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Poverty-Environment Action
for Sustainable Development Goals

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United Nations
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ENV/2018/395-056

PROGRESS REPORT

1 September 2018 to 31 December 2019

Submitted to the

European Union

for Poverty Environment Action

for Sustainable Development Goals

AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Sweden Sverige

Acronyms

ADB	Asia Development Bank
CCFF	Climate Change Fiscal Framework
COBESA	Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
DAES	Department of Agricultural Extension Services
DDP	District Development Plan
ECD	Environment Conservation Department
EU	European Union
EMF	Environment Management Fund
ECC	Environment and Climate Change
ECD	Environmental Conservation Department
EID	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENR	Environment Natural Resource
ENRM	Environment Natural Resource Management
ESIA	Environment and Social Impact Analysis
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN
GRSP	Governance for Resilience and Sustainability Project
INAM	Mozambique National Meteorology Institute
IRDP	Institute of Rural Development Planning
IPD	Investment Promotion Department
KM	Knowledge Management
MA	Managing Agent
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MIMAIP	Ministry of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries
MITADER	Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development
MSDP	Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoWECP	Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection
MPAT	Multi-dimensional Poverty Analysis Tool
MPI	Multi-dimensional Poverty Index
NAP	National Action Plan
NAIP	National Agriculture Implementation Plan
NEP	National Environment Policy
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PEI	Poverty-Environment Initiative
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme
PEP	Poverty-Environment Partnership
PEA	Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals
PIS	Provincial Investment Strategy
RSB	Rwanda Standards Bureau
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDF	Sustainable Development Financing
SCAPP	Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Prospérité Partagé (Mauritania Development Plan, 2016-2030)
SEP	Social Economic Profile
SWG	Sector Working Group
TA	Technical Assistance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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1. Executive Summary

Poverty-Environment Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (PEA) is a global project jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as strategic actors within the UN system to advance the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. PEA's emphasis on sustainable investments makes it a key UN country level intervention in support of the Addis Ababa Financing for Development agenda to mobilize and align public and private finance for the SDGs. UNDP serves as the Managing Agent (MA) for the USD 20 million project financed by the European Union (EU), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Norway and Sweden (these through UNEP), as well as core resources from UN agencies. The project implementation period runs from 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2022.

PEA aims to '*strengthen integration of poverty-environment-climate objectives into policies, plans, regulations and investments of partner countries to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs'* which is delivered through three interrelated outputs:

- **Output 1:** Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication
- **Output 2:** Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.
- **Output 3:** SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.

A total of eight full-fledged countries are being supported through PEA, four in Africa (Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique and Rwanda) and four in Asia (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Nepal) to deepen mainstreaming efforts to integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication into development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems. In addition, selected countries/sub-regions are supported through Technical Assistance (TA) interventions in form of technical expertise and financial resources to catalyse poverty-environment action and to broaden the use of poverty-environment mainstreaming tools.

The start of the project was marked by an inception phase from 1 September to 31 December 2018 aimed at preparatory project activities and setting up of necessary tools and processes to enable full implementation from January 2019. The inception phase also aimed to create a common understanding of the project goals, activities, roles and responsibilities, and management arrangements among key stakeholders and to develop necessary work plans, budgets as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework with detailed data on baselines, indicators and targets. The inception phase achieved most of its set objectives.

2019 marked the first year of full project implementation with seven full-fledged projects initiated in Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal and Rwanda, and two TA initiatives in Indonesia and Tanzania.

This report outlines progress made from 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2019. The report first recounts the context of the Action, then presents the results achieved during the inception phase followed by results achieved in 2019. Results as of 31 December 2019 are presented based on the established results and resources framework with a focus on indicator performance. The report further highlights the activities undertaken and results achieved as per the three project outputs and related deliverables. It also reflects on challenges encountered and mitigative measures taken, lessons learnt, outreach and visibility achievements, management and implementation arrangements and concludes with the way forward.

While progress has been made in laying the foundation for achieving the project outcome, project implementation monitored against the results framework has been slower than expected with only three out of the project's ten performance indicators fully achieved as of end-2019. However, most of the project's results are at output level and contribute to policy level outcomes, hence best appreciated over a longer period of time as prerequisite in nature to the intended project outcome.

In 2020, PEA will step up its efforts in accelerating implementation at global and country level. However, it is yet to be fully established what impact the novel Coronavirus will have on project implementation as all PEA project countries were affected by the COVID-19 emergency at the time this report was compiled.

2. Context of the Action

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) bring together development, environment and climate concerns in a comprehensive and integrated agenda for change. The overriding goal of the SDGs is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and to "leave no one behind." But the agenda goes much further—aiming to transform economies by making economic growth more inclusive and equitable; decoupling growth from environmental degradation and promoting resource efficiency; and accelerating the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathways and inclusive green economies.

Together with the other three agenda-setting agreements adopted by world leaders in 2015—the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change—the case for poverty-environment mainstreaming is as strong as ever. The new sustainable development agenda reflects a greater recognition of the major poverty-environment challenges facing the world's population arising from depleted natural capital, climate vulnerability, gender inequality, rural-urban migration and rising resource demands—all of which disproportionately affect the livelihoods and well-being of the poor and vulnerable.

By building on PEI's legacy, Poverty-Environment Action is uniquely placed to ensure that the environmental dimension is not left behind when addressing poverty. Leveraging broader 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation processes provides new entry points not only to mainstream environmental sustainability and related climate concerns for poverty eradication, but also to gradually shift government priorities and resource allocation towards addressing these issues. It also provides opportunities to improve the quality of private sector investments to support poverty-environment objectives. This represents the new focus of Poverty-Environment Action—aligning finance and investment with poverty, environment and climate objectives to accelerate SDG implementation.

Poverty-Environment Action is implementing this new focus by operating at country, regional and global levels through a two-pronged strategy of deepening and broadening support to countries on poverty-environment and climate mainstreaming. These two complementary tracks:

- Deepen mainstreaming efforts to integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication into development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems and—in line with the new focus of Poverty-Environment Action—into public and private finance and investment;
- Broaden the dissemination and use of the programme's substantial body of country-level experience in the application of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools through stepped-up efforts in knowledge management and sharing—including through targeted technical assistance to selected countries, South-South knowledge transfer and cooperation, and

proactive engagement with key global and regional actors supporting national SDG implementation and acceleration processes.

Poverty-Environment Action's two-pronged strategy is complemented by a renewed focus on strengthening strategic partnerships and improving coordination with other development actors, especially at the country level.

3. Results achieved

3.1 Inception Phase – 1 September to 31 December 2018

During the inception phase, six out of eight full-fledged country projects (Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Myanmar, Mozambique and Rwanda) as well as the first TA intervention (in Tanzania) were developed in consultation with national stakeholders and development partners and approved to be part of Poverty-Environment Action. In Bangladesh and Nepal, PEA interventions were incorporated into broader UNDP Country Office SDG projects which were approved in 2019. To mainstream planning and reporting processes for all countries, standardized work plan and project reporting templates were developed in line with the Poverty-Environment Action project document, donor requirements and UNDP rules and regulations, and shared with the countries. A training for PEA staff in UNDP Country Offices on project implementation processes was successfully conducted in July 2019.

In addition, PEA set-up a Delegation of Authority Framework that sub-delegates certain roles and responsibilities for implementation of resources mobilized under the joint global project to the approved full-fledged country projects. In 2018, Delegations of Authority were signed with the UNDP Country Offices in Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar and Rwanda as well as Tanzania. Terms of Reference for the Project Board*)* were developed and adopted *(Appendix 1)*. Criteria for the selection of Technical Assistance interventions were developed and approved. Competitive recruitment processes were launched and jointly undertaken by UNDP and UNEP resulting in the following positions being filled: Project Management Specialist based in Nairobi and Finance Analyst home-based in Bratislava. The Knowledge Management/M&E Specialist is expected to join the team in May 2020 and will be based in Bangkok. *Appendix 2* outlines the project organigramme as of April 2020.

Table 1 below summarizes the results achieved during the Inception Phase in 2018.

Table 1: Inception Phase Results Summary

Expected Deliverable	Result
Consultations held with national stakeholders and partners	Consultations with national stakeholders and partners were held in Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda as well as Tanzania as the first Technical Assistance project under Poverty-Environment Action.
Development and approval of full-fledged country projects	Six out of eight proposed full-fledged country projects (Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Myanmar, Mozambique and Rwanda) were developed and approved in 2018. Poverty-Environment Action components in Bangladesh and Nepal are part of broader UNDP Country Office SDG projects which have been developed. Implementation will start in 2020 and late 2019 respectively.
Development of Technical Assistance criteria and approval of Technical Assistance projects	Criteria for selecting Technical Assistance (TA) interventions were developed and adopted by the Project Board. Tanzania was the first TA approved.
Poverty-Environment Action templates developed	To mainstream planning and reporting processes for all countries, standardized work plan and project report templates were developed and shared with the countries.
Recruitment of global staff	During the inception phase, the following competitive recruitments were initiated • Project Management Specialist (Nairobi) • Knowledge Management/M&E Specialist (Bangkok) • Finance Analyst (home-based)
2018 and 2019 work plans developed and approved	The 2018 and 2019 Poverty-Environment Action global annual workplans were approved by the Project Board in July and Dec 2018 respectively. All country level work plans were approved by the Poverty-Environment Action Co-Managers on behalf of the Project Board Executive.
Delegation of Authority Framework issued	Delegation of Authority Framework established. Seven Delegations of Authority were signed with UNDP Country Offices for Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda as well as Tanzania.
Results-Resources Framework further refined	Baselines, indicators and targets were refined. This framework formed the basis for results reporting in *Table 3*.

