

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Ecosystem Services in Environmental Services**

[Basic Data](#_Toc1)

[Overall Ratings](#_Toc2)

[Development Progress](#_Toc3)

[Implementation Progress](#_Toc4)

[Critical Risk Management](#_Toc5)

[Adjustments](#_Toc6)

[Ratings and Overall Assessments](#_Toc7)

[Gender](#_Toc8)

[Social and Environmental Standards](#_Toc9)

[Communicating Impact](#_Toc10)

[Partnerships](#_Toc11)

[Annex - Ratings Definitions](#_Toc12)

# Basic Data

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Information** |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5165 |
| GEF ID | 5337 |
| Title | Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas |
| Country(ies) | Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Description** |
| The project will render operational a new land use governance framework known as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as a vehicle for safeguarding globally significant biodiversity on production lands of high interest for conservation. This is important as PAs alone will not be able to secure the effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity, due in part to the high beta and gamma diversity of the country, and the fact that the PA system is not wholly representative of the country bio-geography. Moreover, the loss of habitat on production lands adjacent to PAs is leading to their progressive insularisation. Using the land use planning and management framework as the entry point, the project aims to optimize land management and ensure the compatibility of multiple land uses across landscapes designated as ESAs with biodiversity needs. Government legislation provides for the creation of ESAs but there is an unmet need (addressed through this project) to operationalise them. The project will put in place the necessary land use planning and governance frameworks, and establish compliance monitoring and enforcement systems to ensure that mechanisms for land use permitting and allocation in ESAs are configured to balance conservation and development objectives, to protect major habitat blocks and ensure structural and functional connectivity across the landscape. In this regard, it will ensure that the indirect impacts of development (e.g. impacts of roads and other infrastructure) are adequately understood and factored into decision making. ESAs will be comprise a mosaic of land uses, the most sensitive areas within which will be established as no- go areas for development. While setting up the systemic capacities to manage ESAs (plan, regulate, and enforce management prescriptions), the project will also operationalise Sri Lanka first ESA in the Kala Oya basin. Thus it will deliver immediate global benefits, while improving long term conservation prospects across the country. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Contacts** |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Mr. Tashi Dorji (tashi.dorji@undp.org) |
| Programme Associate | Ms. Pakamon Pinprayoon (pakamon.pinprayoon@undp.org) |
| Project Manager  | Ms. Sugandhi Samarasinghe (sugandhi.samarasinghe@undp.org) |
| CO Focal Point | Ms. Sureka Perera (sureka.perera@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Ms. Deepa Liyanage (deepaliyanage@gmail.com) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Ms. Dhammika Wijayasinghe (sldkw@yahoo.com) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

