

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Expanding the PA System to Incorporate Import**

[Basic Data](#_Toc1)

[Overall Ratings](#_Toc2)

[Development Progress](#_Toc3)

[Implementation Progress](#_Toc4)

[Critical Risk Management](#_Toc5)

[Adjustments](#_Toc6)

[Ratings and Overall Assessments](#_Toc7)

[Gender](#_Toc8)

[Social and Environmental Standards](#_Toc9)

[Communicating Impact](#_Toc10)

[Partnerships](#_Toc11)

[Annex - Ratings Definitions](#_Toc12)

# Basic Data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4620 |
| GEF ID | 5099 |
| Title | Expansion the PA System to Incorporate Important Aquatic Ecosystems |
| Country(ies) | Bangladesh, Bangladesh |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Medium Size |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Description** |
| The project is consistent with the GEF 5 Biodiversity Results Framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services, specifically with Objective 1: Improve sustainability of PA systems. In line with Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new PAs, the project will address drivers of biodiversity loss through creation of a PA network consisting of 3 PAs to conserve threatened Irrawaddy and Ganges river dolphins and their habitat. The PA network will fill a major gap in the national coverage of freshwater/marine ecosystems and threatened aquatic species. The effectiveness of the PA management will be strengthened by the project by building capacities of the PA management authorities (Forest Department) and key stakeholder agency (Fisheries Department), and by close involvement of local communities and local government in PA establishment, management and benefit sharing. This will also be aided by involvement of national experts and through a dedicated communication campaign on wetland biodiversity focusing on cetaceans as the flagship species. The project will also ensure that there are clear benefits to local communities from PA creation, in order to ensure their long term support for conservation of dolphins in their area. In summary the project will focus on capacity building, management effectiveness, and financial and political sustainability. The financial sustainability focus of the project is aligned with BD1 Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management. The project will help promote income generation through tourism, partnerships with NGOs and local government, in addition to ensuring national funds for these PAs. In addition, the project will also promote cost savings through cooperation with local communities (such as community patrolling) and joint activities between the three PAs (such as joint capacity building).  The project is aligned with the objectives of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Bangladesh (August 2004) to (1) conserve and restore the biodiversity of the country; (2) maintain and improve environmental stability for ecosystems; and (3) ensure preservation of the unique biological heritage of the nation. It is consistent with the Bangladesh Capacity Development Action Plan for Sustainable Environmental Governance (December 2007), and addresses Principal Environmental Issues (PEIs) related to anthropogenic factors that have caused immense damage to all habitats in ecosystems and unregulated fishing, climate change (temperature rise, sea-level rise in coastal areas, scarcity of freshwater due to less rain and increased evaporation during the dry season, increased frequency of natural disasters, and wider salinity intrusion in the coastal zone), and capacity development needs at all levels. The project responds to Bangladesh's obligations to the CBD and its components are included in the Bangladesh Biodiversity National Assessment and Programme of Action 2020 (BPA 2020) Focal Area 1 Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Conservation, Project 4 Conservation of Irrawaddy dolphins and other cetaceans, including finless porpoises, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins and Bryde's whales, and Project 7 Community- based conservation and management for cetaceans such as Ganges River and Irrawaddy dolphins. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Mr. Tashi Dorji (tashi.dorji@undp.org) |
| Programme Associate | Ms. Pakamon Pinprayoon (pakamon.pinprayoon@undp.org) |
| Project Manager | Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury (rezaul.chowdhury@undp.org) |
| CO Focal Point | Mr. Arif Mohammad Faisal (arif.faisal@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury (secretary@moef.gov.bd) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. Md. Modinul Ahsan (pd-epas@bforest.gov.bd) |
| Other Partners | Kazi Shofiqul Azam (secretary@erd.gov.bd) |