3.2 Summary of Results as per Results & Resources Framework (Indicator performance)

In 2019, the second TA intervention in Lao PDR and the 7th full-fledged country project in Nepal were developed and approved by the Board in June.

Table 2 summarizes the PEA projects under implementation in 2019.

Table 2: Summary of PEA Projects under Implementation in 2019

Country	Project description
1. Full-fledged country projects	
Lao PDR	**Title:** *Improving Quality Investment for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Lao PDR* The objective of the Poverty-Environment Action in Lao PDR project is to strengthen coordination of government's regulatory capacity to coordinate and promote higher quality investment and improve the ease-of-doing business, transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of investment management for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Lao PDR. The project aims at strengthening government's regulatory capacity on the basis that lack of enforcement is detrimental to green economies. The project will help the government to address and remove investment regulatory and business barriers that currently hinder the development of a healthy vibrant competitive business environment, while regulating compliance and obligation of the investment projects to create more jobs for local people and build the skills of national staff.
Malawi	**Title:** *Poverty-Environment Action for the SDGs* The Poverty-Environment Action project in Malawi is jointly implemented with FAO and UN Women and focuses on poverty-environment mainstreaming in broader national and sector policy and budget processes. It emphasizes the promotion of climate resilient and gender responsive agriculture by influencing agricultural investments.
Mauritania	**Title:** *Project d'appui a la mise en œuvre et au suivi des objectifs Pauvreté/Environement de la SCAPP et des politiques sectorielles en relation avec les ODD en Mauritanie* The Poverty-Environment Action Mauritania project focuses on influencing public financial management and monitoring systems to include aspects of poverty reducing environmental sustainability. It also includes a focus on incentivizing private actors to invest in environmental sustainability for poverty reduction through new legislative approaches and taxation measures.
Mozambique	**Title:** *Sustainable Management of Natural Resources for Resilient and Equitable Development – SUNRED II* The Poverty-Environment Action project in Mozambique has a focus on influencing climate and environmental budgeting and expenditures across sectors from a poverty-environment perspective. It also includes a focus on strengthening the management of natural resource revenues to optimize revenue collection and benefit sharing mechanisms with vulnerable groups to promote environmental sustainability.

Myanmar	**Title:** *Governance for Resilience and Sustainability Project* The Poverty-Environment Action project is embedded in UNDP Myanmar Country Office's *Governance for Resilience and Sustainability Project* (2018-2022) and aims to promote i) mainstreaming of environment and poverty considerations into investment and management systems; ii) mobilization of green investments in environmental goods and services; and iii) improved organizational performance by lead agencies responsible for environmental management and climate change.
Nepal	**Title:** *Accelerating implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal* The project aims to support Nepal in achieving the SDGs by creating enabling environment and capacity development to mitigate SDGs financing gap as well as through accelerated implementation. The project will have two outcomes: 1) Planning, budgeting, monitoring & reporting systems at all levels of government are SDG responsive and functional; and 2) Resilient and innovative financing available for SDG implementation.
Rwanda	**Title:** *Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs* The Poverty-Environment Action project in Rwanda focuses on directing private and public investments towards poverty-environment action by influencing investment incentive structures and guidelines. PEA will also build capacity for the use of mainstreaming tools including multi-dimensional poverty assessments (that include an environmental sustainability perspective) in planning and budget processes.
2. Technical Assistance Interventions	
Indonesia	**Title:** *Sustainable Development Finance Facility (SDFF)* Poverty-Environment Action Technical Assistance (TA) aims to contribute to the ongoing Sustainable Development Finance Facility (SDFF) by supporting outputs that will deepen sustainable finance by working at the provincial level through provincial budget tagging; strengthening gender responsive climate change budgeting; and strengthening Indonesia's first Islamic Green Bond issued in 2018.
Tanzania	**Title**: *Mainstreaming Poverty-Environment-Gender-Climate Change into LED and SDG Localization for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication in Tanzania* The Poverty-Environment Action Technical Assistance work in Tanzania aims to support Local Government Authorities and the central Government to apply poverty-environment analytical tools in the development of programmes and concrete interventions being designed to implement district development plans, sector strategies and regional investment guidelines.

As part of the inception phase in 2018, the project established baselines, indicators and targets at global and country level to form the results framework for all full-fledged country projects and TA interventions. Most of the results have been achieved as per planned 2019 targets. *Table 3* outlines the results achieved as of 31 Dec 2019 based on indicator performance.

The Knowledge Management and M&E Specialist who is expected to report for duty in 2020 will closely monitor project performance against the set results and indicators to strengthen results-based reporting. A Mid-Term Review (MTR) is scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2020 which will provide more insight on the project results.

Table 3: Summary of Results Achieved as of 31 December 2019 based on PEA's Results & Resources Framework (Indicator Performance)								
Global level				Project (2018-2022)		Year 1	Status as of 31 Dec 2019	Comments
OUTPUT	Deliverables	Indicator	Description	Baseline	Targets	2019 Targets		
1. Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication	**1.1:** Capacity to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting.	1.1	Number of planning frameworks, legislation and regulations that integrate the poverty-environment nexus	22	95	25	5	Four assessments were conducted to establish gaps in government systems in addressing Poverty Environment linkages and gender. These assessments were used to formulate tailor made strategies to build the required capacity. Myanmar conducted an organizational capacity needs assessment, Rwanda conducted an Environment and Gender Gap Assessment, Indonesia conducted a gender responsive public climate budgeting assessment; and Tanzania conducted a poverty diagnosis using the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Analysis Tool (MPAT) and establishment of baseline in respective target areas. Five tools were developed to enable mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting and government staff trained on how to use the tools; a checklist and training manual for planners in Rwanda to ensure integration of environment and climate change indicators into sector plans, a reporting template to monitor poverty environment investments the implementation of Provincial Investment Strategy in Lao; an environment profile for Arid regions and a database for tracking projects that identifies projects/programs that integrate the Poverty-Environment objectives in Mauritania.
		1.2	Policy position(s) on poverty-environment issues formulated by non-government actors	0	3	1	Not achieved	Though not non-government actors as per indicator description, the Rwanda government produced a policy brief on fostering mainstreaming of integrated gender, environment and climate change. This mainly supports policy makers to understand ECC-Gender linkages and why they are essential to consider in national development. A Policy brief on EIA fees was also produced in Rwanda aimed at supporting MoE and FONERWA to mobilize internal resources mainly on fees and fines. A meeting with Rwanda development board was convened and agreed in principle to charge USD 300 for big projects and USD 200 for small projects. A ministerial order was later developed and is now awaiting cabinet approval.

	1.2: Institutional mechanisms promote policy coherence to accelerate implementation of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.	1.3	Number of government-led inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms that promote coherence of planning, frameworks, legislation and regulations	5	35	7	3	1. Mozambique - National SDG Reference Working Group that assesses the capacity of the National Statistical Institute (INE) for data collection using SDG Indicators. 2. Malawi - Sector Working Group on Agriculture, a grouping of Government ministries, non-state actors and development partners with a stake in agriculture development. 3. Myanmar - Environment Management Fund (EMF) preparation working group to draft regulations for the establishment and governance of the fund.
		1.4	Number of countries where environmental/social/economic data are collected, analyzed and reported applying a poverty-environment nexus perspective through national development and SDG monitoring systems	2	7	3	3	1. Tanzania - Implemented a research study using a Multidimensional Poverty Analysis Tool (MPAT) for poverty diagnosis. 2. Mauritania - Established a database that identifies projects / programs that integrate the Poverty-Environment objectives and Environmental Profile of arid zones. 3. Mozambique - First report on SDG implementation, produced plus two other key documents: (1) Appropriation of the SDGs that contribute to the environmental dimension, and (2) Planning guide for the SDGs under the responsibility of MITADER. These documents will allow MITADER to be able to monitor and report SDG indicators under its responsibility.
2. Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives	**2.1**: Public expenditure and emerging national SDG financing frameworks support shift in government allocations toward environmental sustainability and	2.1	Number of key budget policy documents (e.g. budget statements, economic surveys, budget call circulars) that reflect environmental sustainability and climate priorities for poverty eradication (per country)	61	48	13	3	1. Indonesia - Budget Tagging Guidelines developed and first phase of Climate Change Fiscal Framework (CCFF) completed. 2. Myanmar - Regulations for the establishment and governance of the Environment Management Fund (EMF)drafted. The draft regulations forms part of the package for ECD to submit to government to initiate the fund. 3. Rwanda - ECC Checklist for the integration of environment and climate change indicators in Districts' Single Action Plans (SAP).