|  |
| --- |
| **Description** |
| **Objective****To operationalize Environment Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.      % of land area identified nationally for Environmentally Sensitive Area designation | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 5% (328,050) of Sri Lanka’s land area | Annual target;  2017, 2018 = 0 3 % of Sri Lanka’s land area (209,700 ha) is identified nationally for Environmentally Sensitive Area designation within Kala Oya Region but this could be altered as ESA identification and selection criteria is presently being revised under pilot ESA project. | Annual target; 2019 = At least 5% of Sri Lanka’s land area. This target was taken from the Inception Report. During the implementation ESA definition was revisited. against the revised definition the project has identified 0.002% of land area ( 14,164 ha) within Kala Oya Region as Environmentally Sensitive Areas up to now. |
| 2. Populations of globally threatened species within Wilpattu and Kala Wewa ESAs | • Elephas maximus (600) • Panthera pardus (113) • Sousa chinensis (TBA) • Dugong dugon (TBA) | *(not set or not applicable)* | • Elephas maximus (600) • Panthera pardus (113) • Sousa chinensis (TBAdded) • Dugong dugon (TBA) | Annual target; 100% maintenance of reported populations Population data of Elephas maximus and Panthera pardus was not recorded and only the presence data was observed during the project survey due to limitations in budget and time. A national/ regional survey has not taken place during this period to gather population data. \*As per databases of individual researches, 125 Panthera pardus counts being recorded. https://www.wilpattu.com/  • Sousa chinensis (10) • Dugong dugon (8-10) (Population is not recorded in baseline and GEF Dugong project of DWC stated it is difficult to survey the Dugong population. However random bycatch data during last year shows presence of 8-10 dugongs in the project area.) | Annual target; 100% maintenance of reported populations through supporting the enabling policy/legal//institutional framework and threat reduction to the populations. The project supported Department of Wildlife Conservation to accomplish Policy review of Wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy and developed policy directives on Wild Animal Human Conflict and prepared management plans for Protected Areas in the landscape and seascape within Kala Oya region to reduce threats to the targeted populations. Pilot tested innovative virtual early warning system to reduce Wild Elephant- Human conflict. A national/ regional survey has not taken place during this period to gather population data. \*As per databases of Kithsiri Gunawardena, individual researcher, who study of Leopards at Wilpattu using photographic evidence to identify each individual Leopards has evidence of detecting 105 individual leopards during the 8 years of study. Though some individuals are not recorded during this reporting period, this does not mean that they are dead as some of them suddenly turn up even after 3 years of absence when they stay in inaccessible areas. https://www.wilpattu.com/  • Sousa chinensis (no evidence to report) • Dugong dugong (13) (As per community sources, the random bycatch data during last year shows presence of 13 dugongs in the project area.) |
| 3. Areas of critical habitats under management within Wilpattu and Kala Wewa ESAs for connectivity and resilience | Extent of: • Salt Marsh: 250 ha • Mangrove forests: 620 ha • Riverine forests: 400ha • Moist Mixed Evergreen Forest: 2000 ha • Scrub on floodplains: 100 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | 100% maintenance | Annual target; 100% maintenance of 620 ha, Riverine Forests: 400 ha, Moist Mixed Ever Green 2000 ha and Scrub on flood plains: 100 ha  The interventions are taken to maintain the status and size of the identified habitats. With the leadership of Forest Department, management plans were prepared for 3585 ha of moist mixed evergreen forests (1490 ha Kadiyangala, 1100 ha Kanduboda, 705 ha Nelliyagama, 290 ha Kahalla Pallekale). In addition, community forestry, enrichment forestry, assisted natural regeneration and control of Invasive Alien Species activities are also being carried out in these areas. An action plan was prepared to demarcate and implement monitoring protocol within 1000 ha of critical habitats representing mangrove forest, scrub on flood plains and riverine forests. | Annual target; 100% maintenance of 620 ha, Riverine Forests: 400 ha, Moist Mixed Ever Green 2000 ha and Scrub on flood plains: 100 ha through the interventions taken to minimize threats to these habitats. With the leadership of Forest Department, management plans were prepared for 10,197 ha of moist mixed evergreen forests (3380 ha Ritigala, 1033 ha Kudakanda, 3204 ha Nidigama, 2580 ha Kalawewa). In addition, community forestry, enrichment forestry, assisted natural regeneration and control of Invasive Alien Species activities are also being carried out in these areas. (The extent of forest clusters which management plans prepared during former year revised as 2090 ha Kadiyangala, 1170 ha Kanduboda, 973 ha Nelliyagama, 1062 ha Kahalla Pallekale). According to validated action plan of Forest Department on Mangrove conservation; demarcated 75% of mangrove forest and consultations continued on developing monitoring protocol within 1000 ha of critical coastal habitats representing mangrove forest, scrub on flood plains and riverine forests.  |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 1****National Enabling Framework Strengthened to Designate and Manage Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Appropriate Policy and legislative mechanisms developed to guide identification, declaration management, conflict mitigation and monitoring of ESAs | • Environmental Protection Act and several other Acts and policies exist that support conservation • Policy on human elephant conflict exists | *(not set or not applicable)* | National Policy and Strategy on ESA National ESA Scale Up Plan Updated policy to address human wildlife conflicts | Annual target 2017 = Develop ESA Policy & Strategy 2018 = Printed approved Policies & strategies  A gap analysis of existing environment policies was completed. First draft of ESA Policy and strategy was developed and shared with the Policy Committee, which is a body that was established in 2016 in order to provide technical guidance to develop the ESA Policy and Strategy. The project is currently in the process of incorporating comments made by the Policy Committee, which would result in the finalization of the 2nd draft of ESA Policy and strategy. A technical paper was developed on the ESA concept to strengthen the policy process. (Upon validation of the 2nd draft, it is expected that the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment will make this draft policy available for public comments, before it is finalized and presented to Parliament.)  Completed process of reviewing Wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy & Strategy and calling public comments on progress (once public comments are addressed the policy will be finalized and presented for parliament approval). | Annual target 2018 = Printed approved Policies & strategies 2019 = National Scaleup Plan (not set or not applicable) The second draft of ESA policy & strategy was developed and discussed at the Policy Committee in August 2018. The project MTR was held in September 2018 and Midterm Review recommendation 4 was the ESA Policy and inter-sectoral plan should be finalized after designating ESAs and their management options and key partners agreed upon. While a second draft policy document has been developed, the recommendation was accepted, and finalization of the Policy shall be delayed until appropriate learning and experience is forthcoming from the implementation of the agreed ESA concept and planning processes so as to make the policy relevant to the ESAs by late 2019. Upon accommodating public comments given for Wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy & Strategy, the Department of Wildlife Conservation submitted the Policy & Strategy to the subject ministry of Wildlife Conservation. Prepared policy directives on Management of Human-Wild Animal Conflicts (HWC) in Sri Lanka through regional and national level consultative process. The final draft was facilitated via Sri Lanka Primatological Society. The Department of Wild life Conservation submitted the validated directives to the subject ministry of Wildlife Conservation.  |
| 2. Number of inter-sectoral plans approved and financed by cross-sectoral National ESA Committee | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least two ESA land use plans At least 10 annual work plans (one for each pilot ESA) approved by national ESA Committee, along with joint policy guidance for ESA management | Annual target; 2017= two biodiversity integrated land use plans approved 2018= two biodiversity integrated land use plans approved  Going beyond the target and not limiting to initially identified two ESA sites; a comprehensive biodiversity integrated land use plan was developed for Kala Oya Basin. Assessing the holistic map according to planning committee criteria, 10 ESAs were suggested to re-assess as per ESA technical paper guide produced per scoring under ESA technical paper guidelines.  Annual work plans approved and biodiversity integrated land use plans to be validated by National Steering Committee.  | Annual target; 2018= two biodiversity integrated land use plans approved 2019= two biodiversity integrated land use plans approved  Based on the scoring criteria the 10 possible ESA sites were assessed and 3 of them were identified as piloting ESAs: Gange Wadiya/ River mouth -ESA 01, Ipalogama/ Manawe -ESA 02 and Galnewa (ESA 03). Co management plan development is in progress and 80% of the plan is developed for ESA 02 including community conservation plans and sectoral plans. ESA 1 co management plan is around 30% completed. Annual work plan was approved on overall implementation work during 2019.  |
