

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Endangered species conservation Thailand**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4839 |
| GEF ID | 5512 |
| Title | Conserving habitats for globally important flora and fauna in production landscapes |
| Country(ies) | Thailand, Thailand |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Medium Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| This project will support Thailand to undertake conservation actions for globally important biodiversity hotspots that are currently outside the national system of protected areas. Many such areas exist, whose incorporation into the national PA system may be unfeasible to be managed effectively by the PA authorities ÔÇô either because they are small and disparately located in the landscape or because they overlap significantly with private lands. The approach of providing them with nationally recognized legal protection other than PA can ensure that their special values are legally recognized and respected both nationally and locally ÔÇô and that their values are effectively considered in landuse and local development planning. Such designation can also act as incentive for spurring local conservation actions. This project approach is consistent with the GEF BD-SO2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use; and the Outcomes 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation. Specifically, the project will be linked to Outputs 2. National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation and 3. Certified production Landscapes and seascapes (hectares). |

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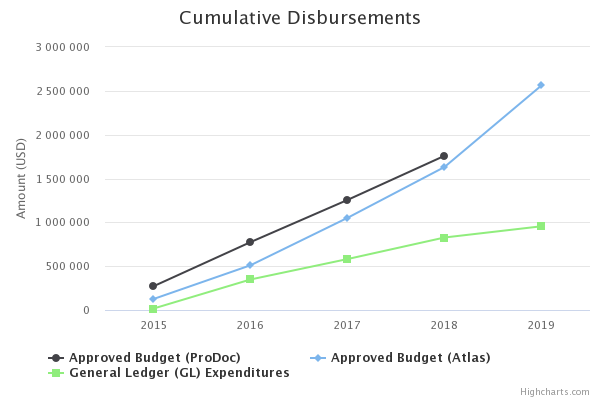
# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To mainstream globally important biodiversity species conservation into production sectors through improved management of critical habitats.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Hectares of production landscapes legislated as ES critical habitats and protection enforced to assure the long-term survival of ES in Thailand. | There are currently no areas of production landscape that are formally protected due to their importance to an endangered species. | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 33,893 ha legislated as ES Critical Habitats and managed in a manner that assures the long-term survival of target ES– based on:  600 ha of salt pans in Khok Kham Sub-district  4,800 ha – which includes 1 km buffer around the 3 non-hunting areas in Buriram Province  28,493 ha which is the entire Nakha Subdistrict | The study to review legislation related to ES and habitat protection as reported at 30 June 2017 has been conducted, but is not 100% complete due to the change of project responsible parties. IUCN will work with the consultant on this matter, which will be led by Thailand Environmental Institute and ensure that it is completed and up to date. The legislation related to habitat conservation and endangered species will be carried out and expected to completed by the end of September 2018. The community consultation regarding the legal framework in each target area will be conducted in October 2018 to finalize to most practical legislation for protecting endangered species and its habitats. Monitoring of number of hectares legislated in the project targets will take place within October-November 2018.  Local Project Committee (LAC): according to the Project board meeting on May 10, 2018, it was agreed that the LAC should be revised based on the most updated list of government officers and other stakeholders acting as the LAC assigned by the provincial governor. Provincial LAC meeting will be organized soon when the new project manager under IUCN as a responsible party starts to work in August 2018.  Updates of the legal framework for conserving endangered flora and fauna species in each target province will be discussed closely with ONEP and the provincial LAC.  ONEP is working on the Environmental Protected Area designation, areas and its regulations based on “Promotion and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, B.E. 2535” for Water Onion, Spoon Billed Sand Piper and Sarus crane. The discussion between ONEP, IUCN, LAC and other related stakeholders will be started in August 2018 onward. Therefore, there is no hectares of production landscapes being officially legislated as ES critical habitats as of June 2018 yet. | It is important to note that the “600 ha of salt pans in Kokkham sub-district to be legislated as ES Critical Habitats and managed in a manner that assures the long-term survival of target ES by the end of the project” was the numbers previously calculated based on the accurate figures of saltpan in 2013-2014, during project proposal development period. However, the figure of 600 ha is no longer relevant to the current context of Kokkham sub-district and cannot be achieved. Since the project started, only the total of salt pans in ha in Khok Kham Sub-district is 179.2 ha and therefore the total areas that can be achieved by the project under this indicator will be then 33,472 ha .    For up-to-date results; it is indicated as ‘on track’ because land owners from all target areas in Khok Kham sub-district (179.2 ha), Nakha Sub-district (28,493 ha) and Buriram (4,800 ha) have been encouraged to take actions following to the concept of ES habitat conservation, in order to ensure appropriate activities that promote the ES habitat and leading to a long-term survival of target ES such as prohibiting dredging activity in Suksamran and Kaper Districts in order to sustain water level for the Water Onions which this has resulted in a significant decrease in dredging activities. .    . .  Land use management plans integrated to the existing Town and Country Planning for the City Land Use Plan, so the project’s effort was to ensure that these target areas have been managed with measures on buffer and conservation zones as proposed through 5 habitat conservation and management plans that had been developed by the project for the 5 target provinces. In addition, the legal framework for land use management plan and conservation framework of the production landscape for endangered species was developed by TEI and BCST.    The legal frameworks will be proposed as policy recommendations to the National sub-committee of wetland management for managing the production landscape. The framework will be proposed to the National Environmental Board later in October 2019 to further develop and legalize these frameworks.  At the site level, for example; Phang Nga has already designated environmental protected areas for Water Onion, while in Ranong the similar framework has been developed by ONEP and organized consultation meetings with local communities to finalize the draft of EPA and its regulations. For SBS in Kok Kham, it is a part of the Inner Gulf of Thailand, which is designated as the wetland of National Importance.    Therefore the regulations of the wetland designation in 2000 are applicable to protect the production landscape from any destructive socio-economic activities. However, the project developed the land use management plan at the provincial level to improve protection mechanism and ensure the environmental friendly land use pattern for the SBS. |
| Status of species on the National Red list. | Thailand currently has 1,058 species identified as threatened within the country’s National Red list of which 6 are extinct. | *(not set or not applicable)* | No overall decline in species status of species currently listed on the National Red list for Thailand (i.e. movement from one category to another). | Progress as of level at June 2018;  MONRE Thailand has appointed the National Committee of Biodiversity utilization and conservation since 2000. Species database review and update are a part of their mandates to oversee the status of species in the country.  ONEP just launched an updated version of “Thailand Red Data: Vertebrates” in September 2017. This version was revised based on baseline data they had in 2005, which developed based on IUCN Red List.  The status of these following species have been updated in the “Thailand Red Data: Vertebrates” 2017;  1. Spoon-billed Sandpiper; Critically Endangered (CR)  2. Sarus Crane; Critically Endangered (CR)  3. Fishing cat (Prionailurus viverrinus); Endangered (EN)  4. Eastern Grass Owl (Tyto longimembris); Vulnerable (VU)  5. Mekong Wegtail (Motacilla samveasnae); Near Threatened (NT)  6. Somphong's Rasbora (Trigonostigma somphongsi); Critically Endangered (CR)  Water Onion, Giant Mountain Crab (Potamon bhumibol), Sirindhorn’s Magnolia (Magnolia Sirindhorniae), and Endenic Zingiberaceae (Smithatris supraneanae) are not yet being assessed. Assessment of flora species will be led by DNP. IUCN will work together with DNP and ZPO on this concern in Q3 2018 onward.  There is sufficient database of the listed species in the Red Data. At the present, ONEP is working on the management plan of flora and fauna species being listed in the Thailand Red Data based on their habitats and sub-species. In addition, ONEP is working on the draft of “Biodiversity Protection Act”, which all related regulations and management plan of those species will be prioritized. The draft act and other related species management plans will be proposed to the National Sub-committee of Convention on Biological Diversity and the National Committee of Biodiversity utilization and conservation accordingly in 2019.  The database assessment and update is scheduled every 4 years.  The project will seek for the opportunities to work with DNP and ONEP on the management plan of the species listed above and the pending flora species being listed in the Thailand Red Data. If there is a need to revise the list of species in output 1.4, IUCN, ZPO, ONEP and DNP will work together to address this concern.  More information for Thailand Red Data:  http://chm-thai.onep.go.th/chm/Doc/Publication/red\_data\_Vertebrates/Vertebrates60.pdf | For up-to-date results-, it can be ranked as ‘on track’ as based on the project’s progress, there is no indication of decline in species status yet based on the most updated and found population below:    According to three flora and fauna species, their past statuses by following organizations are shown below:  - Spoon-billed Sandpiper was ranked as– Critically Endangered (CR) by Thailand Red Data in 2017 (ONEP) and by IUCN Red List in 2018 and now for the most updated and found population was reported as 11 birds in Thailand (1 in Kok Kham) by BCST during 2018-2019;  - Eastern Sarus Crane was at Vulnerable (VU) by IUCN Red List in (2016) and Critically Endangered (CR) by Thailand Red Data (2017) and the most updatated and found population was reported as total of 77 ESC surviving, 66 of them were released back to their habitats and 11 of them were natural-born surviving cranes, as reported by ZPO  - Water Onion (Crinum thaianum J. Schulze) was rankned as Endangered (EN) by IUCN Red List in 2008 and as Vulnerable (VU) by Threatened Plants List by Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (2017) and for the most updated and found population will be reported using the data from the study’s report developed under the project.    While another 7 species had been assessed before and its statuses are as below:    1 Fishing cat (Prionailurus viverrinus) - Vulnerable (VU) 2016 and Endangered (EN) 2017  2 Eastern Grass Owl (Tyto longimembris) - Least Concern (LC) 2016  3 Mekong Wegtail (Motacilla samveasnae) - Near Threatened (NT) 2016  4 Giant Mountain Crab (Indochinamon bhumibol) - Endangered (EN) in 2008  5 Somphong's Rasbora (Trigonostigma somphongsi) - Critically Endangered (CR) 2011  6 Sirindhorn’s Magnolia (Magnolia Sirindhorniae) - Endangered (EN) 2007 and Vulnerable (VU) 2007  7 Endenic Zingiberaceae (Smithatris supraneanae) - Critically Endangered (CR) in 2018    Currently, these species are now being initially re-assessed as of 2019 by the technical consultant under the project. The consultant will perform a study on the status of the above-mentioned 10 species. A result from the study will be completed in July 2019 and provide initial information on the most updated and found populations and recommendations on the current species status in Thailand which will be proposed to ONEP to consider if the current status of the 10 species in Thailand should be changed based on the study’s results.    For more information, please see in the Section G.  More information for Thailand Red Data and DNP database of threated plants:  http://chm-thai.onep.go.th/chm/Doc/Publication/red\_data\_Vertebrates/Vertebrates60.pdf  http://www.dnp.go.th/botany/PDF/publications/ThreatenedPlantsInThailand.pdf |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Enabling framework and capacity to manage ES in productive landscapes strengthened** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Approval of ES and Critical Habitat Bill and landuse planning framework by key decision makers | No Act currently exists focused on the conservation of endangered species. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Bill approved by Cabinet.  (NEW) Legal framework and policy recommendations developed for ES and critical habitats and proposed to wetlands management sub-committee under the National Environmental Board. [NEW sub-target endorsed following MTR] | Due to a transition period in Thailand political process, the Project Board doesn't see that the project can get the Bill approved by the Cabinet within the project time frame. The Project Board agreed to consider a reduction of ambitions to reach a Bill approval in the Mid Term Review. The PMU will come up with the key recommendations to draft the Bill. | This is important to note that per the decision made by the project board in the 2nd meeting and also MTR, this indicator was agreed as too ambitious to accomplish and that it did not reflect the project's focus on landuse planning framework at provincial levels. As the RTA concluded it was too late in the project to remove the Bill target the target is broadened to include “Legal framework and policy recommendations developed for ES and Critical habitats and proposed to Wetland management Sub-Committee under the National Environmental Board.” By having the Bill approved to become law, it requires longer process which beyond the project time frame. As a result, legal framework and policy recommendations which is considered a set of information on ES and Critical habitat conservation and management is more appropriate to be achieved in the project timeframe by being proposed and adopted by sub-national authorities before moving up to national level. Strengthened legal framework and policy recommendations will support the development of ES and Critical Habitat Bill in the future.    For up-to-date results- it is indicated as ‘on track’ because the legal framework and policy recommendations related to ES and Critical habitat including land use planning has been already developed and now being proposed to the Project Board with an aim to obtain feedback and primary approval. After the recommended land use plans and legal frameworks for ES and critical habitats are finalized, ONEP will propose to Wetland management Sub-Committee under the National Environmental Board.    For more information, please see in the Section G. |
| Reduction in threats to ES and critical habitats from landuse change through adoption of landuse zoning for ES and critical habitat conservation within Provincial Plans based on landuse planning framework | Currently no provincial plans have ES focused landuse zoning. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5 draft provincial plans clearly integrate the designation of critical habitat areas and increase environmental safeguards for development within these areas.    Land use zoning for ES and critical habitats in 5 provinces completed and submitted to the Town Country Planning and Development for inclusion in the provincial plans.    [TARGET revised following MTR: i) "draft" added; (ii) added second part as new sub-target] | The Implementing Partner (ONEP) has been in discussion with the Department of Public Works and Town Planning (DPT) in the 3 target provinces regarding the need to consider ES focused land-use zoning in the next 5-year plan (2018-2022). So far, the Provincial Offices of DPT have acknowledged the issue concerned. In addition, the Governors of each participating province, (Samut Sakhon, Buriram, Ranong) have high awareness of ES and critical habitat conservation.  There has been no progress on the development of a TOR for land use expert teams as of this reporting period. This is expected to take place in September 2018 by TEI as an implementing partner.  There has been no progress on initiating a national platform to enable changes at the policy level however the project’s focus has been at the provincial level, mobilized through the LAC. | This is important to note that per the MTR, this indicator was suggested for change and this was endorsed by the Project Board in June 2019. The changes reflect the process adopted by the project to influence provincial plans through land use zoning and its integration within draft provincial plans. The target has broadened to include: “land use zoning for ES and critical habitat of 5 provinces completed and submitted to Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning of Thailand for inclusion in the provincial plan, integrating the designation of critical habitat areas and increasing environmental safeguards for development within these areas”    For up-to-date results-it is indicated as ‘on track’, it is because ES focused land use zoning plan or as earlier mentioned as ‘ES habitat conservation management plans’ were originally set at 3 provinces. In the first project board meeting in 2018, Petchaburi and Phang Nga have been added as target area, therefore; total of 5 ES habitat conservation management plans have been developed and already endorsed as well as integrated into provincial plans of 5 target provinces consisting Ranong on May 3, Samut Sakhon on June 12, , and additionally in Petchaburi on February 1, Phang Nga on June 14, 2019, and Buriram since end of 2018. For Buriram, it is now waiting for the legislation of the proposed plan. Draft plans have been open for public consultation.    For more information, please see in the Section G. |