for poverty eradication	climate objectives for poverty eradication.	2.2	Number of countries with increased annual and medium-term sector budget allocations (including national and sub-national levels) that reflect environmental sustainability and climate for poverty eradication	0	6	1	1	In Rwanda, PEA reviewed the budget allocation for the fiscal year 2019/2020. The review indicates a slight increase in budget allocation on environment and climate change from 6.2% (2018/19) to 6.8% (2019/20). The assessment of the budget allocation was based on the checklist that was developed as a tool to support effective mainstreaming.
	2.2: Economic, financial and regulatory incentives and private sector initiatives encourage shift in private investment toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.	2.3	Number of countries with fiscal instruments (tax, incentives, user fees, etc.) adopted in policies and regulations that prioritize quality investments	0	3	0	2	In Mauritania, the Directorate General of Taxes was supported to introduce ecological taxation into the national tax system through funding of the study on environmental and ecological taxation. A database that identifies projects/programmes that integrate the Poverty-Environment objectives has also been established. In Rwanda, the policy brief on EIA fees was produced. PEA's aim was to support MoE and FONERWA to mobilize internal resources mainly on fees and fines. After the policy brief, a meeting with Rwanda development board was convened and agreed in principle to charge USD 300 for big projects and USD 200 for small projects. A ministerial order was later developed and is now awaiting cabinet approval.
		2.4	Number of guidelines and tools to manage private sector investment decisions that facilitate or prioritize quality investments	1	24	0	7	1. Myanmar - Initial research on successful examples of green businesses from the region finalized to be used as basis for promoting such investments in future years. 2. Indonesia - Green bonds (sukuk). 3. Lao PDR - 4 investment profiles & training in screening tools & plans for financing models for Investment Promotion Department. 4. Malawi - Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES). 5. Rwanda - Environment Audit to enhance compliance to environment sustainability, training of Chamber of Industries in resource efficiency cleaner production.

3. SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.	**3.1:** Poverty-Environment Action knowledge products synthesize country-level experience and lessons in the use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.	3.1	Number of Poverty-Environment Action knowledge-sharing and learning products that are referenced by regional and global networks	23	26	5	1	A joint Poverty-Environment Action-Asian Development Bank publication on tools to mainstream environmental dimension of SDGs in national planning and budgeting was launched in January 2019 (https://www.adb.org/publications/environmental-dimensions-sdgs-tool-compendium). Development of PEA website is in progress. PEA is currently featured on the UNDP Global Policy Centre for Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GC-RED) webpage (Poverty-Environment Mainstreaming).
	3.2: Uptake of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in "non-Poverty-Environment Action" countries.	3.2	Number of countries adopting Poverty-Environment Action tools/approaches resulting from South-South knowledge collaboration	9	12	0	1	As part of PEA's efforts to promote uptake and use of PEA integrated approaches, tools and programmes to ensure synergies with similar projects by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in non-PEA countries, PEA showcased PE approaches and tools at over 10 international forums reaching out to many countries represented at the forums (List of Forums listed under deliverable 3.2).

Project implementation monitored against the results framework has been slower than expected with only three out of the project's ten performance indicators fully achieved as of end-2019. However, most of the project's results are at output level and contribute to policy level outcomes, hence best appreciated over a longer period of time as prerequisite in nature to the intended project outcome. There is need to scale up the efforts in implementation in 2020 to meet the set targets by identifying the underlying challenges and addressing them.

3.3 Activities carried out and Results realized by Project Output

This section highlights the activities carried out and the project results achieved in 2019 by project output.

Output 1: Development planning[1], budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication

- ***Deliverable 1.1:*** *Capacity to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting.*

To achieve this deliverable, countries embarked on processes to conduct analysis that would provide linkages, trade-offs and synergies to support identification, prioritization and sequencing of poverty, environment, and climate-related interventions. These include conducting capacity assessments within the government counterpart departments and outlining strategies to address capacity gaps.

Four assessments were conducted (Myanmar, Indonesia, Tanzania and Rwanda) to establish the gaps in government systems in addressing Poverty-Environment linkages and gender. These assessments were used to formulate tailor made strategies to build the required capacity. Myanmar conducted an organizational capacity needs assessment of the Environmental Conservation Department; Rwanda conducted an Environment and Gender Gap Assessment; Indonesia conducted a gender responsive public climate budgeting assessment; and Tanzania undertook a poverty diagnosis using the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Analysis Tool (MPAT) and established baselines in respective target areas. In Rwanda, an integrated approach was used to build required capacity through training of key government personnel on how to incorporate Poverty-Environment issues into sector plans, including establishment of Poverty-Environment indicators, and how to monitor their integration. 22 planners were trained. In Mauritania, targeted community groups such as 60 gold miners were trained on health impact due to mercury use linked to the environment; and 176 fishermen were trained on sustainable fishing techniques.

Five tools have been developed to enable mainstreaming of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting: 1-2) a checklist and training manual for planners in Rwanda to ensure integration of environment and climate change indicators into sector plans; 3) a reporting template to monitor poverty environment investments in support of the implementation of Provincial Investment Strategies in Lao PDR; 4) an environment profile for arid regions and 5) a database for tracking projects that identifies projects and programmes that integrate Poverty-Environment objectives in Mauritania.

[1] Planning encompasses relevant policies, plans and strategies at national, sub-national and sectoral levels, in line with country demand/needs. "Environmental sustainability" includes sustainable management of environment and natural resources and pollution reduction.

- ***Deliverable 1.2:*** *Institutional mechanisms promote policy coherence to accelerate implementation of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.*

PEA countries have taken steps towards strengthening coordination mechanisms to ensure coherence between planning and budgeting processes. During the reporting period, three PEA countries (Malawi, Mozambique and Myanmar) commenced work with their government counterparts to establish relevant working groups that would enhance coordination and coherence in mainstreaming poverty-environment objectives at all levels of government.

Three government-led institutions have been established to promote policy coherence: 1) a National SDG Reference Working Group in Mozambique that assesses the capacity of the National Statistical Institute (INE) for data collection using SDG Indicators; 2) a Sector Working Group on Agriculture in Malawi which is a group of Government ministries, non-state actors and development partners with interest in agricultural development; and 3) an Environment Management Fund (EMF) preparation working group in Myanmar to draft regulations for the establishment and governance of the EMF fund. Policy launches and awareness creation were also key initiatives undertaken by countries to accelerate implementation of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.

Table 4 below provides a summary of results achieved under Output 1.

Table 4: Summary of Results achieved under Output 1

Output 1: Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication	
Activity/ Deliverable 1.1	**Status**
Build capacity to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting.	• A report on gender responsive public climate budgeting has been completed in **Indonesia** and will be disseminated 2020 by the implementing partner through various channels. One of the key findings of this research study is potential activities to be tagged into co-benefit theme for gender and climate change in the national planning and budgeting system. The study reviewed expenditure of two ministries, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in the period of 2016-2018. • Socio-Economic Profiles (SEPs) for the Salima and Chiradzulu districts in **Malawi** reviewed against a checklist of minimum requirements drawn by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to include Climate Smart Agriculture, Biodiversity, mainstreaming gender which is necessary for poverty reduction and food security. • Indicators of the **Mauritania**'s Development Plan for 2016-2030) reviewed and updated. Ministry of Finance supported in the implementation of the new Organic Law relating to Finance Laws. The Directorate General of Taxes was supported to introduce ecological taxation into the national tax system through funding of the study on environmental and ecological taxation. A database that identifies projects and programmes that integrate Poverty-Environment objectives has been established. Environmental Profile of arid zones developed. • Organizational capacity needs assessment and outline for a comprehensive organizational development plan for the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) completed in **Myanmar**. The study mapped the capacity of the ECD at three levels: enabling environment, organizational including system and processes, and individual levels. • Inclusion of Environment Natural Resource (ENR) indicators[2] into sector plans done in **Rwanda**. The allocations were estimated at 6.2% for the fiscal year 2019/2020 which was achieved. 22 planners from key ministries were trained on Environment and Climate Change (ECC) mainstreaming tools. These tools included the ECC checklist and ECC budget statement. A study on environment and gender gap was conducted in Rwanda. The purpose of the study was to support PEA to include gender sensitive indicators into sector plans. • The Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) in collaboration with Simiyu region **Tanzania** implemented a study using a Multidimensional Poverty Analysis Tool (MPAT) to conduct a poverty diagnosis and baseline survey. Two training sessions for IRDP staff were conducted on how to access, utilize and analyze MPAT software, which is web-based and was developed by IFAD & WB.

[2] The indicators form part of the environment and climate change checklist for the 2019–2020 sector and district annual action plans that were submitted to Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) in preparation of the 2019-2020 national budget. This helped to ensure that environment and climate changes interventions are taken into consideration in planning and budgeting and also support to track tentative budget allocation on environment and climate change interventions by key sector ministries (Infrastructure, Agriculture, Health and Education).

