

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD¹: January to December 2025

Signed and endorsed by:

DocuSigned by:

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Team Leader, Action for Climate and
Environment

Project Summary Information	
Project Title	Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities
Project ID	00100901
Project Duration	01-06-19 to 30-06-27
Location	Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha
CPD Outcome and Outputs	Output 3.1. Institutional and policy frameworks developed and strengthened to address climate change, enhance green recovery, prevent environmental degradation and promote conservation and circular economy. Indicator 3.1.1: Number of climate and gender-responsive development strategies (policies, schemes, programmes, and action plans) informed, through technical / advisory support, for achieving national priorities and global commitments under multilateral environmental agreements (global, national, subnational level) [SP IRRF: 3.1.1] Output 3.2. Innovative solutions developed, demonstrated and upscaled at national and subnational levels for vulnerable communities and businesses to benefit from sustainable management of natural resources (land, water, air), chemicals and circular economy. Indicator 3.2.1: Number of people directly benefiting from initiatives to protect environment and promote sustainable use of resources [SP IRRF:4.1.1 & 4.2.1]
Gender marker	GEN 2
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Total Project Budget (USD)	USD 43.41 Million (Grant) USD 130,268,606 (co-finance + grant)
Donors (funding sources)	Green Climate Fund

¹ Periodicity of this project progress report will be determined based on online input; it can be used quarterly, half-yearly, or annually. The minimum requirement for Project Board to meet at least once to review progress and risks is annual - per policy.

Annual Budget (USD)	USD 8,674,139
Funds received during the reporting period (USD & INR)	Not received in the reporting period
Expenditure recorded for the reporting period (USD)	\$ 19,92,672
Expenditure recorded for the total project (USD)	\$ 8,474,683.71
Project Manager name:	Somya Bhatt

1. Executive Summary

- *Prepare a standardized and concise project introduction including the project objective, key outputs, and geographic landscapes that can be reused across all progress reports for the project in each reporting cycle.*
- *Provide a 1–2 paragraph summary of key achievements during the reporting period.*
- *Briefly mention any major challenges encountered.*
- *Tip: Keep this section crisp and high-level, and absolutely results-oriented (NOT activity oriented); details will follow in later sections.*

The project titled "Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities" supports the Government of India in enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable coastal communities to climate change through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). The project combines GCF grant financing with significant leveraged co-financing to promote a paradigm shift in coastal management towards ecosystem-centered and community-based approaches integrated into planning and implementation by the public sector, private sector, and civil society. This is being achieved through key interventions including investing in ecological infrastructure to buffer against climate-induced hazards, especially storm surges; supporting climate-resilient coastal livelihoods; and enhancing climate-risk informed cross-sectoral planning and governance of the coastal zone in 3 coastal states of Odisha, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

The ECRICC project has made substantial progress across its core components, coastal ecosystem restoration, climate-adaptive livelihood development, and community capacity building. These efforts are not only contributing towards strengthening the ecological resilience of vulnerable coastal landscapes but are also enhancing the income opportunities and climate preparedness among local communities. Notably, women continued to play a central role, with strong participation across all the activities, further advancing the project's commitment to gender inclusion and community-driven climate action. This is the seventh year of project implementation and is under 24-months extension period. Considering the project progress and the challenges as reported previously an additional 18-month extension has been requested to complete both the approved activities and those proposed under the Adaptive

Management Plans (AMP). A restructuring proposal has been submitted to GCF secretariat for approval.

Progress achieved in 2025 is as follows-

Under Output 1, since January 2025, approximately 343.58 hectares of mangroves ecosystems and 108 ha of coastal watersheds have been protected and strengthened across the project states, making total of 5445.14 ha (37% of end-term target) of coastal ecosystems restored to reduce the impact of climate induced disasters and other climate change impacts. In the Seagrass and Saltmarsh Ecosystem component in Odisha, IIT Bhubaneswar was onboarded as the Technical Support Agency. Key activities undertaken so far include baseline assessments using remote sensing and drone surveys, identification of suitable sites, and initiation of work for establishing seagrass nurseries. All required government approvals have been secured, and a Co-Management Framework has been developed to guide coordinated action between communities and institutions. Field implementation has commenced post-monsoon, with IIT Bhubaneswar targeting the restoration of 50 hectares on a pilot basis this year. The work on Coral Restoration has progressed in Maharashtra with the 2nd Technical Advisory Committee meetings design specifications were finalized for artificial reef (AR) received from NIO Goa. The approval was received for the technical content of the design from IIT Bombay. Permissions from the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board and Maharashtra Maritime Board have been received for the proposed 7.5 hectares deployment of artificial modular reef work. Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) has provided technical support in preparation and technical sanction of the estimates for deployment of artificial reef work.

Under Output 2, approximately 37,822 beneficiaries (12,170 male and 25,652 female) in the three States, have received training, capacity building, awareness and technical support on different climate-adaptive livelihoods such as system of rice intensification, mussel and oyster farming, ornamental fisheries, seaweed and crab fattening. The community led co-management structures including the Mangrove Co-Management Committees in Maharashtra and Eco Development Committees in Odisha have actively supported both the landscape level ecosystem restoration as well as climate-adaptive livelihood activities in the state. Similar structures are in the process of being established in Andhra Pradesh.