| Management and monitoring system for endangered species operational indicated by number of species for which conservation and recovery plans are in place, critical habitats are defined, management plans in place utilising GIS decision support tool and monitoring is in action. | Basic data system in place but not operational and with limited data management capacity. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Target of 10 species. (Target includes 3 pilot species and 7 additional species). | The Project Director (Deputy Secretary General) has assigned the ONEP officer in charge on National Red Data and Bio Bank of the ES to work with the Project Manager (IUCN as Responsible Party). The officer can ensure that the target 10 species will be integrated into Red Data.  7 additional species have been identified by the experts in 2017, in addition to the Spoon billed Sand piper, Water Onion and Sarus Crane. As explained in page 6-7-8, ONEP has completed the status assessment and updated the Thailand Red Data in 2017. Therefore, the selected species will be revised and focus on the management plan of the selected species listed in the Red Data. ZPO will take the lead on this. | For up-to-date results- –this indicator is ranked at ‘on track’ since ZPO not only has currently worked with species expert to conduct a study to obtain relevant information on the selected species, but also with KW solution to develop ‘management and monitoring system’ of 10 selected species, by establishing computer/mobile based application with GIS functions. The updated database of 10 species will be available at the end of July 2019. In addition, the monitoring and management system using GIS is objected to use as 1) a monitoring tool to identify numbers and locations of species discovered at community level and to 2) a platform to disseminate the information of the 10 species for future use. The GIS training workshop had been already conducted. Also, other information such as on conservation and recovery plans and ES management plans including other reports from experts will be uploaded in the website (http://chff.onep.go.th/ ).    For more information, please see in Section G. |
| Improvements in capacity development indicator score for ONEP for:  • Indicator 2: Existence of operational co-management mechanisms  • Indicator 3: Existence of cooperation with stakeholder groups  • Indicator 11: Adequacy of the environmental information available for decision-making mainstreaming | Current capacity assessment score card notes ONEP scores as:  • Indicator 2: Score 1.  • Indicator 3: Score 1.  • Indicator 11: Score 1.    (NEW) Indicator 5: Score 1.    [BASELINE updated following MTR to reflect broadened target] | *(not set or not applicable)* | Capacity scores increase to:  • Indicator 2: Score 3.  • Indicator 3: Score 3.  • Indicator 11: Score 3.    (NEW) Indicator 5: Score 3.    [TARGET revised following MTR] | The project is continuing with the revised activities plan and understanding with ONEP as per the last reporting period. This output is behind target and has not yet been fully implemented.  The activities under IUCN as a Responsible party have not yet been implemented and are therefore behind target.  Work on the GIS database will commence in 2019. Data has already begun to be collected on the 10 species.  ZPO Eastern Sarus Crane Database: The monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation for the Eastern Sarus Crane component via GIS databasing is in Phase-I of the project outsourcing for surveying household databases around Sanambin reservoir. Assoc. Prof. Prapeut Kerdsub, Faculty of Environmental and Resource Study, Mahidol University was selected to be a consultant. The project began on June 7th 2018 and the inception report was sent to ZPO on June 21st 2018. The report consists of method and planning in 5 parts of 1) the primary and secondary collection such as policy, provincial plan and other related data 2) data analysis 3) a workshop and training to motivate organic farming for local communities 4) Set up two prototype communities of organic farming for conserving Eastern Sarus Crane and 5) public relations and lesson learned.  Phase-II has commenced of project outsourcing for survey and database system of Sanambin reservoir and Huai Talad Reservior. Asst. Prof. Dr. Piyakarn Teartisap, Faculty of Environmental and Resource Study, Mahidol University was selected to be a consultant and began work on April 23rd 2018.The project consists of three phases. Phase-I is the planning, cooperation and literature review of primary and secondary data. Phase-II is the surveying physiological, biological, chemicals and threats of wetlands included of economic and socialization of local communities. Phase-III is the integrated data processing and makes the RAMSAR information Sheet (RIS) including of GIS-based land suitability analysis. The inception report of sent to ZPO on May 22nd 2018. | This is important to note that per the MTR this indicator was added with one more sub-indicator (number 5) which is “Access and sharing environmental information by stakeholders”  For up-to-date results- - this indicator is ranked at ‘on track’ as resulted from the scores received per the below indicators:  Indicator 2 “Existence of operation co-management mechanisms” – the up-to-date score is agreed at Score 3 which is “Comprehensive co-management mechanisms are formally established and are operational/Functional”.  Indicator 3 “Existence of cooperation with stakeholder groups” – the up-to-date score is agreed at Score 3 which is “Stakeholders are identified, and they actively contribute to established participative decision-making processes”.  Indicator 11-“Adequacy of the environmental information available for decision-making mainstreaming” – the up-to-date score is agreed at Score 3 which is “Political and administrative decision-makers obtain and use updated environmental information to make environmental decision”.  Indicator 5 – “Access and sharing environmental information by stakeholders” – the up-to-date score is agreed at Score 3 which is “Comprehensive environmental information is available and shared through and adequate information management structure”.  To conclude the total score of baseline for the three initial indicators was 3 (out of 9) while the current score is 9 out of 9. For the new indicator, the score is currently ranked at 3 as the highest score.      For more information , please see in Section G. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Critical Habitat management demonstrated for three Endangered Species** | | | | | | |
| **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 hectares of production landscape where land owners/users have been capacitated in producing environmentally friendly products. | No areas within the target locations currently use biodiversity friendly production techniques. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 600 ha of salt pans in Khok Kham Subdistrict have been capacitated in sustainable SBS-friendly salt production Communities engaged in salt production  400 ha of rice fields in within 1 km of reservoirs in Buriram Province have been capacitated in organic and Eastern Sarus Crane-friendly rice | In Buriram province, the project team responsible by ZPO is currently looking to outsource the surveying and development of a database system of the Sanambin Reservoir in order to develop a sustainable land-use plan consistent with the geographic and social conditions of the area.  Outsourcing is also being undertaken to survey and develop a household database for the Sanambin Reservoir area in order to create a prototype community of Eastern Sarus Crane conservation in the area.  For the project site in Buriram Province, a habitat outside the protected areas in 2 sub-districts (covering approximately 28,118 hectares) have had capacity enhanced in order to ensure the protection of the Eastern Sarus Crane through a partnership approach with private enterprises and local farmers.  MC GROUP Public Company Limited made an agreement to order 15,000 kilograms of Sarus Rice from the Baan Sawaiso Community Enterprise Group. This group is a prototype community for Eastern Sarus Crane conservation.  The project is in the midst of negotiations with CP All Public Company Limited to have 280 farmers from the 3 villages around Huay Chorakae Mak reservoir join in the project of jasmine rice production. This project’s objective is to extend agriculture and CP will agree to buy all products produced by these farmers.  The project is also meeting with the Buriram Sugar Group and Buriram Irrigation Project about the approval request of the site for building the Eastern Sarus Crane and Wetland Learning Center and the guidelines of area  Capacity building for the target communities in Samut Sakon and Ranong is planned for implementation in 2018-2019. However, the strategic plan will be consulted with local communities and other stakeholders in Ranong and Samut Sakorn province. This has not yet taken place – both the Water Onion and Spoon-billed Sandpiper aspects of this project are therefore behind target, with no change as of the last reporting period. | For up-to-date results – this indicator is ranked as “on track” as it is briefly explained below:  In Khok Kham sub-district, 179.2 ha which is the entire area of Khok Kham ) have been capacitated in SBS friendly salt production by involving land owners and local stakeholders in training, meeting and study tour, aiming at ES habitat conversation. The project baseline has changed on salt pan area and the originally set target is not possible as that area of salt pans does not remain (see the above mentioned justification written under the objective indicator in this section).    Currently, the entire 179 .2 ha will be officially zoned as Core and Buffer zones, which can be guaranteed that these lands will not be converted to incompatible zone to the long-term survival of SBS.  In Buriram, farm owners of over 869 ha or around 1,500 rais from 3 leading communities around reservoirs had been trained and now undergoing PGS to grow organic rice in their lands.    For more information, please see in Section G. |
| Stability or increase in numbers of populations of the following species at target sites:  – Spoon-billed Sandpiper  – Water Onion  – Eastern Sarus Crane    [Minor edit to indicator made during inception phase to clarify indicator species; Water Onion was originally shown as Water Lily] | Spoon-billed Sandpiper – 4 at pilot location in Khok Kham  Water Onion – 0.5ha (blooming area)  Eastern Sarus Crane – 25 in ‘wild population’ No wild breeding occurred | *(not set or not applicable)* | Spoon-Billed Sandpiper – no reduction in species number  Water Onion – 10% increase in blooming areas – 0.55ha  ESC > 40 in “wild’ population and ‘wild’ breeding taking place.    [Target for ESC amended during inception phase; was originally set at 25] | In Samut Sakhon province, only 1-2 Spoon-billed Sandpiper transited from Russia, Gulf of Thailand, and Khok Kham area connected in Phetchaburi province. This is lower than the baseline and therefore behind target.  No progress can be reported for the Water Onion – now that the IUCN has signed RPA for the Water Onion aspect of project management, a review will be conducted starting between September and November 2018 by the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand.  Both the spoon-billed sandpiper and water onion aspects of the project are behind target however it is hoped this will be remedied now that the IUCN has signed the Responsible Party Agreement and will begin work on these two species.  In Buriram province, the project team has conducted daily surveys to study survival rates, behavior, movement, and distribution mapping of the reintroduced Eastern Sarus Cranes. As of Q2/2018, 52 of the 86 reintroduced cranes survived after release. Since 2011-2018, 7 cranes were hunted by humans, 2 cranes were killed by dogs, a crane died as a result of pesticides, 9 cranes died from natural causes, and 15 cranes disappeared. There were also an additional 6 natural-born surviving cranes. This leaves 58 ‘wild’ cranes in total.  15 juvenile Eastern Sarus Cranes from Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo were transported to Huay Chorakaemak Reservoir for training and preparation for release later this year. The Eastern Sarus Crane part of the project managed by ZPO is on track, meeting target goals of >40 ‘wild’ Sarus Cranes and with evidence of ‘wild’ breeding taking place.  The work plan focuses on the participatory management of the species and habitat conservation. Promotion of alternative livelihoods is the methodology the project plans to implement with local communities, ensuring that the pressure from the direct use of the endangered species and their habitats and conversion or modification of land use will not affect the endangered species and its critical habitats. Eco-tourism will be proposed and discussed with the target communities and see if there is a potential to diversify their livelihood from indirect use of the natural resources.  Eventually, the project will use the national and provincial legislation to protect the ES and their habitats to ensure sustainable population figures in the future. his has not yet commenced and is therefore behind target. | For up-to-date results, this indicator is ranked as “on track” as it is briefly explained below:  For SBS, total of SBS that flew to its regular habitat in Baan Khok Kham, Samut Sakhon is 2 , as evidenced through video clip recorded by the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand and publicized by private digital TV channel during the end of 2018 to March 2019.  For Water Onion, in early July, around 1 ha of Water Onion has been indicated during its growth cycle before blooming, as witnessed by IUCN during fieldworks and through interview of the members of target communities who guaranteed that this Water Onion would survive to its blooming in October 2019. Photos of this expansion of Water Onion are also taken by IUCN. Besides, Nakha canal is not only home to Water Onion, but it exists in other sub-canals where Water Onion is not in existence before.  For ESC, as of June 2019, total of 77 ESC surviving and 66 of them were released back to their habitats. Besides, 11 of them were natural-born surviving cranes, as reported by ZPO.    For more information, please see in Section G. |
| Identified threats to targeted species reduced:  - Spoon-billed Sandpiper – critical habitat converted for intensive agriculture and urban/industrial development  - Eastern Sarus Crane – deaths due to excessive pesticide or hunting  - Water Onion – Number of ‘wild’ collected plant specimens to exported out of Thailand | Area of possible SBS habitat that has been converted to uses incompatible for SBS use  Eastern Sarus Crane – 25 in ‘wild population’ (36 released 4 deceased 7 missing )  669,563 Water Onions exported through Suvarnbhumi Airport during 2006 -2009 (number of ‘wild’ collected specimens not known) | *(not set or not applicable)* | No increase in area of critical SBS habitat converted to uses incompatible to the long-term survival of SBS in the Khok Kham location    ESC increase in survival rate of reintroduced population. Current survival rate 60% over a four year period.    At end-of-project, no export recorded of ‘wild’ collected water onion at the Suvarnbhumi Airport.    [Target for ESC adjusted during inception phase; was originally 70% survival rate over three year period] | Monitoring of the SBS habitat has already been conducted by the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand – this data will be made available to the project between October and December 2018. The Bird Conservation Society of Thailand is joining the project as an Implementing Partner responsible for socio-economic and ecological assessments of the SBS.  A youth camp on Wetland and Crane Conservation was held at Huay Chorakaemak Non-hunting Area (March 10-11th) with 45 students and 6 teachers from four elementary schools in the area participating in order to raise awareness on issues facing the Eastern Sarus Crane and to promote better co-existence between people sharing production landscapes with the birds.  Between January and March 2018, there were 346 visitors to the Eastern Sarus Crane Conservation Center in Huai Sang Nhur, Buriram Province. This center also aims to inform the local community on potential threats they pose to the Eastern Sarus Cranes and the importance of these cranes.  Work has also been done (as detailed in Outcome 2) to promote organic rice farming in order to prevent pesticide-related Eastern Sarus Crane deaths.  From 2011-2018, the survival rate of released Eastern Sarus Cranes remains at 60%.  Awareness raising program for Samut Sakorn and Ranong will be centralized at the learning centers in the target areas. The learning center will be overseen by the local committee and Provincial office of Natural Resources and Environment (PONRE). IUCN will collaborate with BCST to implement this activity in September 2018 onward. However, this has not yet commenced and is therefore behind target. | For up-to-date results, this indicator is ranked as “on track” as it is briefly explained below:  For SBS habitat, during the past project implementation; there is no increase in areas of critical SBS habitat converted to use incompatible to the long-term survival of SBS in the Khok Kham sub-district. It is currently even better that the land use plans as the project’s deliverable has been already endorsed and integrated into provincial plan. As a result, the entire 179 ha will be officially zoned as Core and Buffer zones, which can be guaranteed that these lands will not be converted to incompatible zone to the long-term survival of SBS.  For ESC, the current survival rate of ESC after release since the project beginning (2015) is at 85.37%, rising from 55.17% before the project.  For Water Onion, records on exporting Water Onion to other countries are being requested from Agricultural Regulatory Office. This indicator will be reported at the end of the project by IUCN.    For more information, please see in Section G. |
| **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): | 54.29% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 54.29% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 954,978 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 67,580 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 1,758,904 |
| Co-financing | 11,137,233 |