Activity/ Deliverable 1.2	Status
Promote policy coherence to accelerate implementation of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication through Institutional mechanisms.	• Several interface meetings with the Department of Planning Services (DAPS) in **Malawi** were conducted to develop a collaborative approach towards strengthening the Agriculture Sector Working Group (SWG). ToRs for the sector group were revised to align them to the SDGs while cognizant of national context. A factsheet was developed to introduce the PEA project to government agencies and other key partners. • In **Rwanda**, a workshop on the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) including ENR has been conducted and a training on MPI methodology was carried out in close collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics (NISR) and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN). The training covered key national institutions (agriculture, finance, trade and industry and local government). MPI-ENR indicators were agreed upon and the next step is to use these indicators in the national surveys (Household surveys, agricultural surveys etc.). • Three reports launched and disseminated alongside the formal launch of the Poverty-Environment Initiative Project in **Malawi**. The reports include "Soil and Nutrient Loss in Malawi", "Factors Driving the Gender Gap in Agriculture Productivity in Malawi" and "Sustainable Management of the Environment and Natural Resources: Implications for Food Security, Livelihoods and Economic Development in Malawi." A total of 34 (10 women, 24 men) representatives from Government, NGOs and the private sector institutions attended the meeting. The Project also disseminated two of the reports namely, "Soil and Nutrient Loss in Malawi", and "Factors Driving the Gender Gap in Agriculture Productivity in Malawi" to technical representatives of district councils. • A Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) reference group was established in **Mozambique** with the objective of assessing the capacity of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) for data collection using SDG Indicators. One of the findings of the assessment highlighted the need to adapt the indicators into national planning systems. Around 44 participants from different institutions participated. It was concluded that all 17 SDGs fit into the national planning and policy framework. A total of 204 SDG indicators, were considered applicable, while 10 were not applicable and 18 are pending further analysis and adjustment to local context. 67 global SDG indicators are already currently available, 43 were easily viable, 89 were viable with significant adjustments, and 5 indicators were non-viable even with significant adjustment meaning data could not be collected and the national context did not apply for measuring or monitoring such indicators. For guaranteed international comparability of the indicators, there is need to create conditions for the generation and availability of statistical indicators, broken down to lower levels (provincial or local, age, sex, disability, among others). • In Mozambique, a detailed communication plan was developed on the SDGs to ensure use of social media, radio and TV, building capacity of journalists on SDG related issues to ensure participation of civil society, NGOs and others for more inclusiveness and ownership. • Technical support was provided to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in leading the mainstreaming of environmental indicators in the **Myanmar** Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and its associated National Indicator Framework. The MSDP is the government's overarching, long-term development plan, guiding all ministries and sectors. A dedicated section that addresses environmental conservation has been included in the MSDP and the draft National Indicator Framework incorporates sustainability indicators.

Output 2: Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication

- ***Deliverable 2.1:*** *Public expenditure and emerging national SDG financing frameworks support shift in government allocations toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.*

PEA has laid the foundation to support a shift in government allocations towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication. In Myanmar, this has been achieved through the development of Budget Tagging Guidelines and completion of the first phase of the Climate Change Fiscal Framework (CCFF) which includes a detailed workplan for developing the framework, the scope and main guidance document, regulations for establishing and governance of the Environment Management Facility (EMF), a communication plan for the EMF and a concept note on the development of an integrated environmental financing strategy.

Technical Assistance in Indonesia supported the inception phase of the CCFF in August 2019 and completed it in November 2019 working with the Ministry of Finance (the PEA TA focal point is based in the Fiscal Policy Agency of the Ministry). This phase aimed to determine a detailed workplan for the development of the CCFF, define its scope, and to develop a CCF guidance document through literature review and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, that aim. Interviews to collect data and information were conducted with more than 50 experts from 40 institutions from the key ministries, donor institutions, development partners, CSOs, private sector and universities.

- ***Deliverable 2.2:*** *Economic, financial and regulatory incentives and private sector initiatives encourage shift in private investment towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.*

Several incentives have been created and promoted to encourage a shift in private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives. In 2019, during the World Environment Day, PEA Rwanda issued awards to best investors in clean energy as part of the sensitization process for investors. Furthermore, PEA Rwanda built capacity of 102 private sector enterprises in ECC and 34 of these have started resourcing efficiency and cleaner production techniques. An environmental audit of big industries namely Imana steel Rwanda, steel Rwanda, Roto Ltd, Skol brewery, Bralirwa, Horizon Sopyrwa, Utexrwa, Kigali Leather, has been conducted by a consulting firm to enhance compliance. This is part of the sensitization process for investors to continue investing in more sustainable or green interventions. A training workshop of representatives from the Private Sector, and Chamber of Industries on ECC mainstreaming, resource efficiency and cleaner production, new environmental law and standards was conducted by PEA in collaboration with MINICOM/RECP and Rwanda Standards Bureau (RSB). This training aimed at increasing environmental awareness in the Private Sector.

Table 5 below provides a summary of results achieved Output 2.

Table 5: Summary of Results achieved under Output 2

Output 2: Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.	
Activity/ Deliverable 2.1	**Status**
Public expenditure and emerging national SDG financing frameworks support shift in government allocations toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.	• The consultations with Ministry of Finance **Indonesia** on-going to explore the possibility of issuing green sukuk for the retail domestic market. To support scaling up of the blue financial instrument, the project has initiated a focus group discussion and interview sessions with both public and private sectors on financing to assess eligible sectors and possible financial instruments to be included in the blue financial framework. • Consultations with the Treasury Department in the Ministry of Finance **Malawi**, Economic Planning and Development to conduct a public expenditure review of environment and natural resources management and the National Agriculture Implementation Plan (NAIP) concluded and ToRs developed. The review period is 2013 to 2018. • Community sensitization, catchment delineation and validation exercises in the Salima district **Malawi** done to identify sites where pilot soil loss mitigation interventions would be carried out under the framework of this project. Ten micro catchments were assessed out of which five have been classified as highly degraded based on the extent of soil loss, deforestation, mean slope and soil erodibility. The most degraded micro catchments are Chawira and Msanyanda. Salima district was prioritized in this exercise because it is among the districts with the highest rates of soil erosion and also because it is within UN Women's areas of intervention. • Regulations for the establishment of the National Environment Management Fund (EMF) in **Myanmar** have been drafted by the Preparation Working Group. The draft regulations form part of the package for ECD to submit to government to initiate the fund. Technical assistance has been provided to the ECD on this process, including advice on resolving remaining legal questions raised by the Union Attorney-General's Office to ensure the EMF is established consistent with existing laws. • Capacity has been built for 92 key **Rwanda** government staff (Planners and Environment Officers) to equip them on how integration of environment and climate change indicators is done when preparing the action plans and budgets. The Environment and Climate change (ECC) mainstreaming and ECC Checklist were the tools used in building the capacity. • Through PEA support in **Rwanda**, all 62 sectors, District Planners and 30 District Environmental Officers were trained on ECC mainstreaming Tools including the ECC Checklist. This training was undertaken to increase understanding of how the integration of environment and climate change indicators is done when preparing the Districts' Single Action Plans (SAP). This is a continuous activity that is carried out by PEA to ensure consistence in environment and climate change mainstreaming.

Activity/ Deliverable 2.2	Status
Economic, financial and regulatory incentives and private sector initiatives encourage shift in private investment towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication	• Environmental audit conducted in **Rwanda** to enhance compliance with environmental sustainability for big industries namely Imana steel Rwanda, steel Rwanda, Roto Ltd, Skol brewery, Bralirwa, Horizon Sopyrwa, Utexrwa, Kigali Leather. The final report is yet to be submitted pending lab testing results. The audit addresses the level of compliance in terms of resource efficiency and use, and pollution control and waste management. With regards to working with non-governmental organizations, PEA organized a half-day training session for faith-based representatives with the aim of sensitizing leaders of faith-based organizations to share knowledge on ECC mainstreaming processes and engage them to integrate ECC into their daily activities towards sustainability. This training session was conducted in collaboration with the Rwanda Governance Board. • Through technical assistance in **Indonesia**, PEA continues to provide support on the government's green sukuk[3] (bond) initiatives. The Government has issued the green sukuk twice, in 2018 and 2019 for a total of USD 2 billion. The support provided includes development of a second Green Sukuk impact report that will be published in early 2020. • Ministry of Finance in **Indonesia** was supported, through PEA, to explore the possibility of issuing a green sukuk for the retail domestic market. A study was conducted to assess the potential and risk of retail green sukuk issuance and market responses. In November 2019, the retail green sukuk was issued by the government in the domestic market worth 107 million USD and received positive responses. It was issued through an online platform and with a low minimum amount (1 million Indonesia Rupiah, equivalent to 70 US Dollar) to encourage young investors. This is the world's first green sukuk issued in a retail market. • Blue Financial Instrument Framework developed and launched as a living document on 30th October 2019 at the Archipelagic Island States (AIS) Forum held in Manado, North Sulawesi. The framework aims to leverage sustainability of marine resources in **Indonesia** by creating a baseline of sustainable marine projects, defining the instrument as best practice for public and private investment in order to support Indonesia's priority developments in the maritime sector. In the long run, it is anticipated that this document will be beneficial for various key players in the marine industry where they will be able to identify more accurately, the financial needs of different industries in the marine sector and identify which projects are more sustainable compared to others. • Consultations have been initiated and are on-going with potential investors and Department of Forestry in **Malawi** on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) as an innovative tool for incentivizing ENRM financing for investments. PES is perceived as an innovative tool for incentivizing ENRM financing and investment frameworks towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication. • Initial research on successful examples of green businesses from the region has been finalized in **Myanmar** to be used as the basis for the folio and for promoting such investments in future years. The publication of the folio will be pursued as part of the work to promote investment in environmental goods and services. This was planned to be initiated in fourth quarter of 2019, but due to difficulties in recruiting an appropriate consultant to lead this work, it has been delayed until 2020.