Under Output 3, At the national level, an orientation workshop of three days was organized in Bhubaneswar, which was attended by all SPMUs, NPMU and UNDP. National Coastal Mission (NCM) has started the implementation of the activities on ground. District Level Coordination Committees (DLCCs) and community-based groups such as Mangroves Co-Management Committees (MCMCs) have been instrumental in strengthening climate-resilient development planning and coordinating project interventions. In Maharashtra, Mahila Gram Sangh meetings at the village-level federation were organized for knowledge sharing and technical support in association with block and village level presence of other existing government partnerships like MSRLM-UMED and Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM). These

partnerships have been instrumental in community participation on the EbA-based climate adaptive opportunities agenda, supporting the DPMU team to reach out to the last mile possible for thorough beneficiary identification. Additionally, Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) for Seagrass, Salt Marsh, Mangrove, and Coral restoration, along with national and international discussions, have guided technical planning for ecosystem restoration efforts.

The project faced three critical challenges : (i) **Vulnerability Assessment delay** - originally due Q2 2020, now postponed to Q2 2026 due to delayed co-finance from the National Coastal Mission and proposed state-level scope changes; mitigation includes terminating the LoA with NSCSM and redirecting funding through Ministry co-financed activities;

(ii) **Restructuring Proposal approval delay** - poses high risk as most Q1 2026 activities depend on GCF Secretariat approval of adaptive management changes; NDA and UNDP are conducting regular follow-ups for timely approval by Q1 2026; and

(iii) **Recurring transfer of government officials**, particularly Range Forest Officers, which delays technical and administrative sanctions for ground activities, though no specific mitigation measures are currently documented for this persistent institutional challenge.

2. Progress Review

a) Narrative Reporting

- *Highlight concrete output-wise (Outcome-wise in case of Vertical Funds) results to maintain a logical flow. This should be linked to the indicators as outlined in the project results framework in the project document and as per the activities mentioned in the approved AWP.*
- *Include progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the reporting period. If applicable, highlight achievements in digitalization and innovation.*

Under Output 1: At the national level, the Management Information System (MIS) has been operational and is being regularly updated with inputs from implementing states. All modules have been incorporated on website and are under being reviewed by the states and NPMU.

Since January 2025, 343.58 hectares of mangroves have been restored in Odisha (141.77 ha) and Maharashtra (201.81 ha), with maintenance activities ongoing across 2652 hectares. In AP, mangrove restoration work has been delayed due to non-availability of site-specific restoration protocols with Forest Department. A scientific agency is supporting the department with the intervention. The watershed restoration of 73 hectares has been completed in Odisha along with maintenance of 224.39 ha. In Maharashtra, watershed restoration works of 583 ha were delayed due to technical and administrative sanctions. In Andhra Pradesh, restoration of 35 ha of degraded watersheds have been completed in one of the landscapes with the support of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development Department. The work on coral restoration has

progressed significantly, with the 2nd Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting finalizing the design specifications for the artificial reef (AR) received from NIO Goa. Approval for the technical content of the design has been accorded by IIT Bombay. Necessary permissions have also been obtained from the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board and the Maharashtra Maritime Board for the proposed deployment of artificial modular reefs over an area of 7.5 hectares. The Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) has extended technical support in the preparation and technical sanction of the cost estimates for the deployment of artificial reef works. In parallel, coral consultations have been initiated at the proposed restoration sites, and structured dialogue has been undertaken by the DPMU across the identified coral restoration villages in Sindhudurg. These consultations have actively involved community members, NGOs, local dive tour operators, fisherfolk groups, and officials from relevant line departments.

Seagrass restoration emerged as a new and technically advanced intervention under the project, with Odisha being one of the first states in India to adopt a structured, science-driven restoration approach. With technical support from IIT Bhubaneswar, the project aims to restore 85 hectares of seagrass across the Chilika and Bahuda landscapes. Key activities undertaken so far include baseline assessments using remote sensing and drone surveys, identification of suitable sites, and initiation of work for establishing seagrass nurseries. All required government approvals have been secured, and a Co-Management Framework has been developed to guide coordinated action between communities and institutions. Field implementation has commenced post-monsoon, with IIT Bhubaneswar targeting the restoration of 50 hectares on a pilot basis this year. To strengthen technical capacities, IIT has conducted several trainings for project staff and officials at both state and district levels. In November 2025, a specialised training on “Identification and Morphometric Analysis of Seagrass and Saltmarsh Ecosystems” was organised at IIT Bhubaneswar, equipping participants with essential scientific methods for accurate species identification, ecological assessment, and monitoring, laying a strong foundation for high-quality restoration work.

Under Output 2:

A total of 37,822 beneficiaries (12,170 Male and 25,652 women) received technical support and awareness on alternative climate-resilient livelihoods. In Odisha, 7,582 households adopted System of Rice Intensification (SRI) practices during the reporting period, increasing cumulative adoption to 28,251 households since its introduction in Rabi 2022–23. The mud crab culture intervention has demonstrated rapid growth, with 71 units now fully operational across the project landscapes. This scale-up has been enabled through close collaboration with MPEDA and the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), ensuring access to quality seed and technical guidance on scientific farming practices, feeding protocols, and disease management. To address persistent seed scarcity, the project has initiated measures to secure a sustainable seed supply. The ornamental fisheries initiative has also progressed well, with all 61 units planned for 2025 currently under active implementation. In partnership with ICAR–CIFA, farmers are being provided comprehensive training covering breeding techniques, larval rearing, tank and water quality management, species selection, and market linkages. Seaweed

farming was initiated during the year with 70 farmers. Further, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the ECRICC Project, MPEDA, and the Fisheries Department for the establishment of a crab hatchery. Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is underway, marking a critical step toward long-term self-reliance in seed production and the sustained expansion of mud crab aquaculture in the state.

