project is taking an adaptive approach to establishment of the revised Thuy Thien WCA and incorporating assessments of potential impacts on biodiversity from the adjacent development zone into work plans. With this approach, the project could provide many lessons and best practices on how to avoid, manage and mitigate impacts on wetland values from nearby developments. This is a significant threat to many wetlands. Adaptive responses to the MTR are partly delayed – for example, the proposed revisions to results framework which are awaiting clearance by the Board and then need to be provided to the RTA. Ideally these should have been incorporated in this year’s PIR.  There are no critical risks. Risks are being actively managed to avoid them becoming critical. The UNDP CO outlines challenges due to slow work planning approval processes. To help avoid this in 2020, the project is encouraged to schedule the Project Standing Committee earlier so that the 2020 annual work plan can be endorsed prior to the year beginning. There is an ongoing risk related to VAT for the period October 2016 to September 2018 that has not been refunded and is impacting on funds availability. This issue was reported previously and is being managed through a request to Ministry of Finance to resolve the issue.  It is recommended the project pay enhanced attention to safeguards in light of the new context for the approval of Thuy Thien WCA. New impacts could have emerged through the establishment of the WCA adjacent to a new development zone. The lengthy discussions on resolving land use conflicts could also have impacted on stakeholder engagement / disputes at local level. No new or escalated risks are reflected in this PIR, but the PMU is asked to revisit this assessment and review the SESP and confirm that no new or escalated risks have emerged. Any new risks or management responses needed can be captured in a revised SESP. If needed, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan should also be revised to ensure that stakeholder engagement mechanisms remain appropriate. A large range of stakeholders including local communities and community-level associations are detailed in this PIR indicating that the project is sufficiently identifying and engaging stakeholders. Some gender mainstreaming impacts are reported in the PIR. As noted by the PM, the project will attempt to involve more women to broaden these impacts over the extension period to reflect the GEN-2 gender marker rating.  Project communications are widespread with a range of local media reports, a social media presence, and an operational project website. Once the two WCAs are established the PMU should consider the development of a photo story for the EBD EXPOSURE platform to showcase project impacts with a global audience. Knowledge management should also be prioritized – one opportunity would be for the project to exchange lessons with the concluding GEF Wetlands Program in China, that had seven provincial projects on strengthening and enhancing wetland PA sub-systems.  The mid-term review was finalized in January 2019. The MTR report recommendations are being actively responded to as listed in the MTR section of this PIR. The PMU should start preparing for the terminal evaluation in Q2 of 2020, so that this can be completed as scheduled in September 2020 ahead of operational closure in December 2020.    RECOMMENDATIONS  I have the following recommendations to further improve performance over the extension period:  1) Finalize the results framework changes arising from the MTR and seek Project Steering Committee and then RTA’s endorsement. This should include conformation of any remaining baselines; 2) Maintain close attention on delivery and try to streamline work plan approvals by bringing forward work plan approval processes including Project Steering Committee meetings; 3) Revisit the project SESP to confirm that any potential new or escalated risks arising from the shifting context for Thuy Thien WCA are captured and appropriately managed; 4) Consider the preparation of a photo story for EBD EXPOSURE site to showcase WCA establishment and enhanced management; 5) Prepare for the terminal evaluation from Q2 of 2020 so that this can be conducted on schedule by September 2020. | |

# 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: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

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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.** |
| No GBV is observed under this project |

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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.** |
| During project implementation, in the activity “Support to implement the livelihood intervention in TTH”, the project has taken notice of gender issue in proposing income generation model which focus on the role of women in aquaculture. Revenue/profit generated after implementation of the models could be a grant using for scaling up the livelihoods interventions and/or for existing revolving funds (i.e micro credit of local woman) as well as supporting to activity of the local aquaculture associations on conversion of destructive fishing. Also, in the implementation of activity to develop and pilot program on communication engagement and participation on wetland conservation and sustainable use in Thua Thien Hue, WETLANDS project has stressed on the role of Women’s Union and community women in the whole activity implementation.  Apparently, women participation in the project is not yet equal to men. In the upcoming period, the project will need to involve more women in critical interventions on livelihood planning to ensure gender equality in the project implementation. |