[3] Green Sukuk is a sovereign Islamic bond issued by the government to support Indonesia's climate change action plans, and in accordance with Islamic law principles.

	• An investment database and investment profiles have been developed in **Lao** PDR for four provinces and capacity built for investment profile development. The Investment Promotion Department (IPD) has been trained in screening tools and plans for financing models to enhance knowledge of the tools in regulating investment projects for compliance[4], PEA supported IPD in enhancing investment screening and monitoring tools including plans for a financing model to better select quality investment and an investment database to effectively manage the compliance of investment project. • Awareness raising and provision of policy recommendations to the government to encourage private sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reporting was conducted. PEA aims to promote CSR in the tourism sector which is one of the priorities in the National Socio-Economic Development Plan in **Lao PDR** and in line with the government goal to promote investment in the non-natural resource sector. In addition, the CSR promotions also link to sustainable Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) promotion through the development of incubator guidelines. • A delegation of 11 people from IPD from **Lao PDR** visited Vietnam as part of a South to South Mission to learn from Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment regarding the investment approval process, monitoring and promotion. The government of Vietnam[5] has actively mainstreamed the investment approval process through one stop service at provincial level and an online business registration platform.

[4] To enhance investment compliance and monitoring of authority, the project is supporting IPD to develop an investment procedure and compliance handbook that will provides guidance to investors who are interested to invest in Laos on the procedures for investment applications and approval process. The investment compliance handbook also aims to provide information on obligations after investment applications are approved by the government. This is being done through a consultant.

[5] Investment monitoring in Vietnam is carried out jointly at provincial level considering the cost-effectiveness and increasing the competencies of provincial authority. MPI manage investment database which investors submit regular reports on overall project implementation via online system. The database can be accessed by the provincial authority nationwide. However, this system has not connected to line ministries such as Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment to verify the project compliance in these areas. The government of Vietnam is planning to upgrade the capacity of the database as well as the wide linkage with other agencies' database for more comprehensive monitoring.

Output 3: SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.

- ***Deliverable 3.1:*** *Poverty Environment Action knowledge products synthesize country-level experience and lessons in the use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.*

Under this output, Poverty-Environment Action organized global expert group meetings, presented at international sustainable development fora and published three landmark guidance and lessons learned documents capturing poverty-environment mainstreaming experience, methods and results. PEA co-organized the global Expert Group Meeting entitled "Building Resilience for All: Poverty Reduction, Equity and Inclusion in Climate Change Adaptation", hosted by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (Geneva, 13 September 2019). The meeting was attended by experts from 20 countries.

Poverty-Environment Action disseminated the its publication "Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Lessons on Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development" (Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Lessons on Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development from PEI (2005–2018).) to the UN Environment Management Group, UN DESA and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A joint Poverty-Environment Action - Asian Development Bank publication on tools to mainstream the environmental dimension of SDGs in national planning and budgeting was launched in January 2019 (https://www.adb.org/publications/environmental-dimensions-sdgs-tool-compendium).

Two publications were made and disseminated, "Strengthening the Environmental Dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Tool Compendium" (UN Environment and Asian Development Bank, 2019, http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TIM190002-2) and "Reward and Renewal: UNDP–UN Environment Poverty-Environment Initiative Phase 2 Final Progress Report 2014-2018" (2019, https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/sustainable%20land%20management/PEI_FinalReport.pdf).

- ***Deliverable 3.2:*** Uptake of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in "non-Poverty Environment Action" countries.

As part of PEA's efforts to promote uptake and use Poverty Environment integrated approaches, tools and programmes to ensure synergies with similar projects by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in non-PEA countries, PEA showcased the approaches and tools through the following fora:

- 8–11 January: GEC and PAGE Ministerial Meeting where Poverty-Environment Action shared best practices on inclusion and discussed partnerships and the new investment focus. Main theme: Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economies.

- 23–25 January: The Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific where the joint publication between Asian Development Bank and Poverty-Environment Action on mainstreaming environment tools report was showcased in a joint booth at the Forum.
- 3–4 February: High-level Panel on the Impact of Climate Change on Displacement of Women during the 33rd pre-summit meeting on mainstreaming gender equality convened by the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC).
- 19 February: European Union Parliamentary meeting where Poverty-Environment Action was invited to deliver a keynote speech on the Poverty-Environment nexus for SDGs in Europe, no social policy without environmental action.
- 21 February: The panel discussion on governance for a just transition to a green economy was held in UCL, London, where PEI-PEA experiences were shared on how the dimensions of governance, institutions and actors should be incorporated into the transition process.
- 11 March 2019: Poverty-Environment Nexus Resolution adopted at UNEA4**.** Poverty-Environment Action highlighted the strong interest at the UN Environment Assembly in the link between environmental and social inclusion issues, evidenced by the Poverty-Environment Action programme having been invited to participate in five 2019 UN Environment Assembly side events on human rights, poverty and biodiversity themes.
- 27–29 March: The Sixth Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development where the joint ADB and PEA mainstreaming environment tools report was showcased in the APFSD exhibition area.
- 1–2 April: Inclusive Green Economy institutional collaboration meeting hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Germany, where the opportunities of PEA contribution to global and country level partnerships were showcased.
- 16 July 2019: Poverty-Environment Action at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York, USA.

In addition, PEA disseminated PEI results at two international forums. First, through collaboration with UN Women on the high-level panel discussion and presentations in the Global Gender Summit that was held in Kigali in November. PEA led the group discussion on the process of using policies, based on empirical findings to stimulate agricultural productivity among smallholder farmers and to promote value addition that leverages economic empowerment and improves food security at household levels. In addition, the presentation entitled “Sustainable Management of the Environment and Natural Resources in Malawi: Implications for Food Security and the attainment of SDGs 1 and 2” was based on the work of PEI and PEA and demonstrated how the sustainable management of the environment and investments in the agricultural sector including the reforms of FISP can contribute to the attainment of SDG 1&2.

Secondly, through a presentation at the 6th International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development 2019 (ICPSD 2019) “SDG 1: A World free from Want: Poverty and Social Exclusion in the 21st Century” in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in December 2019.

3.4 Technical Assistance Interventions

TA interventions in Tanzania and Indonesia were successfully implemented as the first two TAs approved in 2018 and 2019 respectively. These TA initiatives have contributed to the activities and results highlighted in Sections 3.2 – 3.3 above. Out of the planned 10 TA interventions that were planned for during the projects' lifetime, subject to funding availability, four others were developed in 2019. These four TAs were submitted to the Project Board for approval in late 2019 and implementation is expected to start in 2020. A summary of these additional four TAs is provided below:

1. ***Blue Economy:*** This TA is a joint initiative with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) aimed at formulating a joint ADB/PEA report on Opportunities and Challenges for Investment in the Sustainable Blue Economy of Asia and the Pacific and consultation with member states of the Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to identify, review, and inform poverty and environment related tools and best practices that can support blue economy planning and financing. It provides an opportunity to increase awareness and broaden the application of PEI/PEA tools, including those presented in the PEI tools compendium http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TIM190002-2 and PEI 2017 publication on Integrated Planning, Financing and Budgeting https://www.undp.org/content/nairobi-gc-red/en/home/library/interactive-handbook-to-strengthen-planning-and-budgeting-proces.html. By mainstreaming these tools into a joint ADB-PEA knowledge product, PEA will guide the planning and implementation of ADB's Ocean Finance Initiative which aims to mobilize and align USD 5 billion of investment to support sustainable blue economy activities in the Asia-Pacific region over a five-year period. At the same time, this knowledge product will also be used to inform the work of the UNEP administered regional seas programmes (COBSEA). The total budget is USD 259,550 with USD 69,550 from PEA and USD 190,000 co-financed by the ADB. The TA will be implemented over a one-year period through COBSEA.

2. ***Gender:*** Existing initiatives in the agricultural sector focus more on the rural sector with limited focus on the links between gender issues and environmental sustainability. The TA led by UN-Women will substantively contribute to bringing out the environmental sustainability dimension in the agricultural sector through engaging women farmers as agents of change. The TA responds to the need for adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) as a practice promoted to enhance climate resilience and environment sustainability efforts. Through the TA, support will be provided to conduct evidence-based capacity building of targeted government representatives on integrating gender sensitive CSA approaches in policies and conduct South-South cooperation on mainstreaming and implementing gender-responsive CSA policies and strategies. Total budget for the TA is USD 120,000 over an 18-months period targeting Zimbabwe and Burundi.