The mud crab culture intervention has shown promising outcomes with technical support from the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in 48 units, and SPMU is closely working with MPEDA for market linkage of crab farmers with the exporters. The establishment of 45 ornamental fishery units is in progress and three training programs on "Breeding & Culture of Ornamental Fisheries" have been organized at CIFA, Bhubaneswar till date. The training has equipped participants with knowledge in species selection, disease prevention, nutrition, water quality, and market linkage development. In Maharashtra, 18 units of crab box farming, 11 mussel rafts, 11 oyster rafts, 14 fish tanks of ornamental fishery, and 37 fish value additions across all landscapes have been established. Civil work for hatchery construction, tender document preparation has been initiated by the Fisheries Department for the establishment of crab hatchery. In Andhra Pradesh, 9 trainings and capacity building programs by the fisheries department are under way on climate adaptive livelihoods including seaweeds, ornamental fisheries

In Maharashtra, 8,034 beneficiaries (3275 female, 4759 male) participated in training on climate-adaptive livelihoods, such as the SRI, fish value addition, agriculture, crab farming, and oyster farming, among others, through a series of 155 trainings and workshops with women's groups, SHGs, farmers, and fisherfolk organizations. 7,501 households (HHs) (2178 female, 5323 male) of coastal communities have adopted the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). In 2025, technical support was provided to 131 SHG groups (610 female, 362 male) for the establishment of livelihood units for 30 crab farming enclosures, 12 mussel farming rafts, 31 oyster farming rafts, 63 ornamental farming tanks, and 15 seaweed rafts in the project landscape as a part of alternative climate-resilient livelihoods, including 50 fish value addition units for fishing and aquaculture products. For the crab hatchery, along with administrative and technical sanctions, permissions were received from the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA). The tender document is currently under review at the Department of Fisheries.

In Andhra Pradesh, livelihood activities have taken pace with 20 seaweed units installed and 27 crab fattening unit grounded in different landscapes benefitting 964 beneficiaries (female-791, male-173).

Under Output 3, The implementation of work under National Coastal Mission has been initiated. A national-level workshop was organized in Bhubaneswar in September, bringing together all project teams to share experiences, exchange learnings, and strengthen coordination across implementation units. The Implementing Partner (IP) and the project team

participated in “National Symposium on Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration” organized by Kerala Forest Department in partnership with Wildlife Trust of India. The symposium brought together practitioners and policy makers to gain insights and exchange ideas on coastal restoration. At national level, a dedicated project website linked to the MIS is being developed to share outcomes, lessons learned, and best practices on coastal adaptation. Regular field-level events place a strong emphasis on the participation and engagement of representatives from Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Van Suraksha Samitis (VSS), Eco-Development Committees and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) like GPLFs, CLFs and WSHG. These events aim to sensitize and engage grassroots stakeholders on key themes such as climate-resilient livelihoods, ecosystem restoration, and community-driven climate action. Their involvement is expected to foster better awareness, ownership, and collaboration for effective implementation of project activities at the local level.

In Maharashtra, 37 new Mangrove Co-Management Committees and 184 livelihood SHG groups were formed as part of establishing local community support and fostering participation in resilient livelihoods. Meetings with women beneficiaries of village-level SHGs and federations are organized for knowledge sharing and technical support in association with block and village-level officials of government partners like Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM) UMED, Mahila Aarthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM) and the Department of Agriculture.

In Andhra Pradesh, 5 DLCC and LPMU meeting were conducted to initiate Climate-resilient development planning at the district and landscape levels respectively. In Maharashtra, 3 district-level interdepartmental consultations, 3 District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) and 2 SPSC have been conducted and in Odisha 3 DLCC have been conducted till date. A total of 54,068 beneficiaries were benefitted in Maharashtra (Female-685; Male-548), 3290 beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh (Female-21,631; Male-32,437) and 32,814 beneficiaries in Odisha (Female-24,344; Male-8,470) through various trainings, capacity development and awareness programs making total beneficiaries to be 90,172.

Gender Action Plans

The Gender Action Plan has been integrated across all project outputs and activities. Maharashtra has strived for and seen increased participation of women's groups during various gram sabha meetings, Mangrove Co-management Committee meetings, beach clean-up drives, inter-departmental stakeholder consultations, etc. The primary focus has been on women-led community groups, alongside vulnerable social groups and women-headed households, through dialogues that explain the GCF ECRICC framework mandate of enhancing resilience and enabling beneficiaries to access livelihood projects. Continuous meetings and involvement of government bodies UMED (MSRLM) and MAVIM resulted in increasing numbers of women participating in project-related activities (livelihood activities, capacity-building programs, and awareness programs). An impressive 282 women Climate Champions

engaged in Odisha highlights the project's strong emphasis on gender inclusion and empowerment. This significant representation not only reflects the active leadership of women at the grassroots level but also demonstrates how key project activities such as climate-resilient livelihoods, ecosystem restoration, and community mobilization, are being driven by women in the field. Their pivotal role showcases that women are at the forefront, promoting women-led climate action and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Restructuring proposal: A restructuring proposal was developed and submitted to GCF on 9 January 2025 for approval. Comments were received and resubmitted for further approval to the Fund with additional request for 18 months extension. The proposal outline changes in the landscapes, restoration targets, changes in the target of livelihood activities and addition of new climate resilient livelihood activities.

