2025

Project Implementation Report (PIR)

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Lao PDR LDCF - EBA in Mekong River Basis

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A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	6547
GEF ID	10514
Title	Integrated Water Resource Management and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Xe Bang Hieng river basin and Luang Prabang city.
Country(ies)	Lao PDR, Lao PDR
UNDP Technical Team	Climate Change Adaptation
Management Arrangements	CO Support to NIM
Project Implementing Partner	Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Joint Agencies	*(not set or not applicable)*
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	2nd PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY25
Trust Fund	Least Developed Countries Fund

Project Description
(not set or not applicable)

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Other Partners	*(not set or not applicable)*

B. Key project dates

Project duration	48 months
PIF Approval Date	Jun 3, 2020
CEO Endorsement Date	May 27, 2022
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Nov 23, 2022
Date of Inception Workshop	Dec 14, 2022
First Disbursement Date	Dec 9, 2022
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Nov 23, 2024
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Jan 7, 2025
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Aug 23, 2026
Original Planned Closing Date	Nov 23, 2026
Revised Planned Closing Date	*(not set or not applicable)*

C. Overall ratings

Overall DO Rating	Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	moderate

D. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

Description					
Objective **Project Objective: Promote integrated management of sites in the Mekong River Basin for increased climate resilience of Savannakhet Province and Luang Prabang communities vulnerable to floods and droughts, which are expected to worsen under future scenarios.**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2024**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2025**
# direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	164,152 people (~1/3 of the total target beneficiaries)	492,462 people (75% of the total population of the target districts in Savannakhet province plus the population of the target communities in Luang Prabang city)	The project has cumulatively reached 9,832(5,073-female and 4,759-male) direct beneficiaries through the construction of community ground water wells which benefited 9,632(5007-female and 4625-male) through strengthening the resilience of the target communities. Training interventions benefited a further 200 government staff (134-male,66-female) at national level, Savanakhet province and Luang Prabang city ,the trainings aimed at enhancing their capacity to support climate resilience. Progress has been made in enhancing access to clean water within the target villages in the project area. A total of 16 community-use groundwater wells	During the reporting period, the project had cumulatively reached 17,856 direct beneficiaries (8,392 women and 9,464 men). The population strengthened their resilience to floods and drought, and enhanced access to safe and reliable water sources through the project interventions. The supported project interventions included the installation of 19 drinking water filters across 15 target villages in 5 districts in Savannakhet province, 22 solar powered groundwater wells, two irrigation solar powered pumps, 1,216 water tanks, 13 megaphone sets, 10 motorboats, and 250 life jackets. In addition, 350 government staff (126 women and 224 men) at national, provincial, and district levels improved their capacity to support communities

				equipped with solar pumps and water tank storage facilities were completed across seven villages out of the target 15 villages. The initiative has directly benefited 9,632 people (5007- female and 4625 –male), which represents 54% of the total population (17,856) of the target villages in the project area. The provision of reliable and sustainable water sources is expected to significantly improve the quality of life for the communities and strengthen their resilience by reducing water scarcity and enhancing their livelihoods. In addition to the infrastructure development, the project has also focused on capacity building of key government officials. During the reporting period, 200 government (134 -male and 66-female) staff members received training in various crucial areas including Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), finance and land use management. The training aimed at improving the technical skills and knowledge of the government staff, thereby enhancing their ability to manage water resources effectively and implement sustainable land use practices in the target project area. Enhanced capacity of the government	through training in integrated water resource management (IWRM), ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), climate risk-informed planning, hydrological modelling and land-use management. Target villages' capacity was enhanced to manage natural resources. They were trained and engaged in community-based monitoring, participatory land use planning, conservation agreements and local adaptation dialogues, which strengthened their ownership and ability to safeguard resources while building long-term resilience to climate risks. The project also reached 483,456 indirect beneficiaries (233,905 women and 249,551 men). The beneficiaries represent the wider population of the project’s geographic area, which covers five districts in Savannakhet Province and Luang Prabang City. Based on the district population estimates at the end of 2024, the total population of the target area is 501,312 people, distributed as follows: Nong 35,446 (17,430 women); Champone, 119,396 (60,683 women); Songkhone 110,764 (56,213 women); Xonaboully 67,841 (34,480 women); Sepon –

				officials will have a long-term positive impact on the governance and management of natural resources in the project area. Note: Based on GEF guidelines, direct beneficiaries are those who benefit directly from the project interventions. The project's indicator target includes 75% of the population of the whole districts but the project only covers 15 villages across 5 districts in Savannakhet and Luang Prabang City, totaling approximately 27,000 people. The project indicator therefore is more that the direct beneficiaries as defined.	67,370 (33,150 women); and Luang Prabang City – 100,495 (48,733 women). The populations benefited from the development and implementation of the Integrated Climate and Flood Management System (ICFMS), which involved all the stakeholders in its developed and the completed with the approval by the respective district governors. It is aligned with the development plans of the respective districts and provides early warning and climate risk management services that safeguard communities at scale. Evidence 1: Intergrated Climate Resilience Flood Management ICFMS) for each of the 5 districts in Savannakhet Province and Luang Prabang City Evidence 2: Land use plans for 8 villages Evidence 3: Training reports on IWRM-Eba and gender Evidence 4: Equipment handover note
Area of landscapes under climate-resilient management (ha)	0 ha under sustainable land	~65,000 ha (~1/3 of the land area of	~200,000 ha (based on the area	Progress has been made towards achieving the project target of 200,000	Over 100 % of end of project level target achieved.