3. ***Green Bonds:*** The request from the Government of South Africa[6] to strengthen the social dimension of its green economy transformation offers an excellent opportunity for PEA to enhance the government's capacity to mainstream climate, environment and poverty into new green financial instruments and promote quality investments through green bonds. The TA is led by UNEP and aims to support South Africa to a) establish green bonds at municipality level through South-South exchange with Indonesia and b) assist with the review of a handbook on green bonds, especially from environmental and social dimensions. The handbook on green bonds can be used nationwide and in other country contexts. The PEA support to Indonesia regarding green bonds (sukuk) has supported Indonesia's policy and commitment to combat climate change and is now a successful alternative funding source to finance green projects in the country. Through South-South exchange between PEA experts in Indonesia (and the UNEP-UNDP regional presences in Bangkok) and South Africa, the latter will be able to benefit from the Indonesian experience. PEA will also support targeted media coverage and increasingly use social media as key multipliers to enhance the knowledge of and communication on Inclusive Green Economy (IGE), climate and SDG topics in general, and particularly on fiscal policy instruments and green bonds. Total budget for the TA is USD 120,000 over an 18-months period.

4. ***Millennium Institute*****:** Building on PEI work, PEA, in partnership with the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa and the Millennium Institute, will explore the poverty reduction acceleration potential of investments in the sustainable use of environment and natural resources, by applying the iSDG model, a system dynamic model developed by the Millennium Institute. The purpose is to enhance PEI/PEA tools to support governments to better identify policy options to accelerate poverty reduction. The TA will use simulations through the T21 iSDG[7] model which is a broad and integrated tool to support the design and assessment of effective strategies to achieve the SDGs. Total budget for the TA is USD 120,000 over an 18-months period targeting Namibia and Guinea Bissau.

[6] South Africa has shown a great deal of interest in, and commitment to cooperation in the project aimed at strengthening the competencies of key actors in public institutions for the more coherent implementation of SDGs and NDCs with the help of green economy approaches.

[7] iSDG is structured to analyze medium-long term development issues at the nationwide level. The model integrates in a single framework the economic, social, and environmental aspects of development planning, with a focus on the SDGs. The model also enables decision-makers to estimate how resource allocation for the achievement of one or more SDGs impacts on individual and collection achievement of the SDGs. That is, the iSDG model is especially well suited to analyze the interactions among policies directed to achieve the SDGs.

4. Challenges

During the reporting period, some delay in the start of implementation of some key activities was experienced at country level due the following challenges encountered:

- Identifying qualified consultants to support project activities has been a greater challenge than anticipated as limited capacity available, and recruitment has required a number of rounds of advertisement through different channels. The project activities that needed to be undertaken by consultants in Lao PDR, Rwanda, Malawi and Indonesia were very technical though prerequisite for other subsequent activities to follow. To overcome such challenge in the future, the establishment of a consultant roster at global level is underway, which country offices can also tap into where possible. Wider circulation of adverts for highly specialized work is also being promoted to reach out to more potential candidates.
- High level changes in government impacted the continuation of project implementation. In Indonesia, due to the new cabinet appointments, the former Chairman of the Fiscal Policy Agency has been promoted to Vice Minister of Finance. In Lao PDR, the Vice-Prime Minister was newly assigned as the Minister of MPI. Many project activities such as the approval of the Green Growth Criteria Guideline (GGCG) and the South-South Mission to Vietnam were delayed as the approval process required more time: full briefings to the new Minister were needed to ensure the buy-in into PEA. Loss of institutional memory at technical level within the responsible party institutions due to movement of personnel through transfers and postings was also prevalent in many countries. Within 2019, PEA desk officers in some government key ministries and departments have changed three times thereby significantly affecting progress (Indonesia, Lao, Malawi, Mozambique). To mitigate the challenge, continued briefing and capacity building of new staff is advocated.
- Presidential elections in Malawi slowed down project implementation. Key government personnel i.e. national directors and the ministers were travelling a lot during this period, limiting their availability to hold meetings, discuss and plan activities. Post-election disturbances also led to demonstrations staged by disgruntled members of the public and opposition parties calling for annulment of the results over a protracted period of time. The continued demonstrations have disrupted the planning and discharging of project operations, all leading to slow delivery of the project.
- Cyclone Idai and Kenneth affected implementation in Malawi and Mozambique leading to prioritizing national efforts to responding and recovering from the disasters. This impacted the delivery of the project as focus shifted from normal project implementation to emergency response and recovery by all key implementing partners. Support was provided to the countries to implement project activities, where appropriate, after the emergency response phase lapsed.
- A specific challenge in Indonesia remains the coordination amongst the seven ministries/stakeholders and the various involved units on the green sukuk initiatives. The environmental reporting across ministries is a new task that requires continuous facilitation and technical assistance. To remedy this issue, knowledge

transfer through regular capacity building workshops and individual meetings are being conducted to promote coordination.

- The above challenges contributed to overall low financial delivery of the project. Budget reductions had to be made on some activities at both global and country level that experienced low delivery including re-programming of 2019 resource balances into 2020. At global level for example, the planned global retreat was shifted to 2020 due to timing issues and unavailability of key participants. At country level, hiring of consultants which had to be re-advertised due to lack of applicants as earlier cited challenge, led to shifting the consultancy resources and associated consultation and validation workshops to a later time leading to low expenditure on the particular activity.

Project implementation continues to be closely monitored by the PEA Co-Managers and project staff with countermeasures being deployed as outlined above.

5. Lessons Learnt

During the reporting period, the following lessons have been learnt:

- It is important to build and ensure government ownership of the project from the early stage of planning activities. This takes time to achieve but is worth investing in as this will increase the level of success in implementing project activities moving forward.
- Supporting countries to promote green business opportunities requires substantive support because while this is a stated priority for participating governments, it is also a very new concept with both limited available local expertise and a low technical base from which to build. Identifying and recruiting appropriate international consultants to guide this work needs to be launched as early as possible and extensively circulated through networks to get appropriate technical expertise.
- Ensuring that all stakeholders are continually appraised of current activities and priorities is a lesson that has been implemented throughout 2019 and which will require further attention. The initiation of the technical working groups under the PEA project in some countries has been an effective initiative in this regard, and the further involvement of the global PEA team in these processes can be beneficial.
- Partnerships that engage governments, civil society, the private sector, the UN system and other actors are key to enhancing the reach and effectiveness of Poverty-Environment Action programming and, more broadly, to delivering on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. At global level, PEA formed partnerships through the development of the Technical Assistance proposals that are all co-financed and, in most cases, embedded in existing partner-led programmes. For instance, through the Gender TA, PEA has partnered with UN Women at regional level; with the Asia Development Bank under the Blue Economy TA; GIZ under the Green Bonds TA embedded in the Green Economy Transformation project in cooperation with

PAGE; the Green Economy Coalition on country and global work and a joint event during the HLPF; the UCL Global Governance Center on governance for a just transition to a green economy.

- In 2019, PEA developed a resource mobilization strategy which was presented to the Project Board. Out of the total USD 20 million project budget, USD 14.4 million was secured, leaving USD 5.6 million to be mobilized. Resource mobilization efforts need to be intensified in 2020.

6. Communication and Visibility

As part of the agreement with the European Commission, a visibility and communication plan were developed tailored to the objectives and activities of the Poverty-Environment Action. This plan was implemented during the reporting period with the following results:

a) Showcase how the EU and the Poverty-Environment Action work together to support innovative mainstreaming of poverty-environment into biodiversity, human rights and development

In Myanmar, a major milestone was reached in June 2019, with the official high-level launch of the National Environmental Policy (NEP) by President U Win Myint. The NEP was developed by the EU-funded Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, through UN-Habitat and UNEP, with additional UNDP technical and financial support. The NEP was launched as part of the Government's official commemoration of the 2019 World Environment Day on 5 June. UNDP worked with the EU, UN-Habitat and UNEP to coordinate the launch event, facilitate technical dialogue sessions and prepare a joint press release, all of which raised the profile of the respective organisations' efforts and collaboration, including that of Poverty-Environment Action. With the NEP now in place, attention has turned to operationalising the same, developing guidance and providing direct assistance for mainstreaming sustainability and resilience across sectors.

Given the significance of the day, Governance for Resilience and Sustainability Project of Poverty-Environment Action supported a major public outreach event over three days covering NEP, air pollution and waste management, reaching out to more than 10,000 persons. This outreach was organised jointly between UNDP, the EU, UNICEF and Nokia and attracted significant local presence and media attention.

The press release and photos are available at:
https://www.mm.undp.org/content/myanmar/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/president-announces-national-environment-and-climate-change-policies.html .

Further photos available at:
https://www.facebook.com/UndpMyanmar/posts/2424638547576042

At all key project activities, Poverty-Environment Action and the support of the Poverty-Environment Action donors were acknowledged.