a) **Indicator and Expenditure Reporting**

Output statement	Indicator	Baseline Value	End of the project target	Actuals achieved against target for the indicator	Evidence	Budget as per AWP (USD)	Actual Expenditure (USD))
Output 1 Enhanced resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems and their services	Indicator 1.1 <i>1.1 Numbers of hectares of coastal ecosystems – disaggregated by type – that are successfully restored to reduce the impact of climate-induced disasters and other climate change impacts</i>	0 hectares of coastal ecosystems restored	14,945 ha of coastal ecosystems restored through project interventions. Mangrove: 10,575 ha Saltmarsh: 700 ha Coral: 35 ha Seagrass: 85 ha Watersheds 3,550 ha	The project undertook ecosystem restoration of 451.58 hectares across different coastal ecosystems since January 2025. Mangrove Ecosystem: 343.58 ha hectares (Odisha: 141.77 ha, Maharashtra: 201.81 ha) of mangroves have been restored since January 2025. 2652.01 ha (Odisha: 1540 ha, Andhra Pradesh: 368 hectare, Maharashtra: 744.01) of mangroves maintenance was initiated since Jan 2025. 73 Ha hectares of degraded watersheds have been restored in Odisha along with maintenance of 224.39 ha. AS/TS approval is in process for 583 Ha of watershed maintenance work in Maharashtra while in AP watershed restoration work for 527 ha has been initiated by Panchayati Raj Dept and 35 ha maintenance work has been completed	Geo-tagged pictures for ecosystem restoration Report on number of hectares restored Minutes of meetings with expert, TAC Field photographs	53,47,729	11,06,554

				For Seagrass and saltmarsh MoU has been signed with IIT, inception workshop along with literature review has been completed. A TAC meeting was conducted to review the progress of the work. For corals, design of Artificial Reef is complete and approved by TAC. AS/TS process is under approval to initiate the work of corals in Maharashtra.			
	Mitigation core indicator 1: <i>Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) reduced as a result of Fund-funded projects/programmes</i>	0 <i>Tonnes of dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) reduced</i>	<i>124043.5 tonnes CO₂ sequestered</i>	3607.504 tonnes CO ₂ eq. has been sequestered till December 2025 through the ecosystem restoration activities of mangroves and watersheds.			
	Mitigation Core Indicator 2 <i>Cost per tCO₂eq decreased for all Fund-funded mitigation projects/programmes</i>	<i>0 Cost per tCO₂eq decreased</i>	<i>1,050.19 USD Cost per tCO₂eq decreased for all Fund-funded mitigation projects/programmes</i>	The annual value Cost per tCO ₂ eq of 14,879.74 USD decreased for all Fund-funded mitigation projects/programmes is based on the annual value of carbon sequestered in 2025. The baseline is total project funding divided by baseline emission reduction.			

	Fund level impact indicator- A4.0 Improved resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services <i>Coverage/scale of ecosystems protected and strengthened in response to climate variability and change</i>	0 Hectares of coastal ecosystems restored	14,945 ha of coastal ecosystems restored through project interventions (Includes 10,575 ha of mangroves, 85 ha of seagrasses, 35 ha of coral reefs, 700 ha of saltmarshes and 3,550 ha coastal watersheds)	The project has achieved the mid-term target for ecosystem restoration. The project has achieved 37% of the end-term target			
Output 2: Climate adaptive livelihoods for enhanced resilience of vulnerable coastal communities	Indicator 2.1 <i>Number of males and females adopting diversified, climate resilient adaptive practices</i>	0 number of beneficiaries	348,994 people (60% women and 15% the heads of households) have increased income from climate adaptive livelihoods due to training and technical support	The climate adaptive livelihood activities were undertaken in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha since January 2025 supporting 37822 (12170 male, 25652 female) beneficiaries. Odisha: In Odisha, 7582 HHs (1582 male, 6000 female) of coastal communities have switched from traditional paddy rice to SRI, for	Beneficiary reports for agri-based livelihood activities Fish value addition beneficiaries' data Technical fishery trainings- documents Pictures from trainings SRI beneficiaries' data Training reports	24,81,313	4,85,952.69

			cultivating water-efficient crops. 71 crab fattening units, and 61 ornamental fisheries units have been established till December 2025. Maharashtra: In Maharashtra, 8034 HHs (male-4759, female-3275,) have been benefitted across different livelihood activities which include 7501 HH adopting SRI, 12 mussel rafts, 31 oyster rafts, 63 fish tanks of ornamental fishery, and 50 fish value addition units initiated for new implementation. The project implementation on the ground in Andhra Pradesh effectively started in this reporting cycle, where the state has initiated the establishment of a crab-fattening 27 units and seaweed farming 20 units. Total 964 beneficiaries have been benefitted (791 female, 173 male).	MIS database		
Indicator 2.2,	0 % increase at household level	Income increase by 50% from baseline	Baseline household income value to be confirmed			