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| --- | --- |
| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Aug 16, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Sep 3, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Sep 29, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Dec 1, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 12, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Mar 14, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 1, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Sep 28, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-06-13 |
| 2019-02-11 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| --- | --- |
| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# 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.** |
| Since August 2018 , the Responsible Party (IUCN) has brought the project personnel in full capacity, including Project Manager, Admin & Finance Assistant, Knowledge Management, project coordinators. The team run activities as per schedule along with the approved work plan by the Project Board. Some schedule adjustment has been consulted with the ONEP (as IP). The Mid-Term Review was conducted during November 2018 to February 2019 and the team is ready to schedule the meeting for a site visit of the Terminal Evaluators in Q3 2019. |

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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.** |
| The mid-term review has been done since March 2019. The management response has been completed in consultation with the Project Management Unit (PMU), ONEP (as IP). The final management response was endorsed by the Project Board in June 2019. The Project Board agreed that this project will be closed in September 2019. ONEP will carry on the exist-strategy. The Terminal Evaluation has been prepared in consultation with the PMU, IP. The mission will be started from August - November 2019. |

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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.** |
| The MTR was conducted over the reporting period according to schedule. There were minor delays finalizing the MTR report as it was not of a good quality. As this was a mid-sized project a MTR was not mandatory but was completed as an optional adaptive management measure given the delays that had been experienced in the project. The terminal evaluation has been planned to take place in Q3-4 2019. This has been pushed back slightly to the next reporting period to allow maximum time to deliver project activities so that it will take place alongside operational close instead of prior to it. The TE will still take place within UNDP-GEF guidelines (taking place within 6 months prior and 6 months after operational closure). There has been good coordination between PMU, UNDP CO and RTA on the timing and planning for the TE. |