| 3. Capacity of the Biodiversity Secretariat to act as the national lead agency to promote effective ESA implementation | Baseline UNDP Capacity Scorecard Strategic Area of Support | Initial Evaluation 1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes | 3 2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes | 16 3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders | 4 4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge | 2 5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn | 4 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 20% increase in capacity scorecard from baseline | Capacity assessment will be conducted to identify the capacity gaps and training needs of the Biodiversity Secretariat and the consortium partners, but the annual targets to be set after this assessment, which has been postponed until the ESA concept is well established.  | According to Midterm Review recommendation 11, a capacity needs assessment should be undertaken once the ESA Concept, criteria and management options are finalized. Revised annual target 30th June 2019 = Capacity Assessment framework and time-bound plan is drawn up, Capacity assessments completed Capacity needs assessment was completed in Q1 of 2019 once the concept is validated at the Steering Committee. In addition to the national level capacity assessment, another capacity assessment was conducted for the stakeholders of 3 identified ESA sites. This capacity assessment was focused on the implementation of ESA plans, mainstreaming biodiversity in to the key local development actors and management of ESAs while national level capacity needs assessment focused on policy level. Developing ESA operational manual is on progress and it will be instrumental in module development. |
| 4. Decision Support System available to practitioners for managing multiple land uses in ESAs | None exist | *(not set or not applicable)* | National guideline to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into land use planning  Guides available in Sinhala, Tamil and English to aid field practitioners on how to integrate biodiversity conservation into sectoral plans and actions, (agriculture, forestry, coastal development and tourism)  Online integrated biodiversity assessment tool available to identify biodiversity hotspots nationwide, building on national and international data | Annual target; 2017, 2018 = Clearing House updated Clearing house is available at the Biodiversity Secretariat. However, the data related to potential ESAs in Sri Lanka is yet to be gathered. The project plans to gather data by end of 2018 once ESA criteria is established. | Annual target; 2018, 2019 = Online integrated biodiversity assessment tool available to identify biodiversity hotspots nationwide Discussions were held with Biodiversity Secretariat, Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) on developing the structure of the online tool. The data on biodiversity hotspots gathered through 6th National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |
| **Outcome 2****Biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long term integrity and resilience ensured at two sites in the Kala Oya Region** |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 5. Area under management with inter-sectoral partnership and quantifiable biodiversity conservation targets | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 200,00 ha | Annual target; 2017, 2018 =0 Biodiversity integrated land use map was developed. Upon completion of identifying inter-sectorial partnerships and developing inter-sectorial plans, the area will be managed under these plans.  | According to Midterm Review recommendation 5: Critical biodiversity habitats within ESAs will have to be identified after the ESAs are established; management options for integrating protected areas with the wider landscape will also need to be attempted after ESA identification. The home gardening component requires a clearer linkage to ESAs. Revised target: 14,164 ha A two-step process was followed to identify and define the zoning of the ESA and its surrounding interfaces to understand the area to be under management of the ESA. (i). Mapping of conservation value of ESA resources. Methodologies developed to conduct mapping of conservation values of ESAs and community resources/ resource utilization and community rights. A rapid conservation mapping exercise was done to identify and assign conservation values to individual components of the ESA and its surrounding landscape. This facilitated the identification of appropriate management options for these individual components and to identify critical sites within the proposed ESA (based on the biodiversity and vulnerability. (ii). Mapping of community resources and resource utilization and community rights. The participatory resource mapping was done in ESA 01 & ESA 02 to get an input to the planning of activities within the village landscape and set foundation for long term community monitoring. The socio-economic mapping captured rights and resource dependencies of communities living within and surrounding areas of the ESA.. Information generated through this participatory mapping exercise was used to facilitate the formulation of ESA community conservation plans within the co management plan.  |
| 6. Stakeholders’ capacities to implement ESA’s land use/ seascape plans for conservation | Limited training and awareness such as through Environmental Pioneer Programme and Eco Clubs | *(not set or not applicable)* | General awareness amongst school children, peri urban dwellers, and local leaders increased by 100% over baseline  At least 2300 people trained, based on their training needs assessment  At least 20 women’s development organizations’ capacities increased and involved in ESA management activities | Annual target; 2018 =1400 people engaged based on Stakeholder engagement strategy  The project successfully engaged 1545 of stakeholders to implement ESA’s land use/ seascape plans for conservation and even exceeded the target. The details are as follows: (1)82 local journalists (66 males & 25 females) representing print radio and television were trained on reporting of environmental issues and they published stories from ESAs locally and nationally to enhance public profile of ESAs (II)121school teachers representing 40 schools linked to school eco clubs were trained by CEA to be engaged in school awareness programme and teachers guide was completed and distributed (III) 28 administrative staff (18 females & 10 males) from Land Use Policy Planning Division, District and Divisional Planning officers, Provincial Agriculture Department, Agrarian Service Department, Wild life Conservation Department, Forest Department, Fisheries Department, Coastal Conservation Department, and Irrigation Department in Puttalam district were trained on mainstreaming biodiversity in to land use planning and basics of spatial planning of GPS/ GIS from department of Geography, University of Peradeniya. (IV) 166 participants representing forest department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Agriculture, Coastal Conservation, Department of Fisheries, Land use Policy Planning, NARA, department of Planning, Biodiversity Secretariat and Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka were engaged in planning consultation and decision-making platforms on ESA (V)1148 local community members engaged in ESA awareness and Ecological farming promotion campaigns. (68 male and 60 females from Puttalam district and 454 males and 566 females from Anuradhapura district) iv. Mass media – Articles on Environment Sensitive Areas initiatives in Lanka Deepa, Floating lifeline to rescue dying Bar Reef – Sunday times, https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/seas-the-day IV. Promotional materials- Posters, Flexes, documentaries, social media trailers  | According to Midterm Review recommendation 9; Outreach programme need to be re-designed after ESA identification and their management modalities are firmed-up; stakeholders may be required to be repeatedly briefed on the ESA concept and management updates. Given the novelty of ESA concept, special community mobilization programmes should be considered; these should be well-structured so that community expectations are not unrealistically enhanced. Revised target 30th June 2019= Redesign outreach and communications strategy and plan Following the procurement processes, IUCN was selected to redesign the outreach programme and redesigning is on progress. The first draft of outreach programme was shared for comments of the project. Developed the technical papers on ESA concept and institutional structure and validated in national level and shared with regional level stakeholders with join implementation strategy of GEF 5 & GEF 6. Developed six discussion papers on Co management plan preparation process and Community consultations continued at village level within identified ESAs until the outreach strategy is reviewed. Street drama is developed using a community group of youths in Kalpitiya area to raise awareness on the conservation of coastal eco systems. Mass media – Articles on Environment Sensitive Areas initiatives; http://www.sundaytimes.lk/article/1090924/a-reef-under-threat-attempting-to-restore-kalpitiyas-bar-reef http://www.ceylontoday.lk/print-edition/5/print-more/32565 |