<i>% increase in income at the household level, linked to implementation of diversified climate adaptive practices</i>			through baseline study- awaiting finalisation of VA.
<u>Adaptation Core Indicator 1</u> <i>Direct Beneficiaries</i>	0 direct beneficiaries 0% of total population	Direct beneficiaries: 1,744,970 people (50% female, and 12% from female-headed households) whose households are participating in new climate-adaptive livelihoods (6% of total population of 12 project districts)	Direct beneficiaries: 1,27,994 <i>(beneficiaries from output 2.1 and 2.2)</i> The current value of direct beneficiaries is from the three project states from livelihood activities including trainings and awareness activities.
<u>Adaptation Core Indicator 2</u> <i>Indirect Beneficiaries</i>	0 indirect beneficiaries 0% of total population	Indirect beneficiaries (including direct): (including direct) 10,000,000 (50% female, and 12% from female-headed households) benefitting from Integration of EbA into coastal governance	This is subject to Vulnerability Assessment and baseline data. This will be reported in the end of this reporting cycle.

		(34% of total population of 12 project districts)	
Adaptation Core Indicator 3 <i>Number of total beneficiaries relative to total population</i> a. <i>Share of direct beneficiaries relative to total population (%)</i> b. <i>Share of female direct beneficiaries relative to total population (%)</i> c. <i>Share of direct beneficiaries relative to total population (%)</i> d. <i>Share of female indirect beneficiaries relative to total population (%)</i>	0%	Direct beneficiaries: 1,744,970 people (50% female, and 12% from female-headed households) whose households are participating in new climate-adaptive livelihoods (6% of total population of 12 project districts) Indirect beneficiaries (including direct) (including direct) 10,000,000 (50% female, and 12% from female-headed households) benefitting from Integration of EbA into coastal governance (34% of total population of 12 project districts)	a. 11% of the direct beneficiaries relative to total population has been reported. The value has been calculated as per the district wise population from the last census. The last census took place in 2011 Total population from 12 districts: 30,676,730 Total female population from 12 districts: 15,333,180 Total male population from 12 districts: 15,343,550 Gender disaggregated data is awaited from all States.

				Data for the indirect beneficiaries is unavailable and will be calculated after the VA.		
	<i>A1.0 Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions 1.2 Number of males and females benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate-adaptive livelihood options (including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.)</i>	No new climate adaptive livelihood opportunities yet provided	1,744,970 people (60% female) whose households are participating in new climate-adaptive livelihoods	37,822 beneficiaries were reported till December 2025. These were calculated from data provided by the project states under output 2.1 The climate adaptive livelihood activities and related process mechanism include SRI, crab fattening, mussel and oyster farming, fish-value addition		
Output 3 Strengthened governance and institutional framework for climate-resilient management of coastal areas	<i>Indicator 3.1 Functionality of the National Coastal Mission</i>	National Coastal Mission identified under 2008 National Action Plan on Climate Change Level = 1	Coastal Mission fully operational Level 3	Level 1 Although the meetings with the coastal states have initiated for the Pan-India Coastal Resilience network, it is yet to be operationalized. This delay in launch of the Pan-India Coastal Resilience Network is due to delay in operationalization of the National Coastal Mission. The National Coastal Mission has been developed by the IP and provisionally approved.	National project steering committee meeting minutes. State and district level project steering committee meeting minutes Consultations with communities and ecodevelopment committees/ Mangrove co-management committees	7,16,713 2,13,235.93

Monitoring and	<i>Indicator 3.2 Functionality of the Pan-Indian Coastal Resilience Network</i>	Pan-Indian Coastal Resilience Network not yet established Level = 1	Pan-Indian Coastal Resilience Network functional and involving all 13 coastal states Level = 3	Level -1: The Pan-India Coastal Resilience is currently being conceptualized as per the discussions with experts and considering the Adaptive management changes being proposed		
	<i>A5.0 Strengthened government institutional and regulatory systems for climate- responsive development planning</i> <i>5.2 Number and level of effective coordination mechanisms</i>	0 Level 1	Coordination mechanisms operating effectively in 24 target landscapes / 12 districts Coordination mechanism at Level 3	1 Level 2 Coordination mechanisms have been established in 12 project districts. The project has achieved the mid-term targets National, state and district level coordination committees were established, and coordination committee meetings have been held at National, State, and district level. National PSC: 1 (3 rd July 2025)		
		Embedded and included as a part of project activities				

evaluation cost							
PMC						1,28,384	19,696.00
Total						8,674,13	18,25,439
Co-financing Materialized for VFs (USD)						1,43,66,523	To be reported

3. Challenges encountered, project risks and mitigation measures

- Define key challenges and risks noted/materialized, whether new/recurrent/persistent
- Describe new risks identified and propose ways to correct a course of action and agreed with responsible members to address these and the timelines. Describe if escalation is required for Project Board or other mechanisms. Update the project risk register accordingly.
- Latest version of Offline Project Risk register must be attached as an annex to the report.