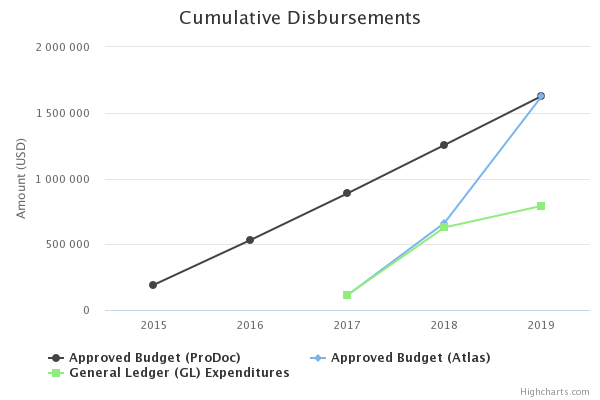
# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To build capacity to manage the existing protected areas established for dolphin conservation and also expand their operational coverage (new protected areas and buffer areas) while still meeting the livelihood aspirations of local communities especially the fishers.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Extent of aquatic environment of the Sundarbans brought under effective conservation planning and management framework | 0       ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | 102,000 ha | Effective GPS based patrolling by Bangladesh Forest Department staff is in place in existing area of 1070 ha Protected Area (PA) for dolphin in Sundarbans. Selected Management Plant Activities are also being implemented in line of effective Conservation and Management perspectives. New dolphin Hotspot identification process is on going. After final selection of new hotspots government will declare those as additional PAs for dolphins. The new PAs will also go under effective management. | Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) has improved the management effectiveness of the existing three Dolphin Sanctuaries through introducing GPS based patrolling along with the diesel fuel support, supplying patrol gears like, raincoat, lifebuoy, shoe, vest, torch light etc. from EPASIIAE Project. The illegal fishing in the dolphin sanctuaries has become very less now a days. The visibility of the dolphins especially the calves(young ones) are more frequent now. Which is a good indicator to assess the dolphin population trend. On the other hand, project has already identified more dolphin habitats in and around Sundarbans with an area about 334.5 skm. Out of which the government is going to declare more 182.0 skm dolphin Sanctuary and 12.27skm Buffer zone for dolphin in and around Sundarbans where it was only 10.7skm earlier. |
| Population status of the following critical species remain stable or increases:  Ganges freshwater dolphin  Irrawaddy dolphin | 225  451 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Remain stable or increase by project end | The baseline survey has been completed. After validation by the authority we’ll be able to declare the baseline number of the dolphin population | At present, dolphin sightings are more now in the dolphin hotspots particularly young dolphins are adequate than earlier. Which indicates this breeding grounds are supportive to ensure sustainable dolphin population there. The project believes further population estimation of dolphin will show its increasing rate. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Important aquatic ecosystems of the Sundarbans supporting the globally threatened species of cetaceans conserved** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Improved management effectiveness PAs as measured and recorded by Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)  Biodiversity-friendly Sectoral Guidelines prepared and implemented leading to effective integration of biodiversity considerations into economic sector practices | 46 out of 300  0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Increase in METT scores (at least around 70 out of 300) by 30 percent by year 5  At least five Sectoral Guidelines (Fisheries, Tourism, Maritime traffic, industrial development and Aquaculture prepared and adopted. | METT score will be reviewed as a part of MTR which is planned for the end of 2018.      Preparation of 05 Biodiversity Guidelines are at the final stage. After finalization government will accept and enact as well hopefully by 2018 | METT score has been increased as 50 which was assessed at the end of 2018 by the project & Bangladesh Forest Department. Now the score will be higher. Another METT assessment will be done through a stakeholder's workshop in September 2019. KAP survey will also be conducted shortly. |
| Effective and functioning cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder institutions (including conservation, livelihood and production) established at regional and national level. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2 | Partner NGOs have been engaged. Now the National and Regional Cross Sectoral Institutions will be formed. The draft proposal of the formation of National Technical Committee is received from the partner NGO IUCN-CNRS. Government is verifying the terms of references of it now. | Although the final approval of National Technical Group/committee and the Regional Cross Sectoral Committee is still pending in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change but the cooperation & the Coordination among stakeholders regional & national level are still satisfactory. |
| Number of representatives from the key government sectors trained in effective management of aquatic biodiversity | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Conservation Sector -100  Economic Sector - 100 | 50 Conservation Sector staff have already been trained on Cetacean Conservation, effective Management and GPS handling. The partner NGO IUCN-CNRS has started training programme for remaining Conservation and Economic Sector staff. | 100+ conservation sector staff have already received the Dolphin Conservation & Monitoring & Surveillance of Protected Area through GPS tracking. The training of Economic Sector staff will be completed by August 2019. |