In Malawi, the project held consultations with the Department of Forestry on supporting Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) interventions in Malawi. PES is seen as an innovative tool for incentivizing environment and natural resource management financing and investment frameworks towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication. The Forestry Department acknowledged the support rendered by EU towards foundational PES work in Malawi including studies and catchment conservation/protection work such as the military engagement initiative in Dzalanyama Forest Reserve.

A Support Mission from Nairobi held meetings with the implementing partner (the department of economic planning and development), the Development Impact Advisory Team, the ADAPT PLAN Project, EU, selected responsible parties: environmental affairs department, Office of the President and Cabinet, and the UN agency partners, FAO and UN Women, to discuss project execution and partnership enhancement matters. During this mission, the project team received guidance (from EU) on critical documents to review in the course of implementing priority activities such as those on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).

In Rwanda, EU is a key partner and funder of Poverty-Environment Action and is part of the PEA Steering committee and has actively participate in various meetings. At national level technical meetings were organized to enhance partnership between Poverty-Environment Action and EU country office.

b) Engagement with the International Institute for Environment and Development and the Green Economy Coalition to effectively engage multi-stakeholders to map opportunities in the context of the relevant country intervention

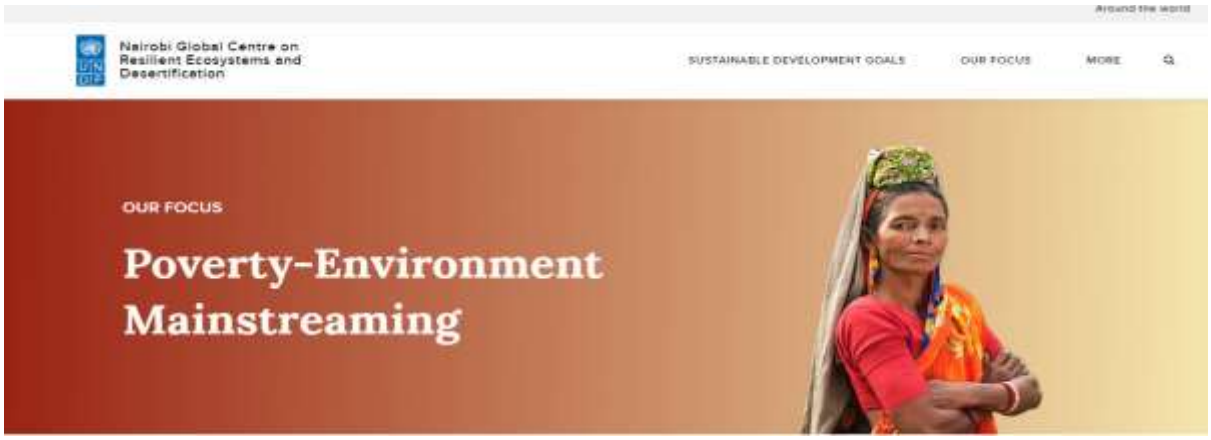
Engagement with the Green Economy Coalition is ongoing. It resulted in the launch of the Fast, Fair and Green economy principles in 2019, featured in a joint side event, *Fast, Fair and Green Global principles for an inclusive green economic transformation,* at the seventh session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2019) which took place under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at the ministerial level from Tuesday, 16 July. The Fast, Fair and Green side event explored the question, "How can we create an economic transition fast, fair, and green enough to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Climate Agreement"

This event was jointly organized by the Partners for Inclusive Green Economy, an initiative involving UNEP, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Green Economy Coalition (GEC), the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs (PEA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Partnership for Action on Green Economy (UN-PAGE).

The side event launched the Principles, priorities and pathways for inclusive green economies: Economic transformation to deliver the SDGs

c) Poverty-Environment Initiative/Action featured on websites home pages and publications featured

UNDP's Nairobi Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GC-RED) launched the Poverty-Environment Mainstreaming webpage in 2019 featuring Poverty-Environment Action.



Source: Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Developments Goals page on the GC-RED website.

The GC-RED website featured *Looking Back, Looking Forward: Lessons on Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development* (UNDP—UN Environment, 2019), the first publication prepared under Poverty-Environment Action. The publication acknowledged the support of the following donors: European Union, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and UK Aid.

Donor recognition on Looking Back, Looking Ahead (2019)

Source: Looking Back, Looking Forward: Lessons on Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development

The Poverty-Environment Initiative Community page on Facebook was rebranded to feature Poverty-Environment Action. At the close of 2019, the page had retained 2,069 followers. In the About feature of the community page, donors are recognized and thanked:

"UNDP-UN Environment Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals is made possible through the generous support of the European Union and the Governments of Austria, Norway and Sweden."

Source: Donor recognition page on Poverty-Environment Action Facebook platform

Pending launch of the Poverty-Environment Action website in early 2020, Poverty-Environment Action created a WordPress website featuring an information brochure about the new project, *Looking Back, Looking Forward: Lessons on Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development* Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Lessons on Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development from PEI (2005–2018). and *PEI Africa*

Budgeting for Sustainability in Africa_ENG / *Manuel d'integration de l'environnement dans les processus budgetaires* *(June 2016)*.

UNEP's website created a page featuring Poverty-Environment Action programme among Regional Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region. Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals was included within the Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships Platform #SDGAction26516.

Source: Poverty-Environment Facebook community page feature

In addition, the handbook for poverty-environment-climate mainstreaming in plans, budgets, programmes including finance for integrated approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda and learning modules through the 4-year duration of the project was revised and launched.

7. Implementation and Management Arrangements

The project has continued to be governed by the Project Board as stipulated in the project document guided by the ToRs in *Appendix 1*. The UNDP and UNEP Co-Managers continued to lead on day-to-day project implementation guided by the Project Board Executive under the strategic direction set by the Board.

Two thematic experts, being part of the global PEA team, are covering the Asia-Pacific and Africa region respectively. Recruitment of project-funded staff as approved by the Project Board (defined in accordance with and as needed within agreed work plans) continued. The PEA Project Management Specialist joined PEA in September 2019 based in Nairobi. The Finance Analyst joined PEA in July 2019 is home-based in Bratislava. Recruitment of the Knowledge Management M&E Specialist was finalized, and the selected candidate is expected to report for duty in May 2020 based in Bangkok. *Appendix* 2 provides an updated organigramme as of April 2020.

PEA continues to be implemented under UNDP corporate standard rules and regulations in close collaboration with national counterparts and UNDP Country Offices. The programmatic approach and strategy have remained as stipulated in project document.

A newly constituted Technical Advisory Group has not yet been convened in 2019. The following steps are considered for completing this action:

1. UNDP and UNEP management to designate a staff member to serve as Secretary of the TAG and lead an assessment of TAG membership;
2. Poverty-Environment Action Country Offices, UNDP, UNEP Regional Offices and Headquarters to be consulted for nominations to serve as TAG members;
3. Nominated candidates to be requested to submit expressions of interest in serving in the TAG and Curriculum Vitae for management review;
4. Final selection of candidates to be made by Co-Managers and presented to the Project Board for confirmation of selection;
5. The TAG to be convened in 2020, possibly during the next global meeting of the Poverty Environment Partnership.

8. Way Forward

While the inception phase in 2018 was used to properly set up and prepare the project for implementation, 2019 marked the start of full implementation at country and global levels, continuation of development of TA initiatives and approval of the 7th full-fledged country project in Nepal. The final full-fledged country project in Bangladesh was developed and presented to the Board for approval in September 2019. The proposal was then revised incorporating comments and further guidance from the Board and approved for implementation in early 2020.

Results achieved during the reporting period have laid the foundation for integrating approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting. There is now a growing substantial body of country-level mainstreaming experience which governments and other stakeholders can draw on to effectively integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives into national development planning and implementation for the SDGs. This has been achieved through targeted TA to selected countries, South-South knowledge transfer and cooperation, proactive engagement with key global and regional actors supporting national SDG implementation and acceleration processes.

In 2020, PEA will step up its efforts in accelerating implementation at country and global level as per *Appendix 3*. However, it is yet to be fully established what impact the novel Coronavirus will have on project implementation as all PEA project countries have been affected by the COVID-19 emergency at the time this report was compiled. Measures taken by the Co-Managers to counter the impact of COVID-19 on project delivery include switching from in-person to virtual meetings as feasible (including the May 2020 Board meeting and discussions with PEA countries), re-phasing of global exchanges and meetings (including the PEA global staff retreat originally scheduled to take place in Nairobi in March 2020) and pushing ahead with activities that are possible to pursue at the moment (including getting new TA initiatives ready for implementation).

A Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project is scheduled to be undertaken in late 2020 which will provide more insight on the status of achievement of project results.

Appendix 1:

POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT ACTION FOR SDGs PROJECT BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project Board:

The Project Board will be co-chaired by UNDP (Chief of Profession, Sustainable Development Environment) and UN Environment (Ecosystems Division or Law Division Director).