| 7. Increase in funding available to support biodiversity friendly ESA management activities | At least 150,000 USD per annum being invested in promoting organic farming and in protected areas management | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 20% increase in funding from baseline by various sectors compatible with land use / seascape plans (at least 4 sectoral plans):Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Water resources management Two long term financing plans – one for each ESA endorsed by all relevant parties | Annual target; 2018 = Yes There is 135% increase in funding compared to baseline available which exceeded the target EUR 2,000,000 is being invested by GIZ on Protected area management, which will be based on the strategic framework of Wilpattu Protected Area Complex, which was developed by the ESA project 38% of ESA home gardening beneficiaries of Mahaweli area in ESA project received 50% cash incentives on buying bee keeping boxes, extractors, smokers etc through consolidated funds.  | Annual target; 2019 = financing plans for each ESA site is developed Not done yet as co-management plan development for 03 ESAs is still on progress and Financial Plan development to begin with the validation of co-management plans. [In the interim project has invested on small industry and livestock sectors by supporting business development initiatives of targeted communities to promote community-based enterprises such as Wewal, intensive goat rearing, organic products, seed oil extraction. These initiatives are at initial phase and need to build within financing plans in the future.] |
| 8. Area of protected areas whose management is integrated with wider landscapes/ seascapes to minimize threats from outside PA and to mitigate land and resource use conflicts at ESAs | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 160,000 ha [Revised target proposed during inception in 2016: Integrating - (i) 131,667 ha Wilpattu NP; (ii) 21,690 ha Kahalla pallle kale; (iii) 1528 ha Ritigala; (iv) 30,600 ha of BarReef with wider landscapes/seascapes]  | Annual target; 2018 = additional 30600 ha integrated A Management plan was developed for the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary (30600 ha) integrating it with seascape and Wilpattu Protected Area management complex. Prioritized urgent implementation actions from the management plan and successfully demarcated a core area of the Bar Reef to facilitate restoration.  (Refer section “K” Partnerships for more information). The project also established a joint community monitoring mechanism, as a sustainable and community-centered approach to conservation. Developed a strategic approach and a protocol for tanks restoration within protected areas. | Annual target; 2018,2019 =Integrating 1528 ha Ritigala, Habitat improvement activities for elephants & establish early warning systems, Strengthen DWC capacity on marine conservation Identified biodiversity hotspots between Kahalla-pallelekale Sanctuary and Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve and developed management plans with Forest Department and community to integrate connectivity. Established virtual automated alarm system as a pilot project in Theva Nuwara to reduce Wild Elephant human conflict. Continued urgent implementation actions from the management plan of Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary (BRMS) and strengthened the community monitoring system by capacity development of male and female divers of communities in Kalpitiya. Continued monitoring restoration efforts and minimizing threats to the live coral patches within BRMS through the partnership with Ocean Resource Conservation Association (ORCA) and government stakeholders lead by Department of Wildlife conservation (DWC), Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Coastal Conservation Department (CCD) and National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA). |
| 9. Critical biodiversity habitats outside protected areas under effective management regimes within the ESA for habitat connectivity, integrity and resilience | 25000 ha under community forestry | *(not set or not applicable)* | Additional 25500 ha of habitats under effective protection, rehabilitation and management regimes [revised at inception in 2016: Protecting, rehabilitating and managing additional 17,500 ha of habitats - (i) 8000 ha of critical forest habitat; (ii) 7000 ha catchments & tank cascade landscape; (iii) 1000 ha of critical coastal habitat; and (iv) 1500 ha isolated hills.] | Annual target; 2017: Conserve isolated hills and riparian forests in, river flood plains through strengthen government and local community actions, 2018: Address deforestation and unsustainable agriculture around and upstream of tanks, support rehabilitation of cascade systems  Protected rehabilitated and managed additional 10,522 ha of habitats as given below.  1305 ha of isolated hill forests were bought under better management via interventions through Manawe Kanda proposed forest reserve and Nelliyakanda forest cluster. A sustainable eco-tourism plan was developed for Manawekanda proposed forest reserve, validated and completed implementation activities of year one as a joint community initiative. Demarcated Nelliyakanda cluster, and supported community forestry, enrichment forestry and control of Invasive Alien Species, establishment of fire belts, community fire brigades on progress.  4432 ha of catchment and tank cascade landscape (3585 ha of tank catchments and 847 ha of Habarawatta cascade system) were managed under restoration and protection regimes.  Continuation from 2016/ 2017; prepared and validated 04 management plans for 3585 ha critical forest habitats and landscapes of “Kadiyangalla” forest complex, part of “Kahalapallekele” forest complex, “Nelliyagama” forest complex and “Kaduboda” forest complex, demarcated, supported community forestry, enrichment forestry and controlled Invasive Alien Species. | Annual target; 2018, 2019: Address deforestation and unsustainable agriculture around and upstream of tanks, support rehabilitation of cascade systems Addresses deforestation and unsustainable agriculture, rehabilitation of cascade systems in 18,439 ha of habitats. (i)8000ha of critical forest habitat: Completed management plan preparation and validation for forest clusters covering 15,492 ha, demarcated “Kadiyangalla” un-demarcated forests, Kanduboda, Kahalla, Nelliyagama forest clusters, assisted 50 ha of Natural Regeneration at Palagala DSD, developed 12 ha of Farmers Woodlots at Kadiyangalla (Ipalogama) and Nelliyagama (Kekirawa) and controlled Invasive Alien Species. (ii) 7000 ha catchments & tank cascade landscape: Continued previous year initiatives on micro land uses establishment in tank cascade landscape in 847 ha of Habarawatta cascade system with the leadership of farmer organizations in the area. The community actively engaged in micro land use establishment and planted suitable species with economic use. (iii) 1000 ha of critical coastal habitat Conducted community consultations and developed action plan with Forest Department to conserve 600 ha of mangrove forests. In consultation with other stakeholders 75% of the mangrove forest demarcated during the reporting period. (iv)1500 ha of isolated hill forests: continued sustainable tourism interventions with the support of community members within Manawe Kanda forest reserve (600ha) and management plan initiatives in Nelliyakanda (800 ha) and Kanduboda (120 ha) while minimizing illegal deforestation and threats with IAS. |
| 10. Extent of land brought under biodiversity compatible agricultural production practices | 340 ha under organic farming, and IPM | *(not set or not applicable)* | 25,000 ha (including paddy, chena land and homesteads) under eco-friendly production practices. | Annual target; 2017: Facilitate the development of identified Biodiversity integrated sectorial development plans (Agriculture, MASL, DAD, Dept. of Fisheries, FD, CCD) 2018: support to selected activities in BD integrated sectorial plan, marketing of organic farm products and traditional rice varieties, support government efforts to regulate chena cultivation  Developed Biodiversity integrated sectorial development plans for Agriculture and brought up 267 ha of production land under biodiversity compatible production practices with the interventions of Provincial Department of Agriculture and Divisional Secretariat offices of Anuradhapura district. 720 home gardens were established by providing skills, knowledge and incentives. 330 government officers representing Grama Niladhari, Agriculture instructors, Development Officers, Agriculture Extension and Development officers and 720 farmers were trained on Ecological farming concepts in Anuradhapura district. A module was developed with Provincial Department of Agriculture in North Western and North Central provinces on “New models to ensure biodiversity conservation in Agro- ecosystems in Puttalam & Anuradhapura district” and trained the department officers on model implementation in both districts to expand the interventions. The extent of hectares production land under biodiversity compatible production practices will be significantly increased with next PIR. | 2018: support to selected activities in BD integrated sectoral plan, marketing of organic farm products and traditional rice varieties, support government efforts to regulate chena cultivation 2019: support to selected activities in BD integrated sectoral plan, support government efforts to regulate chena cultivation Continued with biodiversity integrated sectorial development plans for Agriculture and brought up 2,317 ha of production land under biodiversity compatible production practices with the interventions of Provincial Department of Agriculture and Divisional Secretariat offices of Anuradhapura district. 1,000 home gardens were established by providing skills, knowledge and incentives. Sunhemp cultivation, paddy cultivation with bio fertilizers, Parachute methods in paddy, Organic matter usage, Integrated Plant Nutrition Systems (IPNS) was adopted across 1,922 ha. 10 Programmes were held on Paddy cultivation with IPNS/ Integrated Pest Management (IPM)/ leaf colour charts. Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) were introduced in 35 ha while agronomic and biological control methods introduced on fruit fly, Thrip, Mealy bug in 235 ha while Munbean cultivation with bio-inoculum and nitraganase mixed Soya bean cultivation happened in 200 ha of farmer lands.  |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | **On track** |