(i) Delay in the completion of the Vulnerability Assessment: As reported in APR 2024, the project has experienced significant delay in the finalisation of the Vulnerability Assessment (VA), which was originally scheduled for completion in Q2 of 2020. The delay was caused by several factors including timely availability of co-finance. As per the FAA, the VA is planned to be co-financed, where a major portion of the funds was planned to be derived from activities under the National Coastal Mission (NCM). Due to the delay in the launch of the National Coastal Mission (NCM), the project experienced a lag in the timely provision of co-finance support for this activity. States have proposed changes to project landscapes and activities under output 1 and output 2, which may delay the finalization of the VA.

Mitigation Measure: Regular meetings and follow ups are being coordinated by the NPMU with the relevant technical partner to ensure timely completion and demonstration of the VA in all three States. The LoA with NSCSM is planned to be terminated due to the non-submission of the deliverables in the extended timelines. The VA will now be supported through other co-financed activities by the Ministry.

Timeline: Quarter2 2026

(ii) Approval of restructuring proposal (RP) by GCF Secretariat: Delay in approval of RP may pose a significant risk to effective, timely delivery and implementation as from Q1 2026 most of the activities are under adaptive management changes.

Mitigation measure: Regular follow-up by the NDA supported by UNDP with GCF for timely approval of the RP.

Timeline: Quarter 1 2026

iii) Transfer of Government officials in the project landscapes: One of the recurring risks is the process of transfers of government officials, especially Range Forest Officers, in project offices, has delayed approval of technical and administrative sanctions for initiated activities on the ground.

Mitigation measure: Regular meetings and follow ups at the state and district level need to be coordinated to ensure timely sanction.

Timeline: Recurring

(v) Delay in the establishment of mud-crab hatchery in Andhra Pradesh: The Department of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the establishment of a Mud Crab Hatchery near Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary. However, following a technical review and based on observations provided by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), the Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority (AP CZMA) did not accord approval to the proposal. The project site was identified as falling within Coastal Regulation Zone-I (CRZ-I), where such development activities are prohibited under the prevailing coastal zone management regulations.

Mitigation measure: AP CZMA has advised that an alternative site, outside the purview of CRZ-I, be identified for the proposed hatchery. A detailed DPR to be prepared and needs to be submitted for further clearance.

Timeline : Q2 2026

(vi) Grievance on mangrove restoration in Odisha: During the reporting period, one formal grievance was recorded through the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) via the Online Grievance System of the District Administration, Puri, Odisha, concerning mangrove plantation activities in Puri District. The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) constituted an internal committee to verify the claims and submit a detailed report within a stipulated timeframe. A UNDP official working at the district level is also a member of the committee. The findings and final report of the committee were shared with the complainant. In addition, minor operational feedback was received through community meetings, primarily related to the scheduling of capacity-building sessions and timelines for access to resources. These issues were addressed promptly by the field teams.

Mitigation measure: GRM system needs further strengthening at landscape level. However, the project maintains proactive engagement with beneficiaries and local stakeholders to ensure early identification and resolution of any emerging issues.

(vii) Operational challenges in Maharashtra: During the reporting period, the project faced procedural, operational, and management challenges affecting approvals, coordination, and resource utilization. Delays in MCMC registration and multi-level approval processes slowed fund transfers and livelihood implementation. Technical proposal approvals, estimate finalization, vendor selection, and material procurement also contributed to implementation

lags, despite AS/TS approvals. Climate-related factors further impacted progress, with pre-monsoon rains affecting mussel farming units and heavy seasonal rainfall leading to temporary suspension of restoration works. In addition, delays in securing the State Government's co-financing for restoration and livelihood activities constrained timely execution.

Mitigation measures: To mitigate risks, technical support and pre-approved estimates were finalized for crab, mussel, oyster, and ornamental fisheries. A centralized tendering mechanism with empanelled vendors at uniform district-level rates was recommended to reduce quotation delays and ensure financial integrity. Pending MCMC registrations were reviewed across districts, and follow-up with the Charity Commissioner's office was completed in October. With NGOs onboarded, the project is positioned to accelerate field implementation in 2026.

4. Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Reporting (Applicable for moderate, substantial, and high risk projects)

- *Describe the SES risks (existing and new) identified for the project via the SESP.*
- *Has the SESP been updated during the reporting period? If yes, provide a brief description of new risks added and proposed mitigation measures.*
- *Provide an update on the SES risk assessment and management plans recommended as per the SESP.*
- *Provide an update on the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) under the project*
- *Has any issue been reported under the project during the reporting period through GRM or any other reporting mechanism? Provide status update.*

The ECRICC project focuses on ecosystem restoration, nature-based livelihoods, and community engagement across ecologically sensitive coastal and rural landscapes. Based on the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), the project is classified as **Moderate Risk**.

The SESP identifies **12 social and environmental risks across applicable UNDP SES Principles and Standards**, reflecting the project's engagement with biodiversity-rich ecosystems and resource-dependent communities. Key risks include:

Environmental Risks

- Potential adverse impacts on biodiversity if restoration and livelihood interventions are not appropriately designed and monitored.
- Increased livelihood vulnerability due to extreme weather events and climate variability affecting climate-sensitive natural resource systems.

Social Risks

- Risks related to ensuring equitable, inclusive, and meaningful participation of women, Scheduled Tribes, and other vulnerable groups.
- Potential livelihood-related impacts from resource-dependent interventions (e.g., fisheries, crab cultivation, agriculture) if access, benefit-sharing, or sustainability measures are insufficient.