	management in production systems	the five target districts) under sustainable land management in production systems	of Protected Areas and irrigated agricultural land in the target districts) under sustainable land management in production systems	hectares under climate-resilient management at the end of the project. The initiation of the Integrated Climate-Resilient Flood Management Strategies (ICFMS) and land use planning marks a critical step in promoting sustainable land management practices in the target project area. The strategies are designed to enhance the resilience of landscapes to climate impacts, ensure land productivity and sustainability. The ICFMS and land use planning processes are expected to be completed by December 2024 covering an area of approximately 775,300 hectares. Additionally, surveys to establish Water and Water Resources Conservation Zones was initiated in 6 villages; namely Kaengopa, Thamae and Sopsalou villages in Sephon and Nong vilay,Saveu and Tungalai Nuea villages in Nong district in Savanakhet province. The surveys are important for identifying and protecting critical water resources, which are essential for maintaining ecosystem health and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. The identification of the zones will inform future conservation efforts and ensure the effective management of water resources within	Cumulatively, the project has achieved approximately 775,300 hectares (exceeding the target of 200,000 hectares) under climate resilient management across five target districts in Savannakhet province and Luang Prabang city. The area covered a mix of protected areas, irrigated agricultural land, community forests, upland areas, and designated watershed conservation zones where climate resilient and sustainable land management practices were prioritized. The project completed key strategic processes, including the development of Integrated Climate Resilient Flood Management Strategies (ICFMS) and participatory land use planning which enabled the authorities to improve decision making and respond more effectively to the effects of climate change. The project, in collaboration with respective district authorities, developed village land use plans which 8 out of 20 target villages in both Savannakhet and Luang Prabang have been completed. This contributes to improved natural resource management and sustainable land use practices. The plans were developed through participatory processes,

				the target districts. Integrating climate-resilient strategies and focusing on water conservation, the project aims to create a strong framework for sustainable land management that can withstand climate variability and support the livelihoods of the surrounding communities.	engaging local communities and authorities to enhance ownership and ensure that land use decisions reflected both ecological priorities and community needs. As a result, the targeted communities were better equipped to manage forests, agricultural land, and water resources in a more climate-resilient and sustainable. The project also supported surveys to establish water and water resources conservation zones in Sepon and Nong districts of Savannakhet Province. The 58 hectares surveyed water conservation zones are vital for safeguarding water sources that support local ecosystem services, enhance water security and support climate resilient agricultural practices. The identification of the conservation zones marked a key step toward integrated water resource management and sustainable land use planning at the community level. Evidence 1:Intergrated Climate Resilience Flood Management Strategies(ICFMS) for each of the 5 districts in Savanakhet Province and Luang Prabang City

					Evidence 2: Land use plans for 8 villages in Savannakhet Province and Luang Prabang City
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 1 **Outcome 1: Enhanced national and provincial capacities for integrated catchment management and integrated water resource management in target rural and urban communities.**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2024**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2025**
Increased score on UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Scorecard for government officials who attended trainings	0	At least 50% of officials score better on UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Scorecard	80% of government officials score better on UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Scorecard	The project has made steps towards enhancing the capacity of government officials through tailored training programs. The officials trained would be assessed using the scorecard after completion of the series of trainings in September 2024. A total of 157 government officials (106-male and 51-female) participated in training sessions, which focused on water resource management, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Of the officials trained, 71 officials completed capacity development surveys assessing their	100% of end of project level target achieved. Eighty percent (80%) of government officials who participated in project capacity strengthening trainings demonstrated improved scores on the UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Scorecard, exceeding the end of project target. The improvement highlighted knowledge gained and improved capacity in key thematic areas relevant to climate resilient development and natural resource

				knowledge and understanding of water resource planning and IWRM. The key areas covered included creating and interpreting maps, conducting spatial analysis, and applying GIS technology to plan and monitor water resource projects effectively. GIS skills also enabled officials to make data-driven decisions and improve the efficiency and accuracy of water resource management. The trainings on water resource management aimed at equipping officials with knowledge and skills for sustainable water use, water conservation methods, and strategies for sustainable water resource management hence better manage water resources to meet the needs of their communities while conserving the environment. Trainings in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) provided officials with knowledge on approaches to manage water resources integrate land, water and related resources. It enabled the participants increase their understanding on the interconnections between water use and ecosystem health, developing policies and	management. A total of 350 government officials (224 male, 126 female) had their capacities strengthened across national, provincial, and district levels through structured training sessions conducted from project inception to June 2025. The trainings covered both technical and cross cutting topics, including Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA), wildfire management, gender mainstreaming, Geographic Information System (GIS) and spatial planning, database and information systems, flood evacuation, and community-based monitoring. Among the trained officials, 71(45 male and 26 female) completed the Capacity Development Scorecard assessments. The evaluations confirmed that 80% of respondents showed improvement in understanding and application of concepts such as spatial analysis, natural resource planning, community-led IWRM solutions and cross sectoral coordination strengthened institutional capacity and climate adaptation. The project also adopted a Training of

				practices that promote coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training enhanced the ability of officials to use spatial data and mapping tools to analyze and manage water resources. The key areas covered included creating and interpreting maps, conducting spatial analysis, and applying GIS technology to plan and monitor water resource projects effectively. GIS skills also enabled officials to make data-driven decisions and improve the efficiency and accuracy of water resource management. Furthermore, trainings on flood and drought risk mapping has been conducted, attended by 43 government officials(16-female ,27-male). The sessions aimed at equipping the officials with the necessary skills to manage and mitigate the risks associated with extreme weather events, thereby contributing to more resilient water resource management. The trainings on Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), climate change, land use planning, and flood and drought adaptation strategies	Trainers (ToT) approach to ensure sustainability, empowering selected officials to replicate training at the local level. Furthermore, at least 10% female representation was achieved in training related governance structures, supporting inclusive decision making and leadership development. Evidence 1: Training reports