# Implementation Progress



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 54.18% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 54.18% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,423,035 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Key Financing Amounts** |
| PPG Amount | 100,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 2,626,690 |
| Co-financing | 16,650,000 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Key Project Dates** |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 14, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Jan 22, 2015 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Sep 25, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jan 28, 2016 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 3, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 3, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jun 1, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Sep 23, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-10-08 |
| 2019-01-22 |

# Critical Risk Management

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

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| There were no delays in key project milestones due to oversight and continuous collaboration and coordination of the UNDP CO and the ESA Project management Unit.  |
| **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.** |
| N/A |
| **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.** |
| MTR was conducted and completed in December 2018 |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | This is the third PIR of the ESA project, and is currently in its 4th year of implementation. Overarching objective of this project is to operationalize Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance”. As per the key outcomes to achieve the objective, a National Enabling Framework is strengthened to designate and manage Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) and Biodiversity-friendly ESA management at two sites in the Kala Oya Region. The project preparatory works have been accomplished and 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 in terms of the project governance. The Project Management Unit, Project Board, Consortium Committee, District Facilitation Committees (DFCs) and Local Management Committees (LMC) is operational and provide planning, implementation and monitoring support for the project. However, Intersectoral National ESA Committee (NEASC), didn’t summon during reporting period due to management oversight. The Project Mid Term Review was held in September 2018 and in response to MTR recommendations, management response was agreed by all parties towards end 2018.  The progress and issues for this reporting period are as discussed below.  1. A good progress has been made under outcome 1 which relates to strengthening the enabling framework to designate and manage ESAs. The second draft of ESA policy and strategy was developed in August 2018 accommodating comments given by the Policy committee and biodiversity experts group. The project MTR held in September 2018 recommended, ESA Policy and inter-sectoral plan should be finalized after designating ESAs and their management options and key partners agreed upon. Therefore, finalization of the Policy was kept on hold until appropriate learning and experience is forthcoming from the implementation of the agreed ESA concept and planning processes by late 2019. The Department of Wildlife Conservation submitted revised Wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy & Strategy and policy directives on Management of Human-Wild Animal Conflicts (HWC) in Sri Lanka to the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation. The consortium committee comprised of direct technical partners and the ESA policy committee met frequently in the absence of inter-sectoral National ESA Committee to discuss the national ESA policy, strategy and to guide project implementation at pilot ESAs. This committee within its mandate has discussed ESA annual work plan which provided basis for synergizing work of all stakeholders. Upon re-assessing10 ESAs as per scoring criteria under ESA technical paper guidelines, prioritized 03 ESAs: Gange Wadiya/ River mouth -ESA 01, Ipalogama/ Manawe -ESA 02 and Galnewa (ESA 03). Co management plan development is in progress and 60% of the plan is developed for ESA 02 including community conservation plans and sectoral plans. Complying with MTR recommendation, the capacity needs assessment held once the ESA Concept, criteria and management options were finalized and further to national level capacity assessment, an additional capacity assessment was conducted for the stakeholders of tree ESA sites and developed the Capacity Assessment report which will be used in module development on operationalizing ESAs. Discussions were held with Biodiversity Secretariat, Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) on developing the structure of the online tool. 2. A remarkable progress has been made under outcome two which relates to Biodiversity-friendly ESA management at two sites in the Kala Oya Region. Capacitating Institutions, Ecosystems Management and Restoration at ESAs had been key outputs here and accordingly project had been progressively working with stakeholders by the time of the MTR. MTR recommended critical biodiversity habitats within ESAs to be identified after the ESAs were established and outreach programme to be re-designed after ESA identification and management modalities are firmed-up. Accordingly, upon identification of 16,000 ha as ESAs upon mapping of conservation values of ESA resources, threats and demonstration potential, co management plan development is on progress with a slight delay due to institutional delays.  With the technical support of IUCN, redesign the outreach programme is on progress.Technical papers on ESA concept and institutional structure are referred at national and regional level stakeholders with join implementation strategy of GEF 5 & GEF 6 projects. Parallelly, street drama is used to engage with community in an interactive manner.  The project has invested on agriculture, industry and livestock sectors by supporting business development initiatives of targeted communities to promote community-based enterprises in ESA sites. Building on interventions of former year, management plans were developed with Forest Department and community to integrate connectivity via biodiversity rich forest clusters between Kahalla-pallekale Sanctuary and Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve.  Establishing virtual automated alarm system as a pilot project in Theva Nuwara to reduce Wild Elephant human conflict and continuation of implementation support for prioritized actions of Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary management plan like strengthen the community monitoring system, monitoring restoration efforts and minimizing threats to the live coral patches within BRMS were carried out to facilitate protected areas management integrated with wider landscapes/ seascapes and minimise risks.  Addresses deforestation and unsustainable agriculture, rehabilitation of cascade systems in 18,439 ha of habitats through interventions within critical forest habitat, catchment landscape, coastal habitat and isolated hill forests. Continued with biodiversity integrated sectorial development plans for Agriculture and brought up 2317 ha and 2302 ha of production land under biodiversity compatible production practices with the interventions of Provincial Department of Agriculture and Divisional Secretariat offices of Anuradhapura district and Puttalam district respectively. Awareness programmes among farmers and school children were instrumental to introduce concepts on “Biodiversity for agriculture and the extensive Training Needs Assessment (TNA), gave way to develop training module on “Biodiversity for sustainable agriculture” and trained 70 department officers as trainers through a ToT programme. Six biodiversity friendly agriculture models were implemented in project sites in Anuradhapura & Puttalam to preserve Agro-biodiversity and being tested with seasonal variations. In terms of its development objective progress, project is on track with minor delays owing to transition with MTR recommendations to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'. On this basis, the DO progress for the year has been rated “satisfactory”.  |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported “Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas” with the objective of assisting the Government of Sri Lanka to safeguard biodiversity in multiple land use areas of special ecological significance (high biodiversity values) through the operationalization of the new land use governance framework - “Environmentally Sensitive Areas” (ESAs), which will be primarily valid for land extents outside protected areas. As per the project document the project is supposed to complete by 30th September 2020. Project completed its mid-term evaluation in September 2018 with a moderately satisfactory rating.  There are two key outcomes of the project of which Outcome 1 will support the development of required policies, strategies, mechanisms and plans for management and operationalization of ESAs. Outcome two of the project will establish inter-sectoral partnerships towards biodiversity conservation and maintenance of environmental services critical for local and national level development using ecosystems approach.  Project has attained a considerable progress against certain outputs identified in the workplan. These include clarifying the concept of ESA through consultations with policy makers, biodiversity experts, practitioners and communities; finalization of ESA identification criteria; development of training module on integrating biodiversity to agriculture sector and conduct trainings for government officials; establishment of different livelihood models; completion of some of the ESA related investments such as rehabilitation of small irrigation tanks, establishment of ecotourism sites etc. These interventions have resulted community engagement for ESA co-management and also improve income generating options for beneficiary communities.  According to the workplan, project has started developing ESA management plans for 03 selected ESAs in Anuradhapura and Puttalam. This process has enabled a significant hands on capacity building on ESA management at district level. However, the project currently experiences delays in finalization of Co-management plans. Main reason for this delay was the inability of the previously selected consultancy firm to complete deliverables on time. This has been corrected but still the delays occurred during the first half of the year will partly affect both physical and financial progress set for the reporting period. Upcoming election is also expected to bring about certain delays to project implementation. In this context, project team is strongly advised to identify potential projects/investments possibilities came up in the ESA management plan process and start implementation of such initiatives to achieve the financial targets established for the year. It is also recommendable to identify options to expedite ESA management plan finalization as the project has only one more year for ESA management plan implementation and document best practices and lessons learnt, as ESA management plan could be considered as one of the most important outputs of the project to demonstrate on ESA management. Moreover, project team is advised to update ATLAS risk log incorporating current and potential risks and potential remedial measures.  Based on the gender assessment and action plan conducted in last reporting period, project has successfully incorporated gender aspects into the activities carried out by the project. This has been strongly considered in ESA management plan development, selection criteria and training manual/trainings too. Project team is further encouraged to ensure gender mainstreaming in ESA management plans which is a key entry point for gender mainstreaming and implementation of ESA management plans too.  As the GEF VI project on “Managing Together” which is also based on landscape approach, project is encouraged to document best practices & lessons leant in incorporating ESA management in this project. While project has established positive partnerships with government agencies and universities, project should seriously look into possibility of exploring potential partnerships with other entities such as private sector, civil society organizations etc. to strengthen sustainability of ESA investments and lobby for promoting ESA concept which is co-management. Moreover, project team is encouraged to work closely with similar development projects in the target areas for potential collaborations. Eg. GCF funded water management project, GEF-SGP, world bank funded agriculture modernization project etc.  Finally, project should pay more attention on communication results among wider audiences to showcase the progress and advocate potential partners on importance of ESA management.  Considering the all above DO rating is given as moderately satisfactory.  In terms of implementation progress financial delivery is on track and no major implementation related risks have been identified. Remedial measures have been taken to expedite development and implementation of ESA management plans. Therefore, IP rating is given as Satisfactory.   |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -*  |
| Overall Assessment | The project is in its third year of implementation and it underwent Mid Term Review in September 2018. Being a new concept, the initial period of implementation had been through trial and error with consortium partners trying to come to terms with their responsibilities and trying to figure out management strategies. Through the findings of the MTR, the Project Team re-prioritised and re-aligned some of the activities to accommodate its recommendations. Now it is observed to be on right track with ground level commitment to operationalization of the concept through co-management approach. With regards to outcome 1, moderately satisfactory achievement is shown so far. As per recommendations of the MTR, the finalization of the ESA Policy had been postponed. However, the the Elephant Management and Conservation Policy has been formulated and the Policy framework for Human - wildlife conflict management has been drawn up. ESAs in Kala Oya Basin have been identified and land use plans have been prepared. The achievement with regards to Outcome 2 is very satisfactory. Subsequent to the MTR, the Team revisited the project approach and the outcome is outstanding. Bottom-up planning is practised to identify conservation and development needs in the sites and a lot more enthusiasm is displayed by the ground level stakeholders. This provides firm ownership of the project and will be very helpful for the scaling up. Certain components of the Project are been considered as models in implementation of other projects under similar circumstances. Thus, the DO progress for year 2019 is rated "Satisfactory".  |
| **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 | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the third PIR of the project ‘Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas’. The project is in its fourth year of implementation and completed MTR in December 2018. There was some adaptive management adopted by the CO and the Implementing Partner to act on the MTR recommendations.  Despite some challenges and shortcomings in the current reporting period, the project is fairly on track to achieving the end of project milestones. On the basis of the progress achieved during the current reporting period, development objectives (DO) has been rated ‘Moderately Satisfactory” and Implementing Progress as ‘Satisfactory’.  PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO): The project’s objective is to operationalize ESAs as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance, and this will be achieved through – strengthening the national enabling framework to designate and manage ESAa (Outcome 1); and fostering intersectoral partnerships at the local levels at two sites to effectively manage landscape and seascape for long term biodiversity conservation (Outcome 2).  