# 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 | As of June 2019, the development objective progress is ranked at Moderately Satisfactory level which can be briefly indicated whether each indicator at objective and outcome levels are considered as fully or partial achieved or not yet officially assessed as summarized below. Most targets are achieved with only minor shortcomings.  -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  Comparison between target and result at Project Objective indicators  To mainstream globally important biodiversity species conservation into production sectors through improved management of critical habitats    Indicator 1 -- Hectares of production landscapes legislated as ES critical habitats and protection enforced to assure the  long-term survival of ES in Thailand  Target Result -- At least 33,893 ha legislated as ES Critical Habitats and managed in a manner that assures the long-term survival of target ES  Result -- 33,472 ha which it the entire project areas (Fully achieved) (original target cannot be met as salt pan area is decreased in size)  For the first indicator which is numbers of ha legislated as ES and its Critical habitats and managed to assures the long-term survival of target ES is considered fully achieved at this stage. It is because the five land use plans for Conversation and Buffer zone that were developed through collaboration from local project committee, community stakeholders and project have already been proposed and endorsed for integration into the provincial plans of each target province. By integrating the plans, it assures that land owners will be regulated to conduct friendly use activities to ensure the long-term survival of ES in their areas. Before the plan endorsement, there is an indication of positive response on ES habitat conservation, for example; in Ranong, a Provincial Governor Order was issued to prohibit dredging activity in Suksamran and Kaper Districts in order to sustain water level for the Water Onions which this has resulted in a significant decrease in dredging activities. Besides, ONEP has been working on the Environmental Protected Area designation areas and its regulations based on “Promotion and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, B.E. 2535” for Water Onion, Spoon Billed Sand Piper and Sarus Crane.    Indicator 2 -- Status of species on the National Red list.  Target Result -- No overall decline in species status of species currently listed on the National Red list for Thailand  Result  -- Spoon-billed Sandpiper was ranked as– Critically Endangered (CR) by Thailand Red Data in 2017 (ONEP) and by IUCN Red List in 2018 and now for the most updated and found population was reported as 11 birds in Thailand (1 in Kok Kham) by BCST during 2018-2019;  - Eastern Sarus Crane was at Vulnerable (VU) by IUCN Red List in (2016) and Critically Endangered (CR) by Thailand Red Data (2017) and the most updatated and found population was reported as total of 77 ESC surviving, 66 of them were released back to their habitats and 11 of them were natural-born surviving cranes, as reported by ZPO  - Water Onion (Crinum thaianum J. Schulze) was rankned as Endangered (EN) by IUCN Red List in 2008 and as Vulnerable (VU) by Threatened Plants List by Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (2017) and for the most updated and found population will be reported using the data from the study’s report developed under the project.  Currently, these species are now being initially re-assessed as of 2019 by the technical consultant under the project. A result from the study will be completed in July 2019 and provide initial information on the most updated and found populations and recommendations on the current species status in Thailand which will be validated, and endorsed by ONEP on the current status of the 10 species.    Partially achieved (wait for the final data)    For the second indicator of ‘no overall decline in species status of species currently listed on the National Red list for Thailand’, this indicator is partially achieved. The assessment on species status for three target species officially conducted by ONEP and DNP in 2017. There is no indication of declining in species status of target species. Yet, this indicator will be reported again, using the findings assessed by the consultant hired by the project. In addition, as the National Red List for Thailand update (Thailand Red Data) is planned to conduct every 4 year, therefore; the next assessment will be in 2021. In addition, MONRE has appointed the National Committee of Biodiversity utilization and conservation since 2000 to review species database, update and oversee the status of species in the country.    -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  Comparison between target and results at Outcome indicators:    Outcome 1: Enabling framework and capacity to manage ES in productive landscapes strengthened    Output 1.1 -- Approval of ES and Critical Habitat Bill and land use planning framework by key decision makers  Target 1.1 -- Legal framework and policy recommendations developed for ES and Critical habitats and proposed to Wetland management Sub-Committee under the National Environmental Board.  Result 1.1 -- The legal framework recommendations has been already developed and now being proposed to the Project Board. (Fully achieved - reporting against the new target added)    Output 1.2 -- Reduction in threats to ES and critical habitats from landuse change through adoption of landuse zoning for ES and critical habitat conservation within Provincial Plans based on landuse planning framework  Target 1.2 -- Land use zoning for ES and critical habitat of 5 provinces completed and submitted to the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning of Thailand for inclusion in provincial plans.  Results 1.2 -- ES focused land use zoning plan or as earlier mentioned as ‘ES habitat conservation management plans’ has been already endorsed and integrated into provincial plans of 5 target provinces (Fully achieved - reporting against new target endorsed)    Output 1.3 --Management and monitoring system for endangered species operational indicated by number of species for which conservation and recovery plans are in place, critical habitats are defined, management plans in place utilising GIS decision support tool and monitoring is in action.  Target 1.3-- Target of 10 species to be included in the system (Target includes 3 pilot species and 7 additional species).  Results 1.3-- A study to obtain relevant information on the selected 10 species is being conducted and with KW solution’s collaboration, ‘management and monitoring system, using GIS tool’ of 10 selected species is now currently established (Fully achieved)    Output 1.4 -- Improvements in capacity development indicator score for ONEP  Target 1.4--Capacity scores increase to score#3 in indicator 2, 3, 5 and 11  Results 1.4--All indicators for ONEP are ranked at 3 (from 1 to 3 for all indicators) (Fully achieved - including achievement of the new indicator 5 added)    For all of output indicators of Outcome #1, all have been fully achieved. For indicator 1, it is important to note that due to a transition period in Thailand political process, it is not possible to make the draft Bill approved in the project timeframe, thus; only recommendations on ES and Critical Habitat and land use planning has been drafted and being proposed to project board before further proposing to Wetland management Sub-Committee under the National Environmental Board.  Regarding to indicator 2 the content of ES habitat conservation management plans’ that has been already endorsed and integrated into provincial plans of 5 target provinces include key topics such as types of appropriate activities in each zone, structure and roles of responsible agencies, possible threats and EIAs and SEAs. Importantly, these plans had been completed through a collaboration of both government and public sector at local and community levels.  For indicator 3, the monitoring and management system using GIS is objected to use as 1) a monitoring tool to identify numbers and locations of species discovered at community level and to 2) a platform to disseminate the information of the 10 species for future use. The utilization of the system will be expanded to users in Samut Sakhon, Petchaburi, Ranong, Buriram and Phang Nga. Besides, plans for data quality assurance through the use of the system has already been addressed and will be managed effectively. In addition, to improve data management capacity, few training on use of the system and other relevant subjects had been already conducted among target users. All information and database will be also uploaded in the website http://chff.onep.go.th/  In relation to the indicator 4 relating to institutional capacity of ONEP, it can be summarized that through management mechanism among the central project board committee and sub-committee at provincial level, which comprises of relevant agencies such as ONEP, PONRE, the project has successfully initiated activities to promote ES at national and provincial level, for instance; the development of land use plans (output 1.3). Apart from government’s engagement, there are other key stakeholders from private sectors such as sugar production company in Buriram that has shown high level of its engagement by providing financial supports in establishing the foundation on ES located in Buriram with its coverage for the entire country. For the environmental decision-making, the ES database system, using GIS can directly feed data into decision-making processes at national, provincial, and local levels. In addition, this online database will be expanded for use of other stakeholders, which can be recognized as a high powerful source of information that will strengthen capacity of stakeholders to effectively manage and monitor the target species in the future.    ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  Outcome 2: Critical Habitat management demonstrated for three Endangered Species    Output 2.1 -- Number of hectares of production landscape where land owners/users have been capacitated in producing environmentally friendly products.  Target 2.1---179.2 ha of salt pans in Khok Kham Subdistrict have been capacitated in sustainable SBS-friendly salt production Communities and 400 ha of rice fields in within 1 km of reservoirs in Buriram Province have been capacitated in organic and Eastern Sarus Crane-friendly rice  Results 2.1--179.2 ha (Khok Kam) and 869 ha (Buriram) (Fully achieved)    Output 2.2 --Stability or increase in numbers of populations of the following species at target sites.  Target 2.2-- Spoon-Billed Sandpiper – no reduction in species number (4), Water Onion – 10% increase in blooming areas – 0.55ha, ESC > 40 in “wild’ population and ‘wild’ breeding taking place.  Results 2.2 -- SBS is at 2; 77 ESC surviving and 66 of them were released back to their habitats. Besides, 11 of them were natural-born surviving cranes; over 1 ha is covered with Water Onion during its growth before blooming (Fully achieved)    Output 2.3 --Identified threats to targeted species reduced.  Target 2.3---No increase in area of critical SBS habitat converted to uses incompatible; ESC increase in survival rate; at end-of-project, no export recorded of ‘wild’ collected water onion at the SVB Airport.  Results 2.3-- No increase in SBS habitat converted; ESC surviving rate is at 85.37%; Export record on Water Onion at SVB airport is not yet assessed until the project’s end (Fully achieved for 2 sub-indicators and not yet assessed for 1 indicator-Water Onion)    In relation to the Outcome 2, most of indicators have been fully achieved, except one sub-indicator relating to records of Water Onion at SVB airport under output 2.3 that will be assessed at the end of the project. It is important to note that all indicators under this outcome are relevant in term of survival rate of target species and long-term ES habitat conservation, which its success have been largely contributed by key project activities such as training on surveying and conserving ESC, study project for model of organic rice growing, capacity building workshop on salt product development and eco-tourism, lesson exchange forum, study visit (both domestic and international) among representatives from communities and youth camp. Moreover, information sharing to the public and among key stakeholders is enhanced by using all kinds of media such as poster, flyers, video clip, and online media. In addition, key relevant strategies on branding and marketing including business capacity development such as accounting skills have been also enhanced to promote the ESC and salt products as well as ecotourism activities. All of the above mentioned activities had been conducted to respond to the survival rate of target species in long term.    ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  Moreover, through close supervision by ONEP, apart from achievement showing in the logical framework in earlier section, there are other achievements to be noted here:   Some major challenges such as delay in project implementation have been overcome by remarkable attempts of the responsible parties (both ZPO and IUCN). As a result, all numbers of project activities required to be completed have been fully achieved as explained in the earlier section;   Level of awareness on ES conservation is clearly witnessed in all three target sites and another two sites expanded to Petchaburi and Phang Nga at community and provincial levels, for instance; land use planning. It has been gradually improved;   Possibility to continue ES habitat conservation through other funding (exit plan) is made, for instance; IUCN through Toyota-BDNA collaboration, ONEP through its existing work plan and ZPO through ESC foundation in Buriram;   Key deliverable of the project can be expanded and adapted to wider users after the project ended such as study’s reports on 10 ES species, policy recommendation on ES habitat conservation, monitoring and management tool, using GIS, ES database, ESC branding and marketing plan, learning centres in each target provinces, ecotourism activities and curriculum on organic rice growing    Regarding the learning centers and the exhibition sets in 3 provinces of Samut Sakhon, Ranong and Phang Nga are under construction led by BCST. The centers will be managed by local communities, conservation groups, local authorities and PONREs. The centers will be used for academic purposes and tourism activities. These approaches will be a part of sustainability plans after the project ends in September 2019.  ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  Another kind of achievement shown in this reporting period is about the project’s response towards the MTR recommendations, beside the indicators. For example, one recommendation is made on communications between PMU and ONEP that should be more regular, however; indeed; regular communication by Project manager was made through Line application, phone call, unofficial meeting and official meetings for all parties for PMU and ONEP. For stakeholders, the communication was done through monthly visit and collaboration through different official meetings to provide project update. In addition, the new WP 2019 was shared to LAC and PONRE to inform their roles, activities and budget available. Activities calendar throughout the year was also shared among concerned parties.    ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  To conclude, the activities planned for 2019 have been implemented as planned. The deliverable and outputs of each activity were taken to the final project outcome development of legal frameworks, community conservation plans, and close collaboration with local and national stakeholders. The outputs of activities accomplished in Q1-Q2/2019 allowed IUCN and the partners to move forward the final step of community-based conservation plans in 4 provinces. The completed land use plan of the four provinces, the ecological and socioeconomic assessment, operation of three learning centers and the tourism assessments will be utilized in the conservation plans, which will be jointly developed by target communities, PONREs, BCST, TEI and IUCN. Conservation plan and land use plan will be primarily integrated in the Local Administration Organization's work plan and further develop regulations to protect endangered species and its habitats, which will be later integrated into the provincial plans by PONREs. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the third PIR for this project on Conserving Habitats for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscapes in Thailand since the project start in 2015. I give DO rating fo Moderately Satisfactory and IP rating of satisfactory, due to a lot of progress made in preparing the local legislation, proposal on land use plans, national and provincial coordination mechanism, 3 plus 7 project ES species linked with the Thailand Red List, community and local government awareness in 3 ES project flagships, new learning centres as well as community based ecotourism promotion. These outputs have been made by the Responsible Parties (IUCN and ZPO) where IUCN acts as the Project Management Unit (PMU). With close supervision of UNDP personnel and better coordination with ONEP, the project activities have been moved faster than before (last PIR). The Project Manager and the team (IUCN), as the Project Management Unit (PMU), has worked more closely with ONEP since September 2018. The annual activity and event calendars were created by the project manager in February 2019. This calendar facilitated the faster decision made by ONEP executive (Project Director) to allow the team to proceed activities with stakeholders timely. The communication among ONEP, PMU, UNDP was improved through the event calendar and LINE group (mobile application tool). The communication officer of UNDP has been engaged to guide UNDP-GEF branding management of this project. UNDP hired the two consultants to develop a draft project result report and the human story. The draft project result report (in Thai) has been reviewed by ONEP and the PMU. It is expected to finalize in August. The human story is being drafted. The consultants for Terminal Evaluation are expected to be on board in August.    For the target objective, there is discrepancy on baseline data for salt pan area (600 ha (as per ProDoc) and 179.2 ha (as per MTR). I suggested that the PMU will verify these figures with a reliable source of information from the Dept of Marine and Coastal (DMCR). Unless this is shown as an error in baseline reporting the target cannot be changed, however it means that in practice the target area changes. Hence, the target area for legislated as ES Critical Habitats and managed in manner that assures the long-term survival of target ES will be reduced from at least 33,893 ha to 33,472 ha which it is the entire project area (3 provinces). In my opinion, the PMU can remain the same target (33,893 ha) if they can determine the area expansion for conserving the Sarus Crane and Water Onion. The expansion should be compensated to the reduced area in salt pan.    For Outcome 1: The PMU and ZPO made good progress in developing the “Restoration Zone” of the Spoon Bill, Water Onion, Sarus Crane in respective Sub-districts. The Restoration Zone will be regulated by the ordinance issued by Tambon Administration Office (TAO) of Khok Kham (for salt pan), Na-Ka (for water onion), Sa-Kae-Proung (for Sarus Crane). As the Chief of District in respective zone is authorized for TAO Ordinance approval, I would suggest that the PMU and ZPO will engage the Chief of District now in order to inform about the proposal for Restoration Zone now. The approval process should be completed within September 2019. Furthermore, I would suggest the PMU to study the case of Bangkok ordinance that allowed landlord in conservation zone to rent their lands to the investors (e.g. land developer, restaurant, resort). This case is legal binding under the Land Use Planning Act.    Also, I am concern that the TAO Ordinance is small scale of legislative power when compare to the original project objective (ES Bill). The TAO ordinance may not be enforced effectively after the project end. I would suggest that the PMU and ZPO should work closely with the Chief of Provincial Office of Natural Resources and ONEP to mainstream the Restoration Zone with the Provincial Office in Samut Sakhon, Phetchaburi, Ranong, Phang Nga, Burirum. So far, the Chief of Ranong Office of Natural Resources has already prepared the draft Provincial Ordinance for the Governor approval. So, the PMU should drive this process in other provinces. Besides, the PMU should develop a roadmap to promote local tourism and biodiversity-based economy of the zones.    Land use conflict: There is a conflict issue of land owners in Khok Kham Sub-district of Samut Sakhon. Some salt pan owners want to sale their land to the solar power producers and/or land developers where the members of Bird Conservation Club want to preserve the salt pan and mangrove restoration. I would suggest that the PMU and ONEP should find the measures on benefit sharing of biodiversity conservation such as local tourism promotion, salt product promotion, market development for salt. The economic value of these measures should be distributed among the two conflict groups fairly.    For ES management mechanism, the PMU has engaged a greater number of ONEP key personnel to participate in the project activities. For the project sustainability, I would suggest that ONEP will support a regular meeting of the Project Working Group in 3 provinces. The enforcement in TAO Ordinance and the Land use Plan for ES should be the subjects for monitoring and evaluation the succeed of the project. The regular meeting of the Project Working Group can improve coordination mechanism between the national and local level.    For Outcome 2: The PMU and ZPO managed very well in building capacity and raising awareness on the benefit of ES conservation to local communities’ economic development. The survey on ES survival rate has been done regularly, especially for Sarus Crane in Burirum, in association with the schools, Non-Hunting Area Office under the Dept of Nature Conservation and Parks (DNP). The survey data is a good reference to make this project meet all outputs’ indicators.    For exist strategy, I would recommend that ZPO will hand over the survey equipment to either the Non-Hunting Area or the new establish learning center (funded by Burirum Sugar Company Limited) so that the officers can continue to monitor the survival rate of Sarus Crane in association with their learning program with the school and a local university. (105 Sarus Crane in nature as of July, the ZPO will launch additional 10 Sarus Crane on 5 August.) Also, the PMU should recommend the Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (PoNRE) in Samut Sakhon and Ranong to facilitate the regular survey work for Spoon Bill, and Water Onion Blooming area.    For IP, As of 22 July, the delivery rate including a commitment in the UNDP PIM+ system is 55.95%. The remaining fund has been committed in the IUCN and ZPO system. I have given a satisfactory rate because the Q2/2019 fund utilization reaches to $281,250 out of $531,250 million of the total financial agreement with IUCN. The Q3 advance of $275,000 million has been committed spending for on-going activities from July-Sept. For ZPO, the Q3 fund of $182,000 has been committed spending in full. The $30,000 is committed for the operational cost for the Learning Center in Burirum. As per the PMU work plan, they have already obligated the full amount of the remaining budget. UNDP also set aside the fund of $60,000 for Knowledge Management Consultant’ contract and Terminal Evaluation Consultant, internal control audit, spot check. The fund will be committed by 20 September in full.    My recommendations:  1. PMU should verify the salt pan area with the reliable information source e.g. DMCR so that they will finalize the baseline data and confirm if this is a baseline reporting error or a change since project start.  2. For conflict resolution in Salt Pan area, the PMU should study the case of Bangkok ordinance that allowed landlords in conservation zone to rent their lands to the investors (e.g. land developer, restaurant, resort).  3. ONEP should continue to facilitate the Provincial Working Group meeting in the 3 project provinces after the project end. This is to ensure TAO and/or Province Ordinance enforcement and promote integration into the provincial development plan.  4. PMU should hire a consultant to develop the project’s exit strategy for ONEP. The strategy will focus on the roadmap to continue ES habitat conservation through other funding. | |
| **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 Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the third and final PIR for this project working to mainstream endangered species conservation into production sectors in Thailand. The project has been challenged by implementation delays and a shift in management arrangements part-way through implementation. The new responsible party IUCN has done well to push implementation in the remaining 18 months of the project term and good progress has been made towards targets. The project will be likely to operationally close with some shortfalls in progress towards development objectives (DO), although these are generally considered to be minor. DO progress is therefore ‘moderately satisfactory’. The project has been managed well over the past year, with only some delays, resulting in my implementation progress (IP) rating of ‘moderately satisfactory’. These are the same DO ratings given by other assessors in this PIR. UNDP Thailand has given an IP rating of 'satisfactory' on the basis of the full commitment of remaining funds. A rating of 'moderately satisfactory' is more appropriate given the slippages in disbursement meaning that annual delivery targets were not met. These results are an improvement from last year’s PIR and the mid-term review findings, based on the coordinated efforts taken by ONEP, IUCN, UNDP Thailand and other partners.    PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO)  The project’s approach to mainstreaming endangered species conservation is achieved through two outcomes: enabling framework (Outcome 1) and demonstration of best practice approaches for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Water Onion and Eastern Sarus Crane (Outcome 2). Progress towards Objective and Outcomes were all ‘off track’ at last PIR. The PM has rated all as ‘on track’ for this PIR. My assessment is that some targets – particularly under the Objective and Outcome 1 – will only be achieved with some shortfalls. However, these are not considered to be major, giving the DO rating of ‘moderately satisfactory’. This is a good result for the project and an excellent turnaround over the past year, improving from the MTR ratings assessing achievement of Objective and Outcome 1 as 'moderately unsatisfactory'.  