				scheduled to be completed before the end of the year 2024. The sessions will be crucial in consolidating the knowledge gained and ensuring a broad understanding of sustainable resource management among the participants.	
Level of use of fine-scale climate-resilient development and land use plans in target intervention sites	0	At least 1 target district and Luang Prabang city integrating fine-scale climate-resilience development and land use plans	All 5 target districts and Luang Prabang city integrating fine-scale climate-resilience development and land use plans	The project made progress towards integrating fine-scale climate-resilient development and land use plans in the five target districts and Luang Prabang city. The content of the Integrated Climate-Resilient Flood Management Strategies (ICFMS) was scoped, and comprehensive stakeholder consultations are underway. The consultations were undertaken to ensure that the strategies are well informed and tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the target areas. Training on land use planning has been successfully completed for 30 provincial and district officials (4 female; 26 male). The officials were equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake land use planning tasks at both the district and village level. The trainings are	100% of the end of project level target achieved. All 5 target districts in Savannakhet Province and Luang Prabang City have successfully integrated fine-scale climate-resilient development and land-use plans. The project supported the development and integration of fine scale, climate resilient development and land use plans across all five target districts and Luang Prabang City. The completed plans were further reinforced by the formal endorsement of Integrated Climate Resilient Flood Management Strategies (ICFMS) by respective district authorities endorsed by the district governors, following a

				important in ensuring that land use plans are effectively developed and implemented, incorporating climate resilience principles. Furthermore, detailed topographic surveys were completed for the target villages, providing essential data for informed planning and decision-making. Similar topographic data were completed for Luang Prabang city, ensuring that the urban area is included in the climate-resilient planning efforts. The progress made highlights the project's commitment to strengthening climate resilience at the various levels. Enhancing the capacity of officials with the necessary skills and data, and by engaging stakeholders in the planning process, the project has made strong foundation for the successful integration of fine-scale climate-resilient development and land use plans across all target districts and Luang Prabang city.	participatory and risk informed planning process tailored to local contexts and needs. Development of the ICFMS involved two major consultation workshops. The initial consultation, held in July 2024 engaged 204 participants (44 female; 22%), while the final endorsement workshop in December 2024 convened 185 participants (33 female; 18%). The multi stakeholder consultations enabled the identification of site specific climate vulnerabilities, prioritisation of interventions and validation of local development goals, ensuring strong community ownership and institutional alignment. The sub-activities in ICFMS under climate-resilient landscape indicator include: Awareness raising and community preparedness Village level disaster response Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Establishment of District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and District Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. Flood emergency evacuation shelter

					Supply/upgrade/installation of early warning system High value wetland restoration Protect and restore forested land (planting native trees) Demarcation of buffer zones around village water sources Restore degraded watercourses Conduct water resources survey, (including groundwater and surface water system),Capacity building for local taskforces and develop village flood defence mechanism. Each ICFMS incorporated integrated catchment based planning, ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) principles, and early warning systems (EWS) for managing flood and drought risks. The strategies also recommend climate resilient infrastructure investments and ecosystem restoration measures to enhance adaptive capacity and safeguard ecosystem services at the district level. Furthermore ,through technical partners Alluvium and Hydrotech Consulting, the project completed assessment of the hydrometeorological monitoring and early warning systems in the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin. The

					assessment covered five districts in Savannakhet Province and identified key gaps, including outdated monitoring equipment, limited station coverage, and insufficient risk communication mechanisms. Based on these findings, the project has proposed a targeted package of investments, including upgrading Early Warning System infrastructure, updated response protocols and institutional capacity development for improved disaster risk management. Additionally, high-resolution topographic surveys were completed for target villages in Savannakhet province. The datasets support improved spatial planning, facilitate infrastructure investments, and strengthen urban rural integration in climate resilient development efforts. The surveys have also been instrumental in resolving land use conflicts and guiding future zoning decisions. The project supported a review and revision of early warning and emergency response procedures in the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin. The revisions were developed in close collaboration with provincial and district

					stakeholders and aligned with updated hydro meteorological data. Key improvements recommended included streamlined risk communication channels, community response protocols, and enhanced preparedness mechanisms for both flood and drought events. The initiatives contribute to strengthened local resilience and readiness in the face of increasing climate variability. Additionally, village-level land use plans have been developed for 8 villages (3 in Sepon district and 5 in Luangprabang city). The land use plans for the other 12 target villages in Savannkhet province are being developed and the remaining villages to be completed in the next reporting period. Evidence 1 :Intergrated Climate Resilience Flood and Management Strategies(ICFMS)pland for 5 districts and Luang Prabang City Evidence 2: village land use plans Evidence 3: Hydromet assessment

					report
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 2 **Outcome 2: Reduced flood risk through headwater conservation, restoration and protective infrastructure, supported by climate-resilient and alternative livelihoods.**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2024**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2025**
Area (ha) of land restored and conserved through Ecosystem-based Adaptation interventions	0 ha restored/conserved	~3,000 ha conserved in protected areas and ~200 ha of degraded ecosystems restored	~10,000 ha conserved in protected areas and ~500 ha of degraded ecosystems restored	Cumulatively, the project has made progress towards to restoration and conservation of land through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) interventions. The project participated in celebration of National Tree Planting Day; tree-planting activities organized across the project's five target districts. The events led to the planting of 5,100 trees, specifically targeting the restoration of 62 hectares of degraded ecosystems. The efforts were crucial step in supporting the project's achieving its restoration target. Additionally, surveys were commenced to identify potential areas for restoration as Water and Water Conservation Zones in 6 villages; namely Kaengopa, Thamae and Sopsalou villages in Sephon and	100 % of end of the project level target, conserved in protected areas have been achieved 85% of the target end of project level target of degraded ecosystem restored. A total of 15,729 ha conserved in protected areas and restoration of 424 ha degraded ecosystem restored by the end of the reporting period. Cumulatively, the project has made progress towards the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystem through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) interventions. The project has