| Reported mortality of dolphins by entanglement in nets and vessel hit. | 90 reports in 2013 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 50% reduction by year project end | Dolphin mortality records and reports are being kept. Evaluation on total mortality will be done at the end of 2018. | There are 14 dead dolphins recorded last one year ( PIR duration 2018-19) which is 15.55% of the mortality report of 2013 |
| Improvement in Systemic Level Indicators of Capacity Development Scorecard (Annex 19 of Project Document):  1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies, programme  2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes  3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders  4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge  5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels. | 20%  25%  15%  20%  100% | *(not set or not applicable)* | 30%  30%  25%  30%  20% | All are now under implementation level. The evaluation will be done at the end of 2018. | The assessment of Capacity Development score card will be done in September 2019 |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Community-based ecosystems management systems in place to support aquatic biodiversity conservation.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of fishers in the project area using sustainable fishing gear as evidenced by mesh size | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 30% of fishers follow the mesh size norms set up by the project by project end | Fishing activities in the Dolphin PA is almost stopped. Situation is partially improved pertaining to the mesh size of the fisher's net in the buffer area of PA | Fishing activities in the Dolphin PA is further reduced. Situation is also further improved pertaining to the mesh size of the fisher's net in the buffer area of PA |
| Amount of resources flowing to local communities annually from community based ecotourism activities | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | USD 0.1 million by year 5 (target value to be re-confirmed during the 1st year of the project) | Not yet evaluated. NGO for Livelihood development programmes has just been selected. After providing the Alternative Income Generation(AIGs) the socio-economic data can be collected to assess the change in the Community based ecotourism activities | Yet to evaluate. The Project has been implementing livelihood programme by providing Alternative Income Generation Activities(AIGA) support including ecotourism support with a value about USD 500.0 per beneficiary. There are about 1000 Sanctuary dependent vulnerable fisher families will get this income generating support from the project by 2019. The beneficiaries have been receiving the Capacity building training on AIGA and 658 beneficiaries(up to June 2019) have started business with their chosen trades(out of which 90% are the women). The selected beneficiaries are not harvesting fish from the dolphin sanctuaries now -a- days. But this indicator : USD 0.1 million by year 5 is to be changed as MTR team suggested to reduce this very much optimistic target |
| Number of people shifting to alternative income generating options that reduce pressure on biodiversity | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 500 fishers by year 3 and 700 by project end | AIG activity has just been started. The assessment will be done at the end of the year 2018 | Currently almost all the 658 beneficiaries(those who received AIGAs from this project) are not entering into the Dolphin sanctuaries for collecting shrimp fry and other fish resources. |
| Number of people sensitized on aquatic biodiversity conservation particularly that of cetaceans | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3000 by year 3 and 5000 by project end | CODEC (an NGO) has been engaged for providing livelihood support and IUCN-CNRS for awareness campaign and capacity building. These NGO will be working on awareness and outreach programmes, capacity building for cetacean conservation. The assessment will be done at the end of the year 2018 | Project seems at least 5000 people are sensitized on aquatic biodiversity conservation particularly that of cetaceans through conducting Shushuk mela(Dolphin Fair), observance of International Fresh water Dolphin day(nationally & internationally), awareness programme led by honourable Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, workshop with Sundarban Tour Operators group, formation of 06 Dolphin Conservation Team comprising 60 members, organizing capacity building training on dolphin conservation for 100+ forest staff etc. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 48.64% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 48.64% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 791,155 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 90,410 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 1,626,484 |
| Co-financing | 8,500,000 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Feb 21, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Sep 10, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jun 30, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jul 18, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Aug 15, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 31, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jun 28, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-08-14 |
| 2018-09-19 |
| 2019-04-24 |