These risks are aligned with the project's **community-based, low-impact, nature-based approach** and remain within the **Moderate Risk** threshold.

2. SESP Update Status

During the reporting period, **no major changes were required in the SESP**, as the project interventions continued to operate within the initially assessed social and environmental risk boundaries. During implementation, the following emerging considerations were acknowledged and mitigation steps integrated into field protocols:

- Strengthened community consultation guidelines in the form of Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) site selection for natural resource interventions.
- Emphasis on sustainable and environmentally sound cultivation practices in agriculture and aquaculture interventions.
- Reinforcement of biodiversity-friendly practices in ecosystem restoration initiatives

These enhancements have been incorporated into field team guidance and monitoring processes. Additionally, based on the **updated SESP**, and in response to the **SECU complaint and subsequent recommendations of the Administrator**, the project developed and submitted a comprehensive **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2025**. The ESMF consolidates risk mitigation, monitoring, and management measures across project components and strengthens alignment with SES during implementation.

3. Update on SES Risk Assessment & Management Plans

Implementation of SES risk mitigation measures has continued effectively, with regular field monitoring and community consultation mechanisms in place. Key actions include:

- Site-specific environmental assessments prior to restoration activities.
- Capacity-building of community institutions on safe and climate-positive livelihood practices
- Continuous engagement with local communities, Panchayati Raj institutions, and traditional leadership structures.
- Promotion of gender-responsive participation and inclusion of marginalized groups across project activities, guided by the project's **Gender Action Plan (GAP)**.
- Documentation of nature-based solutions and monitoring of ecological impacts across intervention sites.
- Stakeholder engagement is also guided by the project's **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which was updated alongside the SESP in 2024**, which outlines mechanisms for information disclosure, consultation, and feedback throughout the project lifecycle.

4. Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)

The project’s Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) is established in accordance with an **Office Memorandum (OM) issued in 2024**, which formalized a **multi-tier grievance redress structure** across all project states. Designated contact points have been identified at the **Panchayat, District, State, and National levels**, ensuring accessibility and clear escalation pathways for project-affected stakeholders.

Contact details of all designated GRM focal points are publicly disclosed and made available to communities through field teams and local institutions, enabling timely reporting, tracking, and resolution of grievances related to project implementation, benefit access, or potential social and environmental impacts.

5. Issues Reported

During the reporting period, one formal grievance was recorded through the GRM by Online Grievance system of District Administration- Puri, Odisha regarding Mangrove plantation in Puri District. The DFO has constituted an internal committee to verify the claims and submit a detailed report within a stipulated timeframe. UNDP official working at the district level is also a part of that committee. The finding and final report of the committee shared with the complainant.

In addition, **one case previously filed in 2023 under the UNDP Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM)** remains under follow-up. As part of the response, the UNDP Country Office Stakeholder Response Mechanism issued a formal communication to the complainant. Through its letter dated **23 April 2025**, UNDP informed the complainant of the **State’s existing Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)**, which provides communities and stakeholders with a readily accessible portal to submit feedback and grievances related to project implementation.

UNDP continues to **engage and follow up with the State authorities and the Implementing Partner (IP)** to support resolution of the matter and ensure that concerns are addressed in line with applicable SES requirements.

Minor operational feedback received through community meetings primarily related to scheduling of capacity-building sessions and resource access timelines; these were addressed promptly by field teams.

The project maintains proactive engagement with beneficiaries and local stakeholders to ensure early identification and resolution of any emerging issues.

5. Communications and Visibility

Please provide URLs specific to this project (for example, project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.) as far as this is applicable. Note that some of these links would be the evidence and data sources for point no. 3 above.

- A hyperlocal Marathi news portal from Sindhudurg District in Maharashtra covered the district-level consultation organized by the District Management Unit of Sindhudurg on work so far in the district. <https://maharashtramajhanetwork.in/1512/>
- Project progress updates on social media in Odisha [Ecricc Odisha \(@ecriccodisha\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#), [ECRICC Odisha | Bhubaneswar | Facebook](#), [Ecricc Odisha on X: "World Environment Day was celebrated at the Talsari Landscape, Balasore, with participation from PRI members, students, SHGs, climate champions, and the local community, supported by DPMU, ECRICC, Balasore. https://t.co/lz4JXVLsN3" / X](#)
- [Print Materials](#)
- [Videos](#) (Videos produced at state level include mangrove restoration, Mud Crab Farming, ECRICC Overview and SRI)
- [Media Clippings](#)
- [Farm Field Schools](#)
- [Mangrove Day Celebration](#)
- [UNDP RR Visit](#)
- [20251031 Tarun Bharat Eco-friendly Diwali Celebration in Vengurla.jpg](#)
- [20251126 मत्स्य अभियांत्रिकी तंत्रनिकेतन, शिरगांव तर्फे जागतिक मत्स्य व्यवसाय दिन साजरा.pdf](#)
- [20251126 महिला शेतक-यांनी मूल्यवर्धन केले तरच शेतीचा शाश्वत विकास कुलगुरू डॉ संजय भावे.pdf](#)
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6. Partnerships

Provide details of new partnerships (financial/non-financial) realized during the reporting period.