				Nong vilay,Saveu and Tungalai Nuea villages in Nong district in Savanakhet province. The surveys are essential for identifying areas that can benefit from Ecosystem based adaptation interventions, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of conservation efforts. The project aims to protect critical water resources and promote sustainable land management practices. Furthermore, all five target districts have developed work plans which included specific survey tasks aimed at identifying degraded areas suitable for assisted natural regeneration. The approach leverages the natural regenerative capacity of ecosystems, strengthening sustainable restoration of degraded lands. The integration of the survey tasks into district work plans highlights the collaborative effort and commitment to achieving the project's restoration and conservation targets covering approximately over 10,000 hectares.	developed village-level forest management plans for four villages covering the area of 15,729 ha which exceeded the end of project target of 10,000 ha. The plan covers the management of riparian forests and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in water source protection areas, forest restoration zones, and village use areas. It was developed through research and problem-solving approach to identify the causes of forest loss and degradation. The plan also focuses on conserving biodiversity, protecting water sources and riparian zones, restoring degraded forests, and improving villagers' livelihoods. The project also restored 424 ha of degraded ecosystems by planting 22,766 tree saplings,which translated to 85% of the initial target of restoring 500 ha of degraded ecosystems that was set to be achieved by the end of the project. The project working with the relevant district authorities completed survey of degraded forests for restoration in Nong, Xepon, and Xonnabouly districts in Savannakhet province . Stakeholders identified natural

					regeneration as the most viable approach to restore degraded areas and recommended planting native species, and demarcation of conservation boundaries to promote sustainable forest management. Furthermore, the project completed the development of village-level forest management plans, regulations, establishment of forest patrol task force, forest demarcation. Capacity enhancement training on wildfire management was also conducted on international practices on fire prevention and handed over fire prevention equipment to Luang Prabang provincial authorities. Evidence 1:Forest Management plans Evidence 2:Wildfire management training report Evidence 3:Fire equipment handing over report Evidence 4:Forest task force establishment

					Evidence 5: Tree plantation report Evidence 6: Report on degraded forest survey
Number of CCAs under implementation supporting alternative climate-resilient livelihoods	0 CCAs implemented in target communities	At least 2 CCAs under implementation in target communities	5 CCAs under implementation in target communities	During the reporting period, steps were made in the initial stages of implementing Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) to support alternative climate-resilient livelihoods in the target communities in the project area. Key activities undertaken included comprehensive community and stakeholder consultations in 5 villages namely Kenghuapa,Thamae in Sephon district, Saveu and Thunglai in Nong district and Muanghong in Xonaboully district in Savanakhet province which were conducted as part of the market analysis. Consultations were critical in understanding the specific needs and opportunities within the target communities to ensure that the CCAs are tailored to local needs and increase the potential for effectively supporting the resilience of the communities. The market analysis lay foundation for identifying viable climate-resilient livelihood options that can be supported through the CCAs.	100% achievement of end of the project level target achieved. During the reporting period, the project facilitated the implementation of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) in five targeted villages. The provision of glutinous (sticky) rice seedling is part of the livelihoods support activities of CCA under Component 2. It was procured at the request of the government and as per the approved plan. As a national staple diet, this variety of rice is deeply intertwined with Lao's religious (alms giving) and cultural (symbol of prosperity and unity) significance. The CCAs were developed and signed in Kenghuapa and Thamae villages (Sepon District), Saveu and Tungalaineua villages (Nong District), and Mouanghong village (Xonabouly

				This foundational work is essential for designing interventions that are both sustainable and aligned with the economic realities of the target communities. The insights gained from the consultations and market analysis will guide the drafting of the CCAs. The drafting of the CCAs will commence in Q3 2024, accompanied by further consultations with community members and key stakeholders. The additional consultations will refine and finalize the CCAs an important component in supporting adaptation strategies.	District) in Savannakhet Province. The process was informed by a participatory market analysis conducted earlier in the project cycle which identified viable alternative climate resilient livelihood options tailored to the socio economic and ecological context of each community. The CCA packages were formally endorsed by district governors and certified by relevant local authorities, ensuring legitimacy and local ownership. The project provided technical training and capacity building aimed at enhancing implementation to over 3,000 community members across the five villages. The trainings covered priority areas such as livestock rearing, off season vegetable production, rice cultivation, and broom grass plantation. The capacity building efforts have improved household productivity and income generation while integrating climate resilience into local livelihoods. During the reporting period, the project also provided rice seeds of 32,460 kg to the five CCA villages.

					The CCAs serves as a platform for integrating conservation objectives with sustainable development. They promote the adoption of improved farming practices, natural resource stewardship and inclusive benefit sharing, with a deliberate emphasis on gender equality and the participation of women. As a result, community members are now better equipped to manage their natural resources sustainably while enhancing their adaptive capacity to climate risks. Evidence 1:Community Conservation Agreements for 5 villages Evidence 2:CCA Market analysis report
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 3 **Outcome 3: Effective knowledge management and M&E through awareness/advocacy and monitoring of climate change impacts and adaptation opportunities in target rural and urban communities.**					
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Level at Jun 30, 2024**	**Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2025**
Level of knowledge and awareness on integrated catchment management and	A baseline survey will be conducted	At least a 25% improvement in	At least a 50% improvement in	The project has undertaken a number of activities to enhance the knowledge	Over 90% of end of the project level

extreme climate events of men and women living in the project intervention sites	shortly after project inception. This survey will use a scorecard to assess the current level of knowledge amongst local communities in the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin and Luang Prabang city	knowledge score of men and women living in the project intervention sites	knowledge score of men and women living in the project intervention sites	and awareness of communities in the project intervention sites on integrated catchment management and extreme climate events. The activities were part of a strategy aimed at achieving a 50% improvement in knowledge scores among the target population. The project initiated community consultations across all the 15 target villages in the 5 target districts in Savanakhet province to design effective communication materials tailored to the needs of the communities. The consultations were vital in understanding the specific informational needs and preferences of community members, ensuring that the communication materials developed are relevant and contextual to the audience. The participatory approach not only helped in creating more targeted and impactful content but also fostered a sense of ownership and collaboration among the community members. Furthermore, the involvement of the community in the design process, the project ensured that the materials would be well received and effective in raising awareness. Baseline surveys targeting 50 persons	target achieved. During the reporting period, the project made progress toward achieving its target of a 48% improvement in knowledge and awareness on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) among men and women in the 15 target villages across the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin and Luang Prabang City. As of June 2025, approximately 48% of the target population (male and female) demonstrated increased awareness and understanding of integrated catchment management principles and climate risk concepts, putting the project on track to meet its end of project target of at least 50 percent. The project implemented a combined community engagement, participatory content development, awareness events and knowledge product dissemination. Community consultations were conducted across all 15 target villages to co design communication materials that are locally relevant, culturally appropriate, and responsive to community needs. The consultations not only increased community ownership but also