# Critical Risk Management

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

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| Due to late start of the project in the beginning year (2017) due to delay in approval of the TPP and ProDoc, some activities could not possible to implement in a systematic way. But, from the 2nd year, considering the reality and overall field situation and realistic management decisions, most of the activities were implemented in a planned way.Although there was delay in start of the project, however the project got momentum now and running well in terms of overall delivery and implementation. |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| The Mid-Term review has been delayed. It is supposed to be completed in 2018, but it was undertaken on towards end of November 2018. The report is currently being reviewed and not cleared by the RTA because of quality issue. The project team has not updated the RTA on the plan to complete the terminal evaluation. While the outcomes are on track and due to the delay in the project start and the expected that outcome will not be achieved by the expected project closure date. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project progress is satisfactory. Because, the project has achieved a lot both in outcome 1 & outcome 2. The project has sensitized at least 10000 people in dolphin conservation through different conservation campaign, international day observance, conducting shushuk mela(dolphin fair),, project has enhanced capacity building among 100+ Bangladesh Forest Department(BFD) staff in Dolphin Biology, Behaviour, conducting GPS based effective patrolling. Project has formed 6 Dolphin Conservation Teams comprising 60 members(local people) along the whole northern periphery of the Sundarbans those who have started dolphin protection duties and dolphin rescuing with BFD. The 658 project beneficiaries are not going to the dolphin sanctuaries after getting the AIGAs from the project. Proposal of declaring new PAs for dolphins is under consideration. The financial progress is also good and Project has achieved AWP targets of last two successive years. Hope the disbursement rate will also be higher in the next couple of months. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The overall achievement of the project is moderately satisfactory since the project achieved most of the outcomes with some limitations.  On the basis of knowledge gap analysis of dolphin conservation, Bangladesh Government decided to prepare Dolphin Atlas in the country, Dolphin Conservation Action Plan and conduct dolphin population survey in the Sundarbans including Halda river and identified major threats in this river. More dolphin hotspot areas are also identified by the field study in and around the Sundarbans by this time. These knowledge gap analyses supported the conservation managers to take decision for the improvement of the country’s dolphin habitat.  Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) has improved the management effectiveness of the existing 3 dolphin sanctuaries through introducing GPS based smart patrolling along with the diesel fuel support, supplying patrol gears like, raincoat, lifebuoy, shoe, vest, torch light, etc. from the Project. The illegal fishing in the dolphin sanctuaries has become very less now a days due to smart patrolling. The visibility of the dolphins especially the calves (young ones) are more frequent now. Which is a good indicator to assess the dolphin population trend. On the other hand, project has already identified more dolphin habitats in and around Sundarbans with an area of about 334.5 sqkm. Out of which the government is planning to declare more 182.0 sqkm dolphin sanctuary and 12.27 sqkm buffer zone for dolphin in and around Sundarbans where it was only 10.7 sqkm earlier.  The project has prepared community-based resource management plan considering community participation in the dolphin conservation initiatives. 06 Dolphin Conservation Team (DCT) comprising 60 members have been structured along the whole northern periphery of the Sundarbans. Through the adoption of DCT guidelines and Management Plan prescription the DCT members have been participating in the patrol duties with the Forest Department officials and protecting and rescuing dolphin. They are sharing information to the BFD and other key stakeholders. The monthly patrol and monitoring reports are being prepared and submitted.  The Project has been implementing livelihood programme by providing Alternative Income Generation Activities (AIGA) support with a value about US$ 500 per beneficiary. There are about 1000 sanctuary dependent vulnerable fisher families will get this income generating support from the project by 2019. The beneficiaries have been receiving the Capacity building training on AIGA and 658 beneficiaries (up to June 2019) have started business with their chosen trades (out of which 90% are the women). The selected beneficiaries are not harvesting fish from the dolphin sanctuaries now -a- days.  Through the project support Bangladesh celebrates first ever International Freshwater Dolphin Day On the 24th of October 2019. The project organized mass awareness campaign around the Sundarbans and other major parts of the country where dolphin live. Each awareness session was brightened with active participation by the general public, students, journalists and showed immense eagerness to stand for the conservation of freshwater dolphins residing in Bangladesh. | |
| **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** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Overall satisfaction level: Satisfactory because of the following reasons:   The project has shown a good level of commitment to achieve the project goal in terms of financial and physical aspects.   The financial progress of RADP (BDT 450.0 Lac) of 2018-19 is 98 %   In the year 2017-18 the financial progress of RADP (BDT 400.0 Lac) was 93%.   The project has successfully been providing fuel support for the protection of the PA   The project has identified three new PA (for dolphin) in the Sundarbans which is aligned with the project goal   The project has successfully identified 1000 HHs for AIG support and the project has provided AIG support to 658 HHs till date.   Different report such as Research Gap Analysis, Dolphin Action Plan, Community Based Resource Management Plan, Halda River Dolphin Management Plan, five sectoral guidelines (tourism, maritime, industry, fishery and aquaculture) etc. have been prepared and submitted to the MoEFCC for approval.   Various programs such as Dolphin Fair, training, awareness workshop, School graffiti, Dolphin Conservation team building, poster, leaflet, brochure have been published for increasing awareness among the fisher folk and mass people. | |