The Project Board is responsible for providing overall strategic guidance and direction to the project and taking final decisions where guidance is required by the project management team (comprising the Executive and the Poverty-Environment Action joint project Co-Managers), including approvals for all project-funded staffing decisions, annual allocations based on available resources, project annual work plans/related revisions and approval of all progress reports and publications.

Composition and organization:

The Project Board contains three roles, including 1) Executive, 2) Senior Supplier and 3) Senior Beneficiary. The current composition of the Project Board is as follows: (to be updated as needed)

1) Executive: individual(s) representing the project ownership to chair the group:
    - UNDP Chief of Profession, Sustainable Development
    - UN Environment Ecosystems Division or Law Division Director

2) Senior Supplier: group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding to the project: The current members of this group are as follows: (Any new donor to the project will also become a member of the project board)
    - One Representative from the European Commission
    - One Representative from the Government of Norway
    - One Representative from the Government of Sweden
    - One Representative from the Government of Austria

3) Senior Beneficiary: group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project.
    - One Representative from the UNDP Regional Bureau Asia Pacific or Africa
    - One Representative from the UN Environment Regional Office Asia Pacific or Africa

The Poverty-Environment Action Co-Managers will be present and will inform the Board discussions but will not take part in the formal decision-making process of the Board. At least one representative from each of the three groups mentioned above need to be present at the Project Board meetings. Whoever is present in the board meetings will be considered a quorum and will be sufficient to take decisions.

The Project Board has the following specific responsibilities:

- Provide overall strategic guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it functions within any specified constraints;
- Provide overall guidance on issues that cannot be solved by the management team;
- Agree on all annual budget allocations, and approve all annual work plans and other strategic planning tools or documents as required; Address project implementation, delivery and cash flow management when raised by the project management team;
- Provide guidance on funding allocations and agree on possible countermeasures/ actions to address specific project risks; Support the project's resource mobilization efforts;
- Conduct regular meetings to review project progress report(s) and provide direction and recommendations to ensure agreed deliverables and project results are produced satisfactorily, according to plans;
- Assess and approve project changes through proposed project document and budget revisions.
- Appraise project annual review reports, make recommendations for annual work plans, and inform agency Outcome Board(s) where relevant about the results of the review; review and approve the end of project final report;
- Oversee and steer project evaluations; review and approve final evaluation findings/joint management response to make recommendations for follow-on actions;
- Ensure the integration of poverty-environment mainstreaming into the work of the two agencies and linkages to other SDG support programs However, it remains the ultimate responsibility of the donors to introduce changes to their respective contribution agreements with UNDP/UN Environment as needed.

Frequency of meetings:

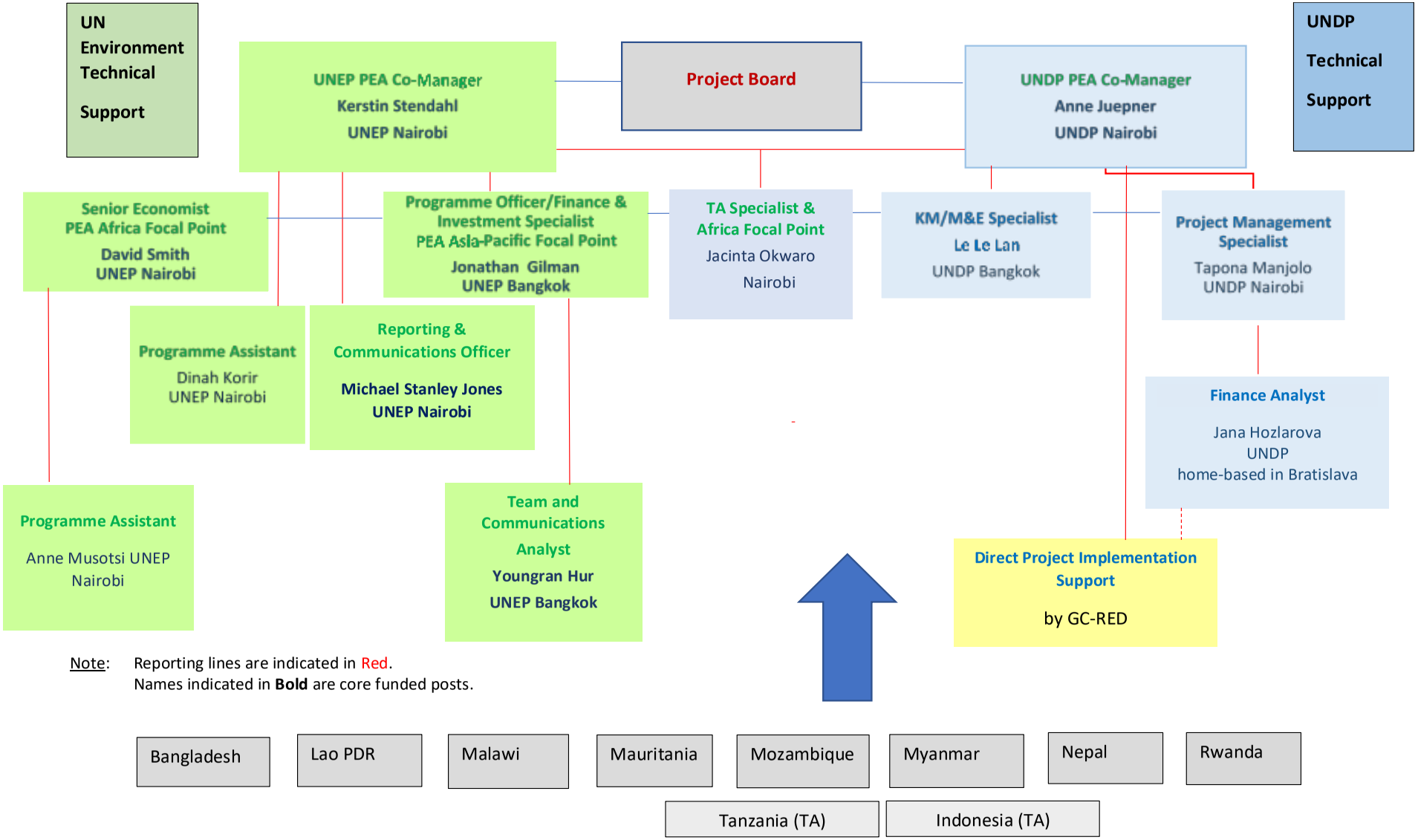
The Project Board will meet twice annually (one meeting in person and a second meeting virtually via video conference) or more frequently if deemed necessary by the Chairs.

One Project Board meeting will tentatively take place in May to review the annual project progress report (of the previous year) and provide strategic direction and guidance on project implementation that year. The second Project Board meeting will tentatively take place in November to review project progress made and approve the annual work plan of the upcoming year.

Secretariat of the Project Board

The project management team serves as the secretariat of the Project Board.

Appendix 2: Project Organigram (As of April 2020)



Note: Reporting lines are indicated in Red.
Names indicated in **Bold** are core funded posts.

Appendix 3: 2020 Annual Work Plan

Project Output	Planned Activity	Timeframe				Budget Category
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Output 1: Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate change objectives for poverty eradication.	Deliverable 1.1: Capacity to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting. Deliverable 1.2: Institutional mechanisms promote policy coherence to accelerate implementation of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication. M&E activities	X	X	X	X	Salaries (National and International Staff) International Consultants Local Consultants UNV Contractual Services – Individual Contractual Services – Companies Travel Trainings and Workshops Material and Goods Communication and Audio-Visual Equipment Audio Visual and Print Production Costs Supplies Grants IT Equipment Rental and Maintenance – Premises Purchase of Equipment and Furniture/Depreciation Rental and Maintenance of Equipment/IT Equipment Project Office/Operational Costs
Output 2: Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.	Deliverable 2.1: Public expenditure and emerging national SDG financing frameworks support shift in government allocations toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication. Deliverable 2.2: Economic, financial and regulatory incentives and private sector initiatives encourage shift in private investment toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication. M&E activities	X	X	X	X	Salaries (National and International Staff) International Consultants Local Consultants UNV Contractual Services – Individual Contractual Services – Companies Travel Trainings and Workshops Material and Goods Communication and Audio-Visual Equipment Audio Visual and Print Production Costs

						Supplies Grants IT Equipment Rental and Maintenance – Premises Purchase of Equipment and Furniture/Depreciation Rental and Maintenance of Equipment/IT Equipment Project Office/Operational Costs
Output 3: SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.	Deliverable 3.1: Poverty-Environment Action knowledge products synthesize country-level experience and lessons in the use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools. Deliverable 3.2: Uptake of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in “non-Poverty-Environment Action” countries. M&E activities	X	X	X	X	Salaries (National and International Staff) International Consultants Local Consultants UNV Contractual Services – Individual Contractual Services – Companies Travel Trainings and Workshops Material and Goods Communication and Audio-Visual Equipment Audio Visual and Print Production Costs Supplies Grants IT Equipment Rental and Maintenance – Premises Purchase of Equipment and Furniture/Depreciation Rental and Maintenance of Equipment/IT Equipment Project Office/Operational Costs