At the Objective level, indicators appear likely to be met only with shortfalls, which is in part due to over-ambitious targets that are not suitable for a project of this duration. The PMU recommended changes to indicators on the back of the MTR that were endorsed by the Project Board yet cannot be incorporated under UNDP-GEF policy. These proposed changes are detailed against the relevant indicators in the DO progress tab. The first indicator seeks for project areas to be legislated as 'endangered species critical habitats'. The project has adopted a different approach to achieve this indicator progressing the integration of critical habitats into land use plans and zoning rather than through new national legislation. This approach appears technically robust as the existing national framework has been found to be comprehensive or under improvement through other measures (e.g. drafting of Biodiversity Act). Yet it is not clear that the progress on integrated land use planning will allow for the full target area to be under effective management (picking up on the indicator reference to “'enforcement' of legislation) by project close. Plans might be adopted by project close, which is still a commendable achievement and not a major shortfall if governments remain committed to the adoption and implementation of the plans, and enforcement of zoning is effective – this should be a focus of attention in remaining months. The Board endorsed reduction of the project area target due to a decline in salt pan area from baseline. This is not possible to adopt but is well-outlined in the DO progress tab. Similarly, the Board-endorsed change to the Red List indicator cannot be adopted and the target of no overall decline in Red List species looks unattainable. This was an over-ambitious target and impractical given lags in identifying and confirming changes in species conservation status, meaning that little change is likely to be observed over project implementation. The PMU is appropriately focusing DO reporting on the 10 project indicator species and completing updated conservation status assessments for these species to improve the measurement of project impact.  Mixed progress with some shortfalls is also apparent against Outcome 1 to establish an effective national enabling framework, although some endorsed changes to the results framework help increase the achievability of project targets. The Board had endorsed replacement of some targets under this outcome. The RTA did not consider that these replacements could be adopted so late in the project as they could constitute downgrading, and therefore endorsed the addition of the new targets alongside original ones instead of replacing them. This better reflects the adopted approaches of the project in the targets. The original target of having an adopted Bill in place by project close is not possible, although such legislative targets are frequently not achieved by projects as political decision-making processes lie outside the scope of project control. The project should strive to finalize and submit legislative recommendations by project close. The project’s approach has looked beyond the originally-intended plans and considered how efforts can be better integrated into decentralized legislation and planning, as reflected in the broadened target. The project has made good progress with five provincial plans that integrate critical habitat areas. These might not be fully adopted by project close, but land use planning frameworks considering biodiversity assets and needs have been developed for five provinces, and integrated into draft plans that are being released for public consultation. The target of achieving a full management and monitoring system for 10 species by project close has progressed. Project efforts are focused on establishing a GIS-based mobile application for species monitoring and reporting. While this is a good achievement, it is not clear based on the DO progress tab reporting if conservation and recovery plans are in place and habitats clearly defined for these 10 species – more detailed reporting should be prepared for the terminal evaluation so that the team can more fully assess progress towards targets. The capacity development scorecard for ONEP has been completed and all targeted capacity improvements have been achieved.  Demonstration of critical habitat management under Outcome 2 shows good progress and in general targets look to be achieved. Clear uptake of biodiversity-friendly production is reported for both Buriram (869 ha of rice) and Kok Kham (179 ha of salt pans). The target for Buriram has been exceeded and the crane-friendly rice production has been a success story of the project. The target for salt pans will be adjusted to match the remaining salt pans in the area. Good ecological response is observed for indicator species and targets for stable and increased population of Spoon-Billed Sandpiper (SBS), Water Onion and Eastern Sarus Crane (ESC) are all reported as achieved in the DO progress tab – this is a more appropriate ecological response target than the change in Red List species included at objective level. Similarly, the project is reporting good success at reducing threats to these indicator species. Targets for maintaining SBS habitats and ESC survival have been achieved. Data on exports of water onion is being collated and will be available by the terminal evaluation. Project activities are focusing on community capacity development and engagement to support project sustainability, including through the establishment of conservation learning centres in the three project landscapes and community training workshops on livelihoods diversification (e.g. local products, community-based ecotourism) with OTOP Nawatwithi. The learning centres have provided a good opportunity for private sector engagement, with the Buriram centre sponsored by a local sugar company. These achievements all further support project sustainability by raising awareness and support for threatened species conservation.  In June 2019 the Project Board endorsed results framework changes to support the achievability of project targets, but as outlined above these were not all allowed under UNDP-GEF guidelines (e.g. objective-level changes, downgrading targets late in project). For this reason these were not fully endorsed by the RTA although some Outcome 1 targets were broadened (see discussion above and detail in the DO progress tab). The PMU should ensure the final results framework set out in this PIR is made available to the terminal evaluation team to ensure that evaluation is made against the correct post-MTR endorsed results framework. The PMU also needs to ensure that mandatory GEF tracking tools are completed ahead of the TE mission.    IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP)  IUCN commenced as the core responsible party for project technical implementation and management just prior to the last PIR reporting period. IUCN has done an admirable job to turn around project implementation in the past year, resulting in the IP rating of ‘moderately satisfactory’, with most elements reasonably on track. This is an improvement from the MTR completed in late 2018 that concluded that implementation to date had been ‘moderately unsatisfactory’.  The Project Board, Chaired by ONEP, met twice in the reporting period and has worked well with IUCN and other responsible parties including Thai Zoological Park Organization (ZPO) to finalize and approve work plans. The new Project Director has engaged well in the project and provided appropriate leadership and guidance in its final year. A PMU with good on-ground capacity has been embedded within IUCN. The PMU has coordinated closely with UNDP Thailand, who has brought in extra support for mandatory GEF M&E where additional capacity was required. The CO’s attention on making sure this M&E was effectively prepared is commended. Work planning has been appropriately detailed and quarterly progress reporting on work plan implementation clear.  Engagement of provincial stakeholders has been improved over the past year. Provincial Working Groups were established and met in Ranong and Samut Sakhon. In Phang Nha, the project has worked through an existing provincial committee established under MONRE to discuss and endorse the project-developed integrated land use plan. Community stakeholder consultations have also been held in project districts.  IUCN has done well to fully operationalize the project over the reporting period. Delivery was at 37% of project grant ($643,000) at last PIR and by 30 June had increased to 54% ($955,000). Delivery for 2018 – the crunch year for the project’s delivery – was at less than half (42%) of the approved budget, and to mid-point of 2019 remains impeded, with General Ledger expenditures at 14% of annual budget. With only three months until operational closure there remains $800,000 to disburse which is slightly concerning. However, as outlined in the UNDP CO assessment, project funds are fully committed and expected to be disbursed by September on remaining deliverables on project sub-contracts under IUCN, ZPO and UNDP. All partners should place enhanced attention on timely receipt and payment of remaining deliverables so that these funds are disbursed as far as possible by operational close.  Project adaptive management and risk management is effective. Considerable adaptive management in implementation arrangements has been required over the project timeframe. Over the past year this has been continued through the completion of a MTR despite this not being mandatory for mid-sized GEF projects, the completion of a MTR management response, and the uptake of adaptive responses following the MTR including consideration of potential changes to the results framework (not all of which could be adopted). IUCN has worked closely with the UNDP CO to identify ways to streamline implementation and succeeded in delivering many project activities in the available timeframe. There are no critical risks and mitigation and management of risks has been well-captured in quarterly reports. Attention to safeguards has been adequate and the project has documented the escalation of community conflicts in the safeguards section of this PIR. This risk has been managed through community consultations and the deployment of project activities that provide a range of livelihood opportunities for local communities, such as community-based ecotourism enterprises. The development of community-based ecotourism is a priority of the new Thai government and provides a good opportunity for project activities to be continued after project close through alignment with government activities including that of OTOP.  The PMU has targeted equal gender participation in project activities, with data indicating 45% female participation compared to 55% male. This is a good result, but the project could have achieved greater gender mainstreaming outcomes had a full gender analysis and mainstreaming been completed at project inception. The project should try to document at least one gender mainstreaming outcome in project communications and best practices.  As the project is nearing its close, communications and knowledge management efforts should be enhanced. It is recommended that the project prepare a photo story for the EBD Exposure page to communicate successes, including Sarus Crane-friendly rice production. Best practices should also be identified and assessed to see if any are appropriate for uploading to the IUCN-led, UNDP-supported Panorama partnership – again, crane-friendly rice production might be a good option.  The project is already preparing for its upcoming terminal evaluation. The evaluation team is in place and the mission expected to take place in September 2019. Following the receipt of the TE report, the PMU should swiftly finalize the TE management response. In parallel, the PMU should commence development of the project exit strategy to help maximize sustainability and maintenance of project activities/results following project close. Plans are already underway to bring together Project Board members in November to discuss the TE findings and project close-out mechanisms.    RECOMMENDATIONS  I have the following recommendations to support final achievements of the project and sustainability:  1) Enhance attention to M&E, including collation of clear data and reporting for the TE including completion of the GEF Tracking Tool ahead of the TE mission; 2) Maintain close attention on delivery and payment of remaining deliverables so that remaining funds are disbursed by project operational close; 3) Prepare project communications including a photo story for the UNDP EBD Exposure page; 4) Identify and document project best practices including potential sharing of best practices (e.g. crane-friendly rice) on the IUCN-led and UNDP-supported Panorama partnership. Strive to capture at least one best practice on gender mainstreaming; 5) Finalize the TE management response in a timely fashion following receipt of the TE report and develop an exit strategy to support project sustainability. | |