DO and outcome achievements, as well as some of the challenges that the project has come across during the current reporting period are summarized below:  1. Of the EoP target of at least 5% (i.e. 328,050 ha) of Sri Lanka’s land area to be designated for Environmentally Sensitive Area, the project so far has managed to designate only 14,164 ha (i.e 0.002%) within Kala Oya Region. This is mainly because the ESA concept was redefined based on stakeholder consultation and MTR recommendation.  (2) The project facilitated development of enabling policy, legal and institutional framework to reduce threat to the targeted populations of globally threatened species. These are: (1) review of wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy. After incorporating public comments, the Department of Wildlife Conservation submitted the policy and strategy Ministry of Wildlife Conservation; (2) developed policy directives on wild animal human conflict through regional and national level consultative process; (3) prepared management plans for Protected Areas in the landscape and seascape within Kala Oya region; and (4) Pilot tested innovative virtual early warning system to reduce wild Elephant Human conflict.  (3) Management plans were prepared by the Forest Department to manage critical habitats in the target ESA sites covering 10,197 ha of moist mixed evergreen forests and, carried out activities on community forestry, enrichment forestry, assisted natural regeneration and control of Invasive Alien Species. In addition, the department also demarcated 75% of mangrove forest for conservation and in the process of developing monitoring protocol in 1000 ha of critical coastal habitats representing mangrove forest, scrub on flood plains and riverine forests.  (4) With regard to the development of policy and legislative mechanisms to guide identification, management and monitoring of ESAs, the second draft of ESA policy & strategy was developed and consulted with the Policy Committee in August 2018. However, the MTR recommended that the ESA Policy and inter-sectoral plan should be finalized after designating ESAs and their management options agreed by key partners. Following the MTR recommendations, 10 ESA sites were assessed based on the technical scoring criteria and 3 sites were identified as pilot ESAs: Gange Wadiya/ River mouth -ESA 01; Ipalogama/ Manawe -ESA 02 and Galnewa - ESA 03. Co-management plans are currently being prepared including community conservation plans and sectoral plans. Capacity assessment was conducted for stakeholders in 3 ESA sites focusing on the implementation of ESA plans, mainstreaming biodiversity into the key local development plans and management of ESAs. Development of ESA operational manual is in progress and will be key to module development for capacity building.  (5) As a follow up to the MTR recommendations to identify critical biodiversity habitats after the ESAs have been established including management options to integrate PAs within wider landscapes, the project initiated the following activities in the 3 pilot ESAs: (i) A rapid conservation mapping exercise to identify and assign conservation values to individual components of the ESA and its surrounding landscape. This facilitated the identification of appropriate management options for these individual components and to identify critical sites within the proposed ESAs. (ii) Participatory resource mapping in ESA 01 & 02 to get an input to the planning of activities within the village landscape and set foundation for long term community monitoring. The socio-economic mapping identified rights and resource dependencies of communities living within and surrounding areas of the ESAs. Information generated through this participatory mapping exercise was used to facilitate the formulation of ESA community conservation plans within the co-management plan. (iii) Redesign of outreach and communications strategy is in progress. Given the novelty of ESA concept, special community mobilization programmes will have to be considered and should be well-structured so that community expectations are not unrealistically enhanced. (iv) Developed technical papers on ESA concept and institutional structure and, validated at the national level. This is then shared with regional level stakeholders and a joint implementation strategy is planned with GEF 6 project (PIMS 5804).  (6) The project brought 2,317 ha of production land under biodiversity compatible production practices with interventions supported through Provincial Department of Agriculture and Divisional Secretariat offices of Anuradhapura district. In addition, 1,922 ha of agricultural land was brought under cultivation of crops like Sunhemp and paddy using bio fertilizers and adopting parachute methods in paddy, Organic matter usage, Integrated Plant Nutrition Systems (IPNS). 1,000 home gardens were established by providing skills, knowledge, incentives and adopting good agriculture practices.  Given that the project has to make some changes to the sequence of activities following MTR recommendations, and based on my assessment of DO progress achieved thus far, I have given a DO rating of ‘Moderately Satisfactory’. I am very hopeful that the project will be able to fully realize the ESA policy by end of 2019 once enough experiences and lessons are drawn from the 3 ESA sites.  IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS: Despite the ESA concept being new and complex in the context of Sri Lanka, the project was able to adapt quickly and respond to the recommendations suggested by the MTR. The work plan was adjusted to sequence the activities and was implemented without much hiccups. The IP rating for the 2019 reporting period is ‘satisfactory’.  The MTR was undertaken in November right after the second PIR and completed by December 2018. The Management response was prepared, and action plans included in the 2019 AWP.  In terms of the financial delivery, the cumulative delivery as of June 2019 stands at 54.18% (U$ 1.423 million) and may need some attention given the project is ending in September 2020. The project recorded a delivery of 83% in 2018, and a delivery of 54.18% at midpoint of 2019.  The project has followed a good practice of convening at least two PB meetings in a year, and this goes to show that the project has a strong governance mechanism relying on PB for any strategic guidance and decisions. Two PB meetings were convened during the reporting period – 8 October 2018 & 22 January 2019.  In terms of risk management, the project hasn’t reported any critical risks. However, the CO and project team should continue to monitor project risks including any new social and environmental risks that may emerge during the process of identifying, designating and preparing plans for the ESAs.  The project continues to do well in communicating results and increasing its visibility both to internal and external audiences through social media and mainstream media. In 2019, the project prepared a photo story titled “Restoring Kalpitiya’s Reef: Protection Sri Lanka’s largest marine sanctuary and reviving its former glory”. I would like to encourage the project team to bring out more of human stories from the field in the final year.  From the overall assessment of the CO, I can see that the gender mainstreaming has been adequately addressed in the development of ESA management plan, including in the training manual. This is a good effort however, I haven’t seen specific gender results and dis-aggregated data reported in the DO progress. I would like to emphasize that the gender action plan should be translated into concrete interventions in the 2020 AWP and to present some gender results including disaggregated data in the next PIR.  RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. As the project is coming to an end in September 2020, the PMU and CO must pay some attention to improving financial delivery in the remaining project period.  2. I would recommend the project team to prepare a project exit strategy or a closure report mainly taking stock of project’s achievements, new knowledge generated, good practices that could be replicated, challenges, lessons learned, partnership, etc. This will be a good reference for the TE team as well as for the GEF-6 project (PIMS 5804).  3. The project is schedule for terminal evaluation in 2020. The CO must plan to commence TE at least 3 months prior to closure of the project and, finalize the report and management response by September 2020.  |