| **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 Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the fourth PIR for the project. The project ‘Expanding the PA System to Incorporate Important Aquatic Ecosystems’ is on its final year of implementation. The development objective (DO) is to build capacity to manage the existing protected areas for dolphin conservation and also to expand the conservation area whiling ensuring the local communities’ livelihood that depend on the ecosystem services from the protected areas. The development objectives will be achieved by implementing two outcomes. The project manager (PM) reported that both Outcome 1 and 2 are on track to achieve the end-of-project targets. Concurring with the UNDP country office, I have rated the progress towards development objectives as ‘moderately satisfactory’ and an implementation progress as ‘moderately satisfactory’.    PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO)  The project has two outcomes: 1) Conservation of important aquatic ecosystems of the Sundarbans that support the globally threatened species; and 2) Support aquatic biodiversity conservation through community-based ecosystem management systems. According to the project manager (PM), the two outcomes are on track and making steady progress to achieve the targets. The key indicators that are tracked to measure the progress towards achieving the development objectives are: a) Expansion of extend of conservation; and b) tracking of the population status of Ganges freshwater dolphin and Irrawaddy Dolphin. The PM reported 18,200 hectares expansion of area as dolphin sanctuary and 1,200 hectare of buffer zone. On the status of dolphin population, the estimate has not been conducted to measure the progress, however, increase in the sighting dolphin frequency is reported by the local communities. The end-of-the project target for conservation expansion is 102,000 hectares, whereas only 18,200 hectares have been declared as expanded areas. Similarly, the team has not reported any information on plan to conduct a population estimate of the dolphins. Therefore, based on the information it difficult to assess the DO as “On Track”.    Outcome 1 focuses on improving the management of the dolphin conservation area. Specifically, the project aims to improve the METT scores, developing sectoral guidelines, improving cross-sectoral coordination and providing capacity development training to the government employees. The PM reported that the METT scores improved by 4 point from the baseline score in year 2018 and another assessment is scheduled for 2019. The PM also reported that a national technical group on the coordination has been proposed and is currently under review for approval by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. No information was provided on the preparation of sectoral guidelines. Based on the information reported by the PM, I concur with the PM assessment of Outcome 1 as “On Track”.  Outcome 2 is supporting establishment of community-based ecosystems management systems to support the aquatic biodiversity conservation. The project is tracking four indicators to ensure that well-designed community-based ecosystems management systems are put in place and the community members are trained to manage them. To date, 30% of the fishing community are using more sustainable fishing gear. The project has introduced the Alternative Income Generation (AIG) activities to 1,000 families that depend on the fishing for livelihood. As part of the outreach and awareness activity, the project has reached out to more than 5,000 people in the fishing communities informing them on the importance of aquatic biodiversity conservation. The project organized many awareness raising activities including a successful Shushuk mela or Dolphin Fair. In light of these advancements, I concur with the PM’s assessment on the status of the outcome as ‘OnTrack’.    IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP)  In 2018, the project delivered 93% of the approved grant and the 2019 half-year delivery is at 17%. As of June 30, the cumulative financial delivery of the project is at approximately 49% of the total approved project grant. The cumulative projected delivery is considered very low for a project with expected date of operational closure of 28 January 2020.  The traditional media and the social media coverage on the project implementation and project achievement are satisfactory. The project team is communicating the project achievements through social media platforms such as Facebook and twitter. The project has also received some coverage on the newspaper. Based on the information provided by the PM, the project has not received a widespread coverage.    The project team is effectively communicating with relevant stakeholders such the CSOs, local communities and the government partners. The project has engaged 15 government agencies, 2 civil societies and CBOs as part of the Project Implementation Committee, this has allowed project to manage stakeholders effectively. In addition, the project supports the Dolphin Conservation Group and women formed the Sustainable Livelihood Group. The project could explore other partnering opportunities in the private sector as well as interested partners from various sectors.  The project supports gender advancement in the project activities especially through the AIG activities, however, for several indicators the gender disaggregated data reporting is not satisfactory or missing. The project team should improve the reporting with detailed gender disaggregate data, where applicable. The project has not conducted a gender analysis.    The project kickoff was delayed. Therefore, while the outcomes are on track, it is expected that project will not achieve the outcomes by the expected project closure date. The PM has not reported any critical risks. The PM should identify any potential critical risks after reviewing the MTR and should immediately take adaptive management approach to mitigate or avoid the risks. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) for the project is currently under review for finalization.    RECOMMENDATIONS  I have following recommendations to ensure that the project will continue to stay on track: 1) Start planning for the terminal evaluation process; 3) Estimate Dolphin population so that the progress on DO to maintain or improve the population size is qualitatively measured; 3) Conduct a gender analysis and improve the target reporting with more quantitative reporting on indicators including gender disaggregated data, where applicable; 4) The project team reported that the end-of-project target for the AIG activities was overestimated. If necessary, the target revision should be consulted with the country and the RTA; 5) Immediately consult with PB, UNDP CO and the RTA on the possibility of the project extension, if necessary. | |