# 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:** [Gender Analysis and Action Plan.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4839/213601/1718524/1725751/Gender%20Analysis%20and%20Action%20Plan.pdf) |
| **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: Yes |
| 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** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| No case. |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| Although there is no gender indicator stated in the project but the project has included a gender mainstreaming initiative for each outcome. As a result, active women’s engagement in activities can be seen in the three pilot sites both in decision making and operational roles. In Ranong, women take a leadership in community’s saving groups which provide financial loan to conservation and eco-tourism groups. They also participate in specific tasks to manage community-based tourism where water onion is the promoted as tourism attraction. Out of 9 village committees, 5 are women. In Samut Sakhon, special considerations are given to support income generation activities led by women, particularly those adding value to salt-farms which are habitats of Spoon-Billed Sandpiper. The project has chosen to further strengthen capacity of women’s group to improve their existing salt-based activities and products such as salt-spa, salt-based soap, scrub, toothpaste, etc. to meet higher standards. The group was initially supported by the Community Development Department under its “OTOP tourism village” scheme. In Buriram, the project supports a group of 37 rice farmers to produce and market organic ‘Sarus Rice’ with a story associated to Eastern Sarus Cranes which have been released in the areas, and some have nestled in the organic rice fields. Women play a leading role in QC and marketing of the Sarus Rice and other local weaving products. At the village school, Easter Sarus Crane Learning Center has been established and a female teacher and girl students take a lead in the management and operation of the Center. |