# Gender

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** [GENDER ANALYSIS AND ACTION PLAN.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5165/213871/1717528/1723992/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)* |
| **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 |
| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |
| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.**  |
| No. |
| **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.**  |
| (1.) Policy and legislative mechanisms developed to guide identification, declaration management, conflict mitigation and monitoring of ESAs: The project develops ESA Policy & Strategy, Policy directives on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and reviewed Wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy  (2.) National and ESA level stakeholders capacity to support planning, implementation and monitoring ESAs.  (3.) Sustainable financing available for ESA management  (4.) Protected areas management is integrated with wider landscapes/ seascapes to minimize threats from outside PA and to mitigate land and resource use conflicts at ESAs  (5.) Critical biodiversity habitats outside protected areas under effective management  (6) At least 25,000 ha of agro-ecosystems bought under biodiversity compatible production practices within ESAs ESA project sought to better understand how gender and other factors intersect to influence people’s vulnerability and capacity, through a range of approaches during the village-based community consultations in ESAs. Invest in context-specific analysis to understand the interconnected factors shaping the aspirations of men and women, in order to design effective and appropriate action where it sustainably contributes resilience. By address power and resources imbalances in the household and community, and transform gendered roles and responsibilities create a strong foundation to develop project interventions. Therefore, work on gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental resilience outcomes.  MTR of the project recommended once the ESA concept is agreed upon, the Indicators in the Results Framework be critically reviewed to align them to the new ESA concept and necessary to include appropriate indicators to evaluate gender-sensitivity in project interventions. Accordingly following Gender sensitivity indicators were added in to outcome two upon discussing with Regional Gender Advisor of UNDP. I. Community engagement in managing ESAs, particularly women II. Extent of the incorporation of knowledge on different uses of natural resources by men and women in ESA Management III. Number of men and women engaged in social enterprises receiving support of the project |
| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| 1. Policy directives on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and reviewed Wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy: Policy goals of managing human wildlife conflict is set in a way that recognizes the rights and development needs of local communities while at the same time recognizing the need to promote biodiversity conservation. Therefore, first policy statement has set as “the safety, wellbeing and economic stability of communities affected by HWC will be a priority consideration when addressing HWC.” The men and women are affected differently due to HWC and this decide on choice of agriculture livelihood among women as there are limitations to protect the harvests from wild animals during night time and showing protest against wild animal. Measures to compensate the losses to human life, health, properties, crops are included and striving to bring long term solutions contribute to gender equality.  2. Rearing goats in open space is a practice of the community living next to Wilpattu PA and conflict between leopards and farmers is high. The housewives restricted to their households without additional income and they couldn’t engage in cattle rearing as it was men’s business to take them to forest for grazing and bringing back while they engage in other daily labourer work. The project facilitated five households to adopt inhouse goat rearing with housing structures and goats for breeding. It is expected the practice will minimize overgrazing at forest lands, reduce conflicts with leopards and women can engage in goat rearing from their households. This intervention has enabled others to adopting similar practice and promote women engagement in the livelihood.  3. 15 women have formed a community enterprise to sell organic products from their home gardens. In the initial phase they receive an income of LKR. 8000/ month/ person during the yala season but they plan to go for an income of LKR 20,000/ month/ person during maha season and working steadily to establish their products with a steady flow. These are random examples of gender equality and more comprehensive plan will be drawn upon finalizing co management plans.  4. Established virtual automated alarm system as a pilot project in Theva Nuwara to reduce Wild Elephant human conflict is bringing a relief to rural men and women in Theva Nuwara where that reports maximum number of conflicts among Wild elephants and human. As mothers, are in constant dilemma of unexpected wild elephant attacks and afraid to send the kids to schools in the early morning. The virtual early warning system detects elephants approaching within 1 km perimeter to the village and sends SMSs as an early warning to community and DWC rangers. The village is being mobilized to collectively chaise the elephants out of village. This gives the men and women to engage in their day today activities, livelihoods without the constant dilemma. Women feel, they can take decisions on sending the kids out of home based on information receive via mobile and there are hopes on the success during this trial season.  5. The project strengthened the community monitoring system by capacity development of male and female divers of communities in Kalpitiya. There are two female divers who actively participate in Bar Reef monitoring and they are empowered with the recognition and excel within their diving career. Furthermore, there are three female guides actively participate in Manawe Kanda Ecotourism intervention and there are women, who got training and ready to offer homestays for ecotourism venture manage by the Community Based Organization.  6. The catchment protection and cascade rehabilitation contribute to improve water services in the project area. Availability of water is instrumental in securing Agriculture related livelihoods of men and minimize their migration to cities in search of optional livelihoods. Availability of water reduces the extra time of women which needs to spend on brining water from far and reduce their workload at home and increases the quality of life. Water availability enable home gardening and create extra income to the family for women. They could manage their work more efficiently which leave them time to join in social power structures, share their opinions and contributed in decision making too. The health and nutrition is improved within households and since migration is declined the social security within family is enhanced and wellbeing is assured among both men and women and relationships improved between satisfied men and women.  7. Continued with biodiversity integrated sectorial development plans for Agriculture and brought up 4600 ha of production land under biodiversity compatible production practices. Ecological farming practices lead to reduction of synthetic fertilizer usage and pesticide usage in farming and supported to minimize health risks due to Chronic Kidney Disease and many heath disorders in the area. The women, men, girls and boys participated in and benefitted equally from this intervention. Chronically food-insecure households could reach food security via adopting ecological farming in their home gardens. This has reported as an additional income to many house wives who had extra burden being the women who headed their households. Once food is secured the former expenses on it has become a saving which could invest on children's education. Some had joined informal money transactions among groups and had bought some household items and jewelry. This has created changed values towards home garden concept and has empowered women and changed their position at home with some financial power.  Above interventions have been instrumental in addressing the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and contributed to challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.  |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |
| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.**  |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.**  |
| No |
| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.**  |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **SESP:** [5165\_Annex 8 - Social and Environmet Screening.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5165/213871/1717579/1724076/5165_Annex%208%20-%20Social%20and%20Environmet%20Screening.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.**  |
| [Combined Resource and Biodiversity Profiles of ESA 2.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5165/213871/1728456/1743063/Combined%20Resource%20%20and%20Biodiversity%20Profiles%20of%20ESA%202.pdf)[Resource profile ESA03\_01.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5165/213871/1728456/1743063/Resource%20profile%20ESA03_01.pdf) |
| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.**  |
| No |
| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?**  |
| No |
| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.**  |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

|  |
| --- |
| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.** **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Feature Story 1 – Restoring Kalpitiya’s Reef This was featured on UNDP photo story platform, Exposure, on World Ocean’s Day on 08 June 2019: https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/restoring-kalpitiyas-reef The story received over 500 views. Further disseminated the accompanying video via social media on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: The tweet had over 2500 views on Twitter with over 30,000 impressions and on Facebook it had close to 50,000 views. Global UNDP HQ was also interested in this video and shared this on their platforms twice in July 2019: In both tweets the videos received 4000 views from global audiences. The global Instagram post received over 13,000 views. UNDP comms also disseminated this to the newspapers and was featured in two full pages in Ceylon Today and DailyFT – two national newspapers.  |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.** **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| http://www.sundaytimes.lk/180513/news/floating-lifeline-to-rescue-dying-bar-reef-293881.html https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/seas-the-day https://mailchi.mp/19ff2f0230b1/undp-sri-lanka-on-the-ground-newsletter-may-june-2018?e=bcb70a6342 https://www.flickr.com/photos/162639425@N07/albums/72157690211096512 ESA Documentary Film Sinhala Version ESA Documentary Film Tamil Version ESA Short Video with Sinhala Voice ESA Short Video with Tamil Voice ESA Short Video with Sinhala Text ESA Short Video with Tamil Text ESA Short Video with English Text https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrexqYMrZDU https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/restoring-kalpitiyas-reef http://www.sundaytimes.lk/article/1090924/a-reef-under-threat-attempting-to-restore-kalpitiyas-bar-reef  http://www.ceylontoday.lk/print-edition/5/print-more/32565 |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 5165 Sri Lanka ESA - CEO Endorsment Request 18Dec2014.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5165/213871/1682698/1682984/PIMS%205165%20Sri%20Lanka%20ESA%20-%20CEO%20Endorsment%20Request%2018Dec2014.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| The progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement with reference to CEO Endorsement request is given below.  Primary stakeholders remain same as Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment (MoMDE) [former Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy],Bio Diversity Secretariat (BDS), Department of Forests, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Central Environment Authority, Mahaweli Authority Sri Lanka, Department of Agriculture, Coastal Conservation Department, Marine Environment Protection Authority, Land Use Policy Planning Department, District Secretaries, Divisional Secretaries, Community Based Organizations, schools and individual households.  BDS is responsible for management of component 1 & 2, where as management responsibility was assigned to Environment Planning & Economics division of MoMD&E . Provincial Department of Irrigation was also given responsibility to implement project component 2.  The secondary stakeholders were academic institutions (University of Rajarata, University of Colombo, University of Moratuwa, University of Peradeniya, Open University SL, University of Waymaba), IUCN, EFL, ORCA has contributed under both components 1 & 2 and represented several committees and provided technical inputs throughout the project.  |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

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

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

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

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

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

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