				per village commenced in May 2024 and expected to be completed in August 2024. The surveys are critical for establishing a baseline level of knowledge and awareness among the target population. The data collected from these surveys will be used to measure the impact of the project's educational interventions and track progress towards the target of a 50% improvement in knowledge scores. The surveys provide a clear starting point and will enable the project to demonstrate improvements over time. A fully functional knowledge hub/portal has been developed for information exchange and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The platform serves as a central repository for educational materials, best practices, and updates related to integrated catchment management and extreme climate events. It facilitates easy access to information for community members and stakeholders, promoting continuous learning and knowledge sharing. The knowledge hub is a key resource for the community, offering a wealth of information that can be accessed at any time. Additionally, the project supported the target districts in organizing celebrations for World Water Day and World Environmental Day. The events	enhanced the effectiveness and reach of awareness materials. A functional knowledge hub (project website) was launched to serve as a central platform for information sharing, hosting technical guidance, learning tools and updates related to IWRM and extreme climate events. The hub is accessible to both community members and stakeholders and is instrumental in facilitating ongoing knowledge exchange and adaptive learning. Furthermore, to promote cross stakeholder learning and awareness raising, the project organized several high-impact events, including a knowledge exchange workshop held in December 2024 in Vang Vieng, which brought together government officials, CSOs, consultants, and development partners to share best practices on IWRM-EbA, early warning systems, and flood management. The first national IWRM-EbA symposium was also organized in April 2025 in partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), attended by 150 participants

				provided valuable opportunities for raising awareness about the importance of water conservation, environmental protection, and the impacts of climate change. They also served as platforms for disseminating information about integrated catchment management and climate resilience strategies.	under the theme “Scaling up IWRM and EbA for a Resilient Future in Lao PDR.” The symposium served as a platform for dialogue and strategic reflection on embedding IWRM-EbA in national and provincial systems. Commemorative World Water Day (March 22) and World Environment Day (June 5) events were held in project districts, focusing on water security, environmental protection, and climate awareness. Evidence 1:Awareness raising reports(6) Evidence 2:National IWRM-Eba symposium proceeding report
Number of communities operating and maintaining water resource and ecological monitoring systems	0 communities trained	8 communities from target villages in Savannakhet Province trained	15 communities from target villages in Savannakhet Province trained	The project made initial steps were made towards training the target villages with the objective of enabling communities to operate and maintain water resource and ecological monitoring systems. Key activities focused on laying the groundwork for the design and implementation of the	100% of end of project level target achieved During the reporting period, the project implemented community-based water resource and ecological monitoring systems in all 15 target communities in

				systems. The project completed the terms of reference (ToR) and started the procurement process for engaging a consultancy firm who will play a crucial role in designing a community-based monitoring system tailored to the specific needs of the target villages in Savannakhet Province. The ToR outline the scope of work, objectives, and expected outcomes for the consultancy, ensuring alignment with project goals and community requirements. The consultancy firm will be tasked with developing the community-based monitoring system and conducting trainings for 15 communities from the target villages in Savannakhet Province. The trainings will empower community members with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively operate and maintain the monitoring systems. The project aims to enhance local capacity for sustainable water resource management and ecological monitoring.	Savannakhet Province. The ecological monitoring included building community capacity on observing, collecting and analyzing data about their local ecological environment through the design and implementation of the monitoring systems as well as capacity building trainings to ensure local ownership and sustainability. A consultancy firm was engaged to lead the design of a tailored monitoring framework aligned with project goals and the ecological needs of each village. The community capacity had been strengthened through trainings delivered to all 15 communities, equipping participants with the skills to operate, maintain, and utilize the systems for local decision making. The training covered key monitoring themes such as water levels, water quality, erosion, land use change, and biodiversity, with emphasis on community led data collection, analysis, and reporting. The trainings strengthened community resilience, supported participatory natural resource management, and

					enhanced early detection of climate and environmental risks. Evidence 1:Community Based Monitoring (CBM)reports-3
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	**On track**				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

E. Finance/Co-Finance

Cumulative disbursement as of Jun 30, 2025: **Disbursement for the FY 2025 period is an estimate as books for UNDP Q2 2025 are not yet closed.*	2,459,070

Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	150,000
GEF Grant Amount	5,329,452
Co-financing	27,462,585

F. Implementation Progress

Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays with outputs/activities during the period 1 July 2024 through 30 June 2025. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.
not applicable
CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance
• Fast-track the completion of key documents related to social and environmental standards (e.g., Environmental and Social Management Plan [ESMP], Environmental and Social Impact Assessment [ESIA]) to ensure regulatory compliance and smooth implementation. • Develop a detailed Annual Work Plan and Procurement Plan within the appropriate timeline, enabling the Project Management Unit (PMU) to execute activities efficiently and without delays. • Maintain a consistent progress tracking mechanism, including weekly, monthly, semi-annual, and annual reviews, notably through Project Board Meetings, to monitor milestones and adjust plans proactively. • Enhance the oversight function to deliver high-quality assurance and maintain project compliance through active monitoring, reporting, and feedback loops. • Conduct routine monitoring and evaluation of activity implementation, identify emerging risks early, and formulate responsive management strategies to mitigate potential setbacks.
BPPS RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.
Project indicators remain broadly on track, with the “Moderately Satisfactory” IP rating reflecting improvements in the implementation rate compared to 2024. However, cumulative delivery stands at 46.14% and needs be to improved in 2026 to allow for operational closure by Nov 23, 2026. The mobilization co-financing is on track with around USD 21 million, equivalent to 77% of the USD 27 million target, underscoring strong multi-stakeholder investment. To maintain momentum, procurement planning must be closely monitored to prevent delays, with schedules adjusted to account for seasonal conditions that affect implementation. Project Board meetings should continue serving as a platform to accelerate progress, including on implementation, co-finance mobilization, and safeguards monitoring. In parallel, CO, PMU, and the RTA should sustain monthly coordination meetings to review progress and promptly resolve bottlenecks.