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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 involvement of community women and local Women's Union in consultation, design and implementation of livelihood activities is critical. The participation in these activities will help ensure equal opportunities for women to participate in planning and implementation of livelihood activities that are beneficial to their income generation. |

# 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.** |
| N/A |

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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.** |
| N/A |

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| **SESP:** [Annex 9\_ESSP\_Vietnam Wetland.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4537/213361/1662986/1663267/Annex%209_ESSP_Vietnam%20Wetland.pdf)  **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.** |
| N/A |

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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.** |
| N/A |

# 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.)** |
| The project will support establishing Wetland Conservation Areas, a new concept of protection for wetlands in Viet Nam in line with Law on Biodiversity. The project works with its main beneficiaries - policy makers at national and provincial level to improve the current policy and regulatory framework, and elaborate the formal process of designing the boundaries, zoning and management towards gazetting of the new protected areas by the government. At the same time, the project works to strengthen capacities for their effective management of the new protected areas, to mitigate existing and emerging threats from surrounding communities and connected landscapes.  Because the new wetland conservation areas provide for important livelihoods of local communities, the project also explores introducing improved and/or alternative livelihood activities, which aim to maintain the well-being of natural resources users but significantly reduce their impact on wetland ecosystems and biodiversity. In 2018, in close collaboration with DONRE TTH and Agricultural Extension Center, WETLANDS project has continued with implementation of activity to support sustainable livelihood interventions and positive achievements have been made. Specifically, 03 successful models have been implemented in 05 districts of Thua Thien Hue province that create livelihood for 16 households participating in the project. In which, there are 08 households participating in the polyculture model of mullets - shrimps - seaweed in Phu Thuan commune (02 households), Vinh Phu commune (02 households), Phu Vang district; Vinh Giang commune (02 households) and Loc Binh commune (02 households), Phu Loc district. There are 04 households that in the model of raising grass carp and tilapia in cages in Quang Thai commune (02 households), Quang Dien district and Dien Hoa commune (02 households), Phong Dien district. There are 4 households involved in the polyculture of tiger shrimps - crabs – mullets in Ru Cha mangrove forest, Huong Phong commune, Huong Tra Township. The successful implementation of the models has contributed to improving livelihoods, increasing income for people from 10 to 15% (especially households in the household model have increased by 30-40%) compared to those who do not participate in the project activities. In addition, it contributes to the development of aquaculture in a stable, sustainable and environmentally friendly direction. |