# 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.

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| [EPASIIAEP\_Livelihood beneficiary profile update 30 June\_19.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4620/213432/1728547/1743190/EPASIIAEP_Livelihood%20beneficiary%20profile%20update%2030%20June_19.pdf) |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| The Project has been implementing livelihood programme by providing Alternative Income Generation Activities(AIGA) support with a value about USD 500.0 per beneficiary. There are about 1000 Sanctuary dependent vulnerable fisher families will receive this income generating support from the project by 2019. The beneficiaries have been receiving the Capacity building training on AIGA and 658 beneficiaries(up to June 2019) have started business with their chosen trades(out of which 90% are women). |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| In the project area especially those who are living around the dolphin sanctuaries of the Sundarbans are very much socially vulnerable fishers. They are very much susceptible to natural disaster, climate change issues are the additional thrust. Among these fisher families most of the women are used to collecting shrimp fry and catch fishes with prohibited fishing gears. The livelihood partner NGO has selected the actual fisher women as beneficiaries (90%) including widow, women having autistic child and disable husband so that women empowerment is established to manage their families by reducing their dependency on natural resources. |

# 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.

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |

|  |
| --- |
| **SESP:** [4620\_Annex 9\_Environmental and Social Screening Summary.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4620/213432/1717726/1724324/4620_Annex%209_Environmental%20and%20Social%20Screening%20Summary.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| N/A |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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

|  |
| --- |
| **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 has been implementing livelihood programme by providing Alternative Income Generation Activities(AIGA) support with a value about USD 500 per beneficiary. There are about 1000 Sanctuary dependent vulnerable fisher families who will receive income generating support from the project by 2019. The beneficiaries have been receiving the Capacity building training on AIGA and 658 beneficiaries(up to June 2019) have started business with their chosen trades(out of which 90% are the women) and making profit from their enterprises. The selected beneficiaries are not harvesting fish from the dolphin sanctuaries now -a- days. Thus, the beneficiaries are changing their livelihood focus. |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **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.** |
| News on declining of dolphins population in Sundarbans:  https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/sundarbans-census-dolphins-declining-1568509    Video on dolphin survey  https://twitter.com/UNDPasiapac/status/1002753714581528577?s=19  http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/projects/expanding-the-protected-area-system-to-incorporate-important-aqu.html  https://twitter.com/UNDPasiapac/status/1002753714581528577?s=19 |

# 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 |

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

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

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Request for MSP Approval:** [PIMS 4620 BDG BD Aquatic PA CEO Document.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4620/213432/1666475/1666756/PIMS%204620%20BDG%20BD%20Aquatic%20PA%20CEO%20Document.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.** |
| No potential risk and challenge has been identified yet. Still smooth implementation is going on and the project has achieved the important milestones under all outcome category. And financial progress is also satisfactory. The facebook link of the project is mentioned below to understand the satisfactory stakeholder engagement by project. https://www.facebook.com/DolphinProjectBD/ |

# 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.