G. Project Governance

1) Please enter the dates of Project Board meetings during the reporting period (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025)
2024-08-30
2025-01-09

H. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2025 Development Objective Progress Rating	2025 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP BPPS Technical Advisor	Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory

Role	2025 Overall Assessment
UNDP BPPS Technical Advisor	This is the second PIR of the Integrated Water Resource Management and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Xe Bang Hieng river basin and Luang Prabang. The IWRM-EbA project started with an inception workshop in December 2022 and Project Board meeting in January 2023 to approve the first Annual Work Plan (AWP). The project is executed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Water Resources (DWR). The project is a full-size project funded by the GEF, with a total grant of USD 5,329,452. The project aims to promote integrated management of sites in the Mekong River Basin for increased climate resilience of Savannakhet Province and Luang Prabang communities vulnerable to floods and droughts, which are expected to worsen under future scenarios. This will be achieved through the following components: • Component 1: Developing national and provincial capacities for Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) and integrated urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for climate risk reduction. • Component 2: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) interventions, with supporting protective infrastructure and livelihood enhancement. and • Component 3: Knowledge management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). The project Mid-term Evaluation was finalized in January 2025, concluding that the project is highly relevant to Lao PDR's climate resilience needs, with achievements in risk mapping, capacity development and infrastructure. On sustainability, the MTR noted that the enhanced capacity of key government partners through participation in the IWRM-EbA project shows an indication of the possible sustainability of the project outcomes in mitigating flood and drought risks. Progress toward the Development Objective (DO): The project has been rated Satisfactory (S) for its Development Objective (DO). The DO rating reflects that the project remains on track to achieve its end targets by closure, with minor operational challenges being effectively managed through adaptive measures. Overall, the project can be considered an example of good practice. The Project Board meetings should continue to play a central role in driving progress, including on implementation, co-finance, and safeguards, while monthly coordination between the CO, PMU, and RTA remains critical for addressing bottlenecks promptly. The project has achieved notable progress in promoting sustainable land and

	water management in its target areas, though challenges remain in reconciling the number of direct beneficiaries with the overall population of the 15 project villages. This is further elaborated under the challenges section. The project has strengthened the resilience of 17,856 direct beneficiaries (8,392 women and 9,464 men) to floods and drought, and enhanced access to safe and reliable water sources through the project interventions. The support also included the installation of 19 drinking water filters across 15 target villages in 5 districts in Savannakhet province, 22 solar-powered groundwater wells, two irrigation solar-powered pumps, 1,216 water tanks, 13 megaphone sets, 10 motorboats, and 250 life jackets. The project also reached 483,456 indirect beneficiaries (233,905 women and 249,551 men). The beneficiaries represent the wider population of the project's geographic area, which covers five districts in Savannakhet Province and Luang Prabang City. Progress against outcomes: For outcome 1, the project contributed to the improved capacity of government partners in key thematic areas relevant to climate resilient development and natural resource management, whereby a total of 350 government officials (224 male, 126 female) received structured training sessions. The project supported the integration of fine-scale, climate-resilient development and land use plans across all five target districts and Luang Prabang City. Moreover, the project completed the assessment of the hydrometeorological monitoring and early warning systems for five districts in the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin. The project also supported a review and revision of early warning and emergency response procedures in the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin. Under outcome 2, by the end of the reporting period, the project achieved significant results in forest conservation and restoration through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). The project exceeded its forest conservation target with 15,729 ha placed under protection and restored 424 ha of degraded land (85% of the target) through planting 22,700 saplings. Sustainable restoration strategies included natural regeneration, boundary demarcation, and community forest patrols, complemented by wildfire management training and equipment support. All five targeted CCAs were established, linking conservation with alternative climate-resilient livelihoods identified through participatory market analysis. For outcome 3, by mid-2025, the project had achieved over 90% of its knowledge targets, with communities showing a 48% increase in awareness of IWRM and EbA. It also fully met its target for community-based monitoring, equipping 15 villages in Savannakhet with water and ecological monitoring systems that strengthen local resilience and natural resource management. The Gender Action Plan is being implemented through raising the capacities of 34% women in land use planning and mapping exercises of hydrological modelling. In addition, the project supported implementation of gender-specific adaptation technologies and livelihood diversification initiatives with a strong emphasis on addressing systemic climate-related vulnerabilities and low adaptive capacities of women, youth and the elderly. Local monitoring committees have at least 25% female representation to ensure gender equity and youth engagement. Sex disaggregated indicators and targets have been defined in the results

	framework. The project has taken concrete action to mitigate implementation and safeguards-related risks. The project prepared the required SES documentation in a participatory manner and has an operational GRM and its effectiveness will be monitored. Based on recommendations of the SES TA, the project is assigned to Category B (enhanced oversight). Recommendations The following recommendations will be followed up with to PMU and the CO for the next reporting period: • Stronger measures are required to ensure women's leadership, and more inclusion of youth, ethnic groups, and persons with disabilities using tailored livelihood support to their needs. • For long-term sustainability, the project team should open stakeholder consultation on scale-up financing mechanisms and advocate for large-scale public investments in climate-resilient infrastructure to counteract flood and drought risks. • Maximize the use of monitoring and reporting systems to encourage maintaining project progress and improve gender and inclusion strategies. • Follow up the completion of the recommendation of the MTR, namely developing a methodology for assessing flood protection costs and benefits and collecting and analyzing data on flood mitigation expenses and potential disaster costs. • Considering the limited resources allocated for SES, gender, and stakeholder engagement, there is still a need to enhance oversight and keep the project on track for the next reporting cycle. --- As indicated in the MTR, Indicator 1 : Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender is misaligned with the total population of the 15 project target villages. Based on the district population estimates at the end of 2024, the total population of the target area is 501,312 people, distributed as follows: Nong 35,446 (17,430 women); Champone, 119,396 (60,683 women); Songkhone 110,764 (56,213 women); Xonaboully 67,841 (34,480 women); Sepon – 67,370 (33,150 women); and Luang Prabang City – 100,495 (48,733 women). Whereas the end of project target is designed at 492,462 people (75% of the total population of the target districts in Savannakhet province plus the population of the target communities in Luang Prabang city). When applying the definition of direct beneficiaries, considering the limited project resources, this becomes impossible. Accordingly, the overestimation of the direct beneficiaries will affect the reporting on the number of direct beneficiaries, despite the fact that the project is on track.
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Project Progress and Results Overview: The project has achieved significant momentum and is firmly on track to meet its end-of-project indicators. Financial execution is equally robust: of the total allocated budget of USD 5.5 million, USD 3.8 million has been expended, representing a delivery rate of approximately 69%.