**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.** |
| PROJECT WEBSITE: http://wetland.org.vn/      Media coverage:  http://vietnamnews.vn/society/350664/wetlands-mitigate-disaster-risks.html#mU0PWKdXqhCwXlb0.97    http://www.un.org.vn/en/un-speeches/4348-remarks-by-mr-kamal-malhotra,-united-nations-resident-coordinator,-vietnam-and-undp-resident-representative,-vietnam-delivered-by-ms-akiko-fujii,-undp-country-director-ad-interim-at-the-celebration-of-2017-world-wetlands-day-and-spring-tree-planting.html    http://en.qdnd.vn/social-affairs/news/vietnam-stresses-wetlands-role-in-disaster-risk-reduction-477845    http://isponre.gov.vn/home/tin-tuc/1362-le-mit-tinh-huong-ung-ngay-dat-ngap-nuoc-the-gioi-va-trong-cay-ngap-man-dau-xuan-nam-2017    http://vtv.vn/video/ban-tin-22h30-05-02-2017-201376.htm    http://vea.gov.vn/vn/tintuc/multimedia/Pages/B%E1%BA%A3o-v%E1%BB%87-%C4%91%E1%BA%A5t-ng%E1%BA%ADp-n%C6%B0%E1%BB%9Bc-Gi%E1%BA%A3m-nh%E1%BA%B9-thi%C3%AAn-tai-v%C3%A0-n%C3%A2ng-cao-sinh-k%E1%BA%BF-cho-ng%C6%B0%E1%BB%9Di-d%C3%A2n-.aspx    http://isponre.gov.vn/home/tin-tuc/1372-hoi-thao-tham-van-chien-luoc-truyen-thong-cua-du-an-bao-ton-cac-khu-dat-ngap-nuoc-quan-trong-va-sinh-canh-lien-ket    https://www.vietnamplus.vn/ngay-moi-tren-dam-chuon-gianh-giai-nhat-cuoc-thi-bao-ton-dat-ngap-nuoc/521086.vnp  https://baomoi.com/trao-giai-cuoc-thi-anh-dat-ngap-nuoc-bao-ton-va-phat-trien/c/27445604.epi  http://isponre.gov.vn/home/tin-tuc/1610-trienr-lam  http://tapchimoitruong.vn/pages/article.aspx?item=%C4%90%E1%BA%A5t-ng%E1%BA%ADp-n%C6%B0%E1%BB%9Bc:-B%E1%BA%A3o-t%E1%BB%93n-v%C3%A0-ph%C3%A1t-tri%E1%BB%83n-49081  http://www.tinmoitruong.vn/viec-lam---hoc-bong/trao-giai-cuoc-thi-anh--dat-ngap-nuoc--bao-ton-va-phat-trien-\_79\_54097\_1.html  http://baothuathienhue.vn/thi-anh-dat-ngap-nuoc-bao-ton-va-phat-trien-a59588.html  https://baotainguyenmoitruong.vn/video-clip/trao-giai-cuoc-thi-anh-dat-ngap-nuoc-bao-ton-va-phat-trien.html  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgSda\_dXHR0  https://www.facebook.com/events/293853044502729/  https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2228352293860439&type=3 (296 likes)  https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2277972808898387&type=3 (335 likes)  https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2294443623917972&type=3 (281 likes)  https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2294598723902462&type=3 (112 likes) |

# 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.

|  |
| --- |
| **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?** |
| Yes |

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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 |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4537 Viet Nam CEO Endors final\_ForSubmissionCleaned\_wp1.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4537/213361/1662992/1663273/PIMS%204537%20Viet%20Nam%20CEO%20Endors%20final_ForSubmissionCleaned_wp1.docx) |
| **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.** |
| Stakeholder engagement is proceeding as planned.  In the whole implementation phase, ISPONRE and BCA have closely worked with DONRE, PPC in 2 provinces in activity regarding establishment of 2 WCAs in Thua Thien Hue, Thai Binh, integrating wetlands conservations into provincial development plans.  In the implementation of project activities, MARD and DARDs in 2 provinces have been involved to provide information regarding agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture sectors, managing inland PAs. The participation of relevant Ministries can also be seen through the consultation in developing new Decree on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.  Local communities have been involved considerably in the whole implementation phase. Farmer Union, Woman Union, Youth Union, Fishery Associations and Veteran Union at community level have been actively involved and consulted in a number of project activities. Local communities have been key participants and beneficiaries of the project. Their involvement will be sought in the planning and management of the new wetland PAs once 2 WCAs are established. Also, local communities will be closely consulted during the process of boundary demarcation of the WCAs in 2 provinces. In order to claim the boundary of WCA, it is crucial to have agreement of provincial, district and commune authorities, community members, not to mention, their commitments in protection of the boundary markers, notice boards and information sheets once the WCA is officially established. The participation of local communities can also be seen in the implementation of Activity “Support the implementation of sustainable livelihood interventions in TTH”, the project has selected households in 5 districts to participate in income generation model.  The project has also involved the participation of NGOs such as WWF, IUCN, MCD, Vietnam Wetlands Association… These agencies have exchanged certain experiences in aspects of wetlands conservation and management. IUCN, Birdlife International and WWF have provided information and experiences in biodiversity conservation in Viet Nam, including on protected areas management and wetlands conservation. |

# 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.