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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 plan has clearly designed on gender mainstreaming concept in all outcome’s achievements, for instance; drafting recommendations reviewed to assess potential differential impacts across gender as well as other vulnerable groups; ensuring appropriate gender balance at all training events (such as at capacity building training that promote OTOP Nawat Withi, 80% of participants are housewife from communities), assessing on how to increase women’s participation in coordination and decision making structures included within development process, initial assessment of genders engaged in different income generating activities, inclusion of gender consideration in extension training materials and engaging women in zoning process and management committees and decision-making bodies.  Based on the plan, by integrating gender into the project implementation, women then make up and become a significant part of the project achievements, especially in sustaining the project outcome after the project’s end. At community level, the women in this project not only take roles in making decision but spreading relevant knowledge and also urging their male family members and other community members to take action. As said by Khun Nutcharee at ZPO, at family level; the making-decision power is mostly led to women while men likely agree to accept the decision and use their strengths for taking it into actions’. Through gender mainstream and women empowerment, the project shows the enhanced self-reliance and ownership of outcomes and strengthened capabilities of community-based groups to work together and engage in a participatory process for the next step, although the project is ended. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

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

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

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

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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.** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| In Samut Sakhon, the conflict is extremely out of the project’s authority to control. If the conflict mentioned here was “solar farm”, it has been ongoing since 2014. The best solution to lessen the level of conflict is to ensure equal benefit sharing among the two groups from the learning centers, community-based tourism and alternative livelihood supported by the project. Provincial Governor and PONRE are aware of this issue. The capacity of community to manage Community based tourism” has been assessed by Silapakon University (consultancy contract). The tourism packages and training need to enhance community’s capacity ensuring that they can utilize the centers as well as manage their own tourism-related activities properly, will be identified and developed. |

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| **SESP:** [4839\_Annex 4\_Environmental and Social Review Criteria.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4839/213601/1717681/1724234/4839_Annex%204_Environmental%20and%20Social%20Review%20Criteria.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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

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

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

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

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| “The Conserving Habitats for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscapes” project aims to mainstream the conservation of globally important and endangered species into the management of production landscapes through improved management of critical habitats by focusing on the development and enhancement of enabling framework and capacity at the national level to manage Endanger Species (ES) in productive landscapes and the demonstration of critical habitat management for three Endangered Species including the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, the Eastern Sarus Crane, and the Water Onion in three distinct geographical locations, namely Samut Sakhorn, Buriram and Ranong provinces. In addition, the project also emphasizes on the improvement of people’s livelihood through the enhancement of income generating activities, which can secure a support level from community members towards ES habitat conservation at the same time. This can be exampled through the following case studies from each target area:  In Khok Kham Sub-district of Samut Sakorn, one community member, casually called as ‘Dang’ told her story that since she can remember; she saw her parent worked in salt farms. Once she grew up, she also keeps this family business running until now. At the same time, she ever hears and sees about Spoon-Billed Sandpipers who usually fly to Khok Kham salt farms. However, she did not see it important and relevant to her salt farm business until the beginning of FF project. Currently, she has benefited from the project through eco-tourism activities which she can produce salt products, as a result from attending the project’s skill training and additionally, she has started a coffee shop at her salt farm to serve drinks for bird watchers. Yet, surprisingly the level of income she earns is not significant, her small business could bring back her own family members. As she said “although I earn more from additional income generating activities, what I appreciate most from attending this project is that my daughter who used to work far away in other province has moved back to live with me and help me to run coffee shop. This is a happiness for me to be with my family in my hometown”.  In Buriram, the first leader in the production of organic rice is known as ‘Sawaisor village’s Chief – Thongpoon who initiated the idea of not using chemicals for rice growing in order to improve health conditions of his family including himself. As he said “using chemical does not only give negative impact on our product, but it also cause health problems for users”. From this starting point, he searched for knowledge on organic rice growing and he is becoming an expert on organic rice growing. Evermore, stop using chemical has also reduced his family expense. Although, his organic rice growing has already happened before the project, but apparently that the activity toward people’s live in Sawaisor village is related to branding and marketing of Sarus Crane-friendly jasmine rice product and the ecotourism concerning Eastern Sarus Crane. Since the rice product is become more valued added and highly demanded in the market. For instance, the quantity of organic rice produced is not enough to respond to the demands in the target, although there is about 40 households (50% in Sawaisor village) grow organic rice. In addition, ecotourism supported by the project also convey better income for Sawaisor’s community members by selling local products to visitors who come to learn about organic rice growing and bird watching.  In Ranong, Mr. Ammarin as the leader of Water Onion Conservation Group said that “Once the government found that Water Onion in our areas is less, they wanted to take away people from the area in order to restore and conserve Water Onion. At that time, I felt this is not right. The better way is to make community members understand how to conserve Water Onion and why it is important to do so. This is why I started the group”. At this stage, the project has helped him to draw attention from community members to conserve Water Onion by making them realizing that conserving Water Onion can benefit their lives through ecotourism. The project took community members to attend site visits and several training such as accounting skills, in order to prepare them for the ecotourism which will be happening in this coming July 2019.      The most significant change from this reporting period is about receiving high level of collaboration among key stakeholders in Ranong Province to conserve Water Onion. Initially, the project started collaborating with the Water Onion Conservation Group and did not expect to receive well and quick response from key stakeholders at community and provincial levels. Currently, not only collaboration from community members & leaders and NGOs in Baan Rai Nai as target area, but also provincial governor. For instance, there is a plan to promote the Water Onion at the Ranong airport by exhibiting the Water Onion’s Learning Corner.  Key factors influencing the high level of collaboration can be summarized below:  1) Design the project activities that are appropriate to respond to basic needs of community members who are primary group to conserve Water Onion. Such activities are related to skill-building development and ecotourism;  2) Partner with key strong leader at community levels which would help speeding up the level of collaboration;  3) Use of existing mechanism to run the project activity to receive well collaboration.  Apart from the key factors above, monitoring and following up through both unofficial and official activities are required. |

**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.** |
| • Exhibition on World Water Day on Mar 22nd 2018 at the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, Mahidol University. This event was arranged to build networks and promote conservation amongst students, personnel and the general public  • Provided instructional media to the officers of Huay Chorakae Mak Non-hunting Area. These were used in an exhibit at the Baan Huai Namkem School, Nakhon Ratchasima province on Feb 23rd 2018.  • Supported the creation and delivery of instructional media to the Baan Nhong Makhor School and used in an exhibit on Mar 9th 2018.  • Promoted the project online through www.facebook.com/cranethailand/. There are 3,892 followers (up 253 from last quarter) and 3849 likes (up 179 from last quarter).  - Please see the files (research paper, media coverage) uploaded to the library  - YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUSwlBH1Khk (This video produced by the Mahidol University as the project's beneficiary. It is pretty famous.)  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h42Z7\_ardX4 (This video produced by the project team. It has 40 views. The following video is titled how to cook crane bird curry by Grandpa | Crane Curry Making in Village Style | #foodinfo. This has 3,200 views.)  https://www.iucn.org/asia/thailand/countries/thailand/conserving-habitats-globally-important-flora-and-fauna-production-landscapes |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

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

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

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

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

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |
| 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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| **Request for MSP Approval:** [PIMS 4839 ES Conservation in Production Landscapes CEO ER\_Final\_21Aug14.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4839/213601/1673210/1673491/PIMS%204839%20ES%20Conservation%20in%20Production%20Landscapes%20CEO%20ER_Final_21Aug14.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.** |
| The project works with Civil Society and NGOs.  The Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST) supported media production and will set aside funds to support the field staff and provide compensation to local farmers.  • Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) Project implementing agency  • The project has worked with a local organization; Wun Tue Tee, on empowerment and environmental education through collaboration with in addition to organising a youth camp for the local community.    The project works with the Private Sector.    • The True Corporation Public Company Limited supported the development of a mobile application for birding, advertised a banner of the Eastern Sarus Crane’s habitat and engaged in other public relations activities.  • Buriram Sugar Public Company Limited provided funds to build the Eastern Sarus Crane and Wetland Learning Center in Buriram.  • The Biodiversity-Base Economy Development Office (BEDO) supported an exchange of knowledge of organic farming as well as collaboration with local people.  • Partnerships with the Buriram Land Development office and the Buriram Agricultural office led to the development of a ‘demonstration community’ on wildlife-friendly farming.  • Thai AirAsia supported the Conserving Habitats for Globally Significant Flora and Fauna in Production Landscapes project for the Eastern Sarus Crane.  • MC GROUP Public Company Limited agreed to buy rice products from farmers in the target area.  • CP All Public Company Limited supports 280 farmers from the 3 villages in the target area in joining in the project of jasmine rice production.  • The Community Enterprise Committee and Thai Beverage Public Company Limited selected Baan Sawaiso community to participate in the program of strengthening economy for sustainability. This program has three indicators 1) Increase income of local people in communities 2) Increase value of local products and 3) Reduce poverty in the community.  • Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) supported on the study on ES regulations, in order to use its result for the development of land use plans. |

# 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.