	Mid-Term Review and Audit Outcomes: Performance has been positively validated through the mid-term review and audit process. Out of the 11 recommendations issued during the mid-term review, 10 have already been implemented, marking a 90% implementation rate. This illustrates a strong commitment to adaptive management and continuous improvement. The audit exercise has not revealed any major compliance issues; all findings have been assessed as manageable and are being actively addressed by the Project Management Unit (PMU). Visibility and Knowledge Dissemination: In line with its strategic communications plan, the project has prioritized transparency and sectoral knowledge sharing. A dedicated knowledge hub for the IWRM-EbA initiative has been launched, providing stakeholders access to data, case studies, and progress updates. Stories of impact have been collected from the field, showcasing individual and community-level benefits. These stories have been published across multiple platforms and accompanied by a series of technical and non-technical publications designed to promote best practices and key learnings. Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement: The project has actively built and strengthened partnerships across multiple governance levels. Nationally and sub-nationally, stakeholders have been engaged through dialogue platforms, field visits, and technical workshops. High-level endorsement has been demonstrated by attention from the Vice Minister and provincial leadership, adding credibility and institutional support. A key milestone was the National Water Symposium held in April 2024, which attracted participation from over 30 entities including government bodies, private companies, development partners, and civil society groups. This event served as a forum for exchanging sectoral knowledge and exploring collaborative solutions. Furthermore, the mobilization of USD 21 million in co-financing—77% of the anticipated USD 27 million—highlights the project's success in securing multi-stakeholder investment for sustainable water resource management. Project Management and Compliance: The Project Management Unit has operated with efficiency and professionalism, maintaining strong coordination mechanisms with implementing partners and UNDP focal teams. All activities have been conducted in compliance with UNDP and GEF operational standards, ensuring transparent procedures and sound fiduciary practices. Cross-Cutting Themes and Inclusion: Gender and social inclusion have remained central to implementation. Activities are designed to promote equitable participation from women, girls, and ethnic minorities. Notably, over 30% of participants involved in project activities belong to these groups, reflecting meaningful representation. Grievance Redress Mechanisms have been rolled out and are now fully functional in all target villages, offering communities an accessible channel to voice concerns and seek resolution. This has strengthened both accountability and trust in project operations. Risk Management: Project risks are subject to ongoing monitoring, with updates

	made regularly to address emerging challenges. The scope of the project remains consistent with its original design, with only minor adjustments introduced to enhance implementation efficiency and optimize impact delivery. Next Steps and Strategic Priorities: Looking ahead, several critical actions are planned. The completion of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the associated Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) is a top priority, especially ahead of the post-rainy season construction phase. A formal exit strategy will also be developed to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of benefits. Additionally, opportunities to replicate successful approaches in other regions will be actively pursued—this will help scale impact and embed sustainability into future initiatives.
Project Manager/Coordinator	During this reporting period, the project delivered strong and measurable results, underscoring its effective implementation and strategic alignment with its objectives. The project team was fully established and operational, enabling the successful execution of planned activities and the achievement of nearly all key performance indicators. Active and sustained engagement of key stakeholders at national, provincial, and community levels ensured local ownership and accountability. Gender equality was systematically mainstreamed across all activities, while safeguard measures were strictly adhered to, demonstrating the project's commitment to inclusive and responsible development. Substantial progress was made toward advancing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and strengthening the resilience of communities to climate-related risks in both Savannakhet and Luang Prabang Provinces. Notable milestones include the completion of technical assessments that informed infrastructure design and site selection, the development of ICFMS, the construction of protective infrastructure to mitigate flood and drought risks, and the implementation of reforestation and headwater protection activities to restore degraded ecosystems. Capacity-building workshops and training programs equipped local authorities and communities with practical knowledge and tools to manage natural resources more sustainably. Furthermore, the establishment of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) and Community-based Monitoring (CBM) system has fostered community stewardship of natural resources, while targeted livelihood support initiatives have begun to yield positive economic benefits for vulnerable households. These integrated interventions are not only reducing environmental and climate vulnerabilities but also contributing to improved water security, food security, and socio-economic stability. Collectively, these outcomes indicate that the project is firmly on track to achieving its long-term development goals and delivering lasting impact on community resilience and ecosystem health.
GEF Operational Focal point	*(not set or not applicable)*

Project Implementing Partner	*(not set or not applicable)*
Other Partners	*(not set or not applicable)*

I. Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

CO Programme Officer: Please mark each category for which a minor amendment occurred during this reporting period (1 July 2024- 30 June 2025).

For each category that is marked, please provide a brief description of the change that occurred in the associated text box. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate.

The purpose of this section is to capture adaptive management and measure project proactiveness, an indicator outlined in paragraph 70 of the GEF-8 Policy Directions available here.

A) Results Framework
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to the 'Results framework'
(not set or not applicable)
B) Components and cost
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Components and cost'
(not set or not applicable)
C) Institutional and implementation arrangements
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Institutional and implementation arrangements'
The Ministry of Natural Resorces and Environment has been merged with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry which has now renamed as the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.
D) Financial management
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Financial Management'
(not set or not applicable)
E) Implementation schedule
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Implementation schedule'
(not set or not applicable)

F) Executing Entity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity'
(not set or not applicable)
G) Executing Entity Category
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity Category'
(not set or not applicable)
H) Minor project objective change
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'minor project objective change'
(not set or not applicable)
I) Safeguards
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Safeguards'
(not set or not applicable)
J) Risk Analysis
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Risk Analysis'
(not set or not applicable)
K) Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
No
Provide a description of the change to GEF project financing up to 5%
(not set or not applicable)
L) Co-financing
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing'
(not set or not applicable)
M) Location of project activity

No
Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity
(not set or not applicable)
Please provide a description of other types of minor amendments that do not fall under any of the above categories. For example, minor changes to the project's Gender Action Plan and/or gender activities can be captured here.
(not set or not applicable)

J. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

1) Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.
4. Appendix 2.1_GAP_Activity Implementation Plan.docx 5. Appendix 2.2_GAP_Activity Implementation Plan_Lao.docx 7. Appendix 4_GAP_Monitoring _ Reporting Table.docx 8. Appendix 5_Gender Analysis and GAP_7 February 2022.pdf
Quantum Gender Marker Rating
GEN2: gender equality as significant objective
2) Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes
Not applicable: No
3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women. **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**
The IWRM-EbA Project has focused on addressing gender inequalities and ensuring the equitable participation and empowerment of women and men in all phases of the project. The involvement of women in the execution of project activities has continued to be good during the reporting period. Gender responsiveness has been integrated throughout the evaluation process, including gender balance during the engagement with stakeholders by ensuring both genders are engaged in the activity design and delivery and by ensuring that data collection and analysis are gender sensitive. Project beneficiaries have been accounted for using gender-disaggregated data that helps to identify barriers and differentiate roles that may be more suited to each gender. The existing participants' form also checks whether all "people count" indicators are gender segregated and if the project has reported women ratio in related indicators.

During the reporting period, gender parity among beneficiaries has been continued to be sought as much as possible. All capacity building activities have attempted to ensure the participation of women as much as possible. Approximately, 40% of people benefitting from the project activities are women. Training and livelihood support activities fully adheres to the project requirements in terms of gender representation.

At the same time, the project has supported implementation of gender-specific adaptation technologies and livelihood diversification initiatives with a strong emphasis on addressing systemic climate related vulnerabilities and low adaptive capacities of women, youth and elderly. Some of these technologies targeting women headed households that have been implemented include distribution of drinking water filters to selected women to support in the availability to clean drinking water in flood and drought-hit villages. This has benefited women and young children by reducing the time spent in search of safe drinking water collection during extreme seasons.

Based on the Gender Action Plan, approximately, 34% women have been capacitated on land use planning and mapping exercises of hydrological modelling. Participatory land use planning involves representation of all gender groups. The monitoring committees of community-based monitoring of natural resource management include both men, women and youth. Each village has established a monitoring committee with at least 25% female representation to ensure gender equity and youth engagement. All consultative meetings and training have considered gender representation. Sex disaggregated indicators and targets have been defined in the results framework.

During the reporting period, the project has conducted series of training and workshops on mainstreaming gender in IWRM & EbA, gender and FPIC and GRM frameworks for the Project Coordinators and Gender Focal Points. The project has mainstreamed gender considerations into local level planning and decision-making process. By addressing gender-specific impacts of climate change and promoting women's leadership and participation, the project has contributed to the goal of fostering inclusive development that benefits all segments of society. Furthermore, the project's focus on building institutional and individual capacities aligns with the project priority of mainstreaming gender into climate risk-informed water management and ecosystem-based adaptation practices in Savannakhet and Luang Prabang provinces.

4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.

Promoting gender equality and women empowerment in the project has significantly improved both environmental outcomes and the resilience of the communities involved. Here is a generalized explanation of how these efforts have contributed to the success of the project:

· The proactive inclusion of women through capacity building interventions has ensured that a wide range of perspectives and experiences are considered in decision-making and project activities. This diversity has enabled the development of more comprehensive and sustainable solutions to environmental and resilience challenges.

· By integrating the vision and knowledge of both men and women, the strategies adopted have been more effective and holistic. In workshops and trainings, the presence of women has

enriched the learning and monitoring processes, ensuring that interventions are more representative and effective. This participation has facilitated a greater transfer of knowledge and skills in resilience building between genders, fostering a broader awareness, commitment and consensus to climate change adaptation. Trained women have taken on leadership roles in natural resource management by improving the responsiveness of communities to environmental problems.

· Diversification of economic activities, promoted through training under community conservation agreements, is reducing dependence on a single source of income thereby increasing the adaptability of families to environmental and economic opportunities.

K. Risk Management

A) Overall Risk Management

BPPS RTA: Please discuss the risks flagged in the Quantum project Risk Register and the VF Risk Dashboard in PIMS+ with the CO and then provide an assessment of project risk management undertaken during the reporting period. Document actions, agreed with the CO, to address all project risks in the coming year.
The project has taken concrete action to mitigate implementation and safeguards-related risks. The project prepared the required SES documentation in a participatory manner and has an operational GRM. However, considering the limited resources allocated for SES, gender, and stakeholder engagement, there is still a need to enhance oversight and keep the project on track for the next reporting cycle. The GRM effectiveness will be monitored. Based on recommendations of the SES TA, the project is assigned to Category B (enhanced oversight).

B) SES Implementation

2b) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.
During the reporting period, the project engaged various relevant stakeholders in the consultation process of developing tools, guidelines, plans and strategies related to climate resilient flood risk management, land use, natural resource management and other communication materials. In addition to this, the project conducted regular meetings with project partners to keep updating, sharing and learning among the partners to ensure the project is on track and explore the synergies and complementarity to ensure the project will benefit larger communities, both directly and indirectly, on the ground. The project has meaningfully engaged stakeholders and partners from various constituencies, including the implementing partner, relevant government line agencies officials from the national, provincial and local governments. It has also built partnerships with the private sector through various consultation workshops, symposium and interactions, especially on small scale infrastructure construction processes such as groundwater well construction and solar power installations. Similarly, the project was successful in witnessing wider multi-stakeholder participation during the EbA Symposium organized in April2025. Again