The ECRICC project has built strong partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders, including national and international organizations, research institutes, and specialized technical agencies. These collaborations serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, innovations, and best practices that are critical to addressing the complex challenges of climate change.

S.no.	Partnerships	State	Remarks
1.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar and James Cook University, Australia	Odisha	MoU for restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh
2.	Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA)	Odisha, Maharashtra	Mud-crab farming for supply of high quality crablets to farmers
3.	National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack	Odisha	Study to assess the potential of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in reducing methane (CH ₄) emissions from paddy fields.
4.	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA)	Odisha	Specialized training and technical guidance to farmers on breeding,

			rearing, and farm management of ornamental fish
5.	Brahma Kamal Research LLP	Odisha	Technical guidance on seaweed farming
6.	Chilika Development Authority	Odisha	Restoration of Seagrass and saltmarsh
7.	Climacrew Pvt Ltd	Maharashtra	MoU for technical support for Seaweed farming as well as market linkage
8.	Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP)	Andhra Pradesh	MoU for training on seaweed and gender mainstreaming
9.	Department for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development	Andhra Pradesh	MoU for restoration of watershed in Telineelapuram landscape

7. Lessons Learned and Way Forward

Document any lessons that will be applied to address challenges or improve the implementation pace. Outline any good practices, as applicable. Based on the above, mention key issues which need to be addressed/prioritized for next reporting period

Lessons learned

1.Science based community integration strengthens restoration and livelihood outcomes: The collaboration with IIT Bhubaneswar on seagrass and saltmarsh restoration in Odisha demonstrated that integrating scientific research with community-based management enhances ecological outcomes while strengthening local ownership. The co-management frameworks developed through these interventions offer a replicable model for participatory ecosystem restoration. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh with the support of National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management is developing site-specific restoration protocol for the mangrove restoration in Krishna landscape. In Maharashtra, during crab farming training conducted across various landscapes, experts from RGCA have conducted field visits to Raigad and Palghar for site suitability assessment for potential crab farming sites along with field extension officers and training participants from various villages. Technical validation of mussel, oyster farming, and marine ornamental fisheries estimates are obtained to ensure proposed interventions are both scientifically sound and practically feasible for field implementation. Continuing community engagement with need-based customization of livelihood models, especially ornamental farming and fish value addition, has improved participation on the ground.

2. Women as a driver for transformational change: The active participation of over 95% women Climate Champions in Odisha proved instrumental in mobilizing communities, enhancing awareness, and ensuring gender-responsive implementation. Their leadership underscores the value of empowering women as agents of climate resilience. In Maharashtra, continuous engagement with MAVIM and UMED has led to a notable increase in women's participation in project-related activities. This highlights the importance of dedicated efforts to include women in community development programs, which not only promotes gender equality but also strengthens the overall success of livelihood projects. The active involvement of women, especially in the fish value addition projects, has shown promising results in terms of both empowerment and economic impact.

3.Convergence maximizes impact and resource efficiency: In Maharashtra, strong partnerships with institutions such as MAVIM, UMED, and local NGOs, established during the latter part of the year, have

emerged as key enablers of project success. Collaboration across village, block, and district levels has accelerated implementation, with block-level staff from UMED and MAVIM playing a particularly critical role in identifying and mobilizing beneficiaries. Their continued engagement remains essential for reaching underserved areas. Additionally, the partnership with the College of Fisheries has strengthened community-level technical capacities, thereby supporting effective project execution.

In Odisha, robust inter-departmental coordination among agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and rural development departments has demonstrated the value of convergence in reducing duplication, optimizing resource use, and advancing integrated climate solutions. Such institutional synergies are essential for scaling nature-based adaptation.

In Andhra Pradesh, the strategic partnership with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) has been instrumental in achieving project targets and effectively mainstreaming gender considerations across project interventions.

Way forward:

1. Scaling up seagrass and saltmarsh restoration in Odisha: Ecosystem restoration efforts, particularly seagrass and saltmarsh ecosystems, will be scaled up through a dedicated Task Force constituted under the project. This Task Force includes scientists and officials from the State Wildlife Division, district-level Wildlife Divisions from all four coastal districts, and the Chilika Development Authority (CDA). It will guide site-specific restoration planning, ensure ecological integrity, and oversee implementation and long-term monitoring. Field-level restoration will be initiated post-monsoon, with emphasis on habitat connectivity, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity enhancement.

2. Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture through Evidence and Innovation: Findings from the methane emission reduction study under the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), being conducted in collaboration with NRRI, Cuttack, will inform the large-scale adoption of climate-smart agriculture across the state. Demonstration sites will function as living laboratories, showcasing sustainable practices and enabling replication through ongoing government schemes.

3. Site-Specific Restoration Protocols for Mangroves and Saltmarsh in Andhra Pradesh: In Andhra Pradesh, following consultations and deliberations with the scientific community, site-specific restoration protocols for mangroves and saltmarsh will be developed with support from NCSCM for implementation in the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary.

4. Implementation of coral restoration in Maharashtra: Implementation of coral restoration activities in Maharashtra will be initiated upon receipt of the required technical and administrative clearances which are under process.

8. Annexures

Provide CO SharePoint/public website links to the sources of evidence.

1. Odisha-Progress Report Evidence

2. AP Progress report evidences

3. Maharashtra- Progress report evidences

4. [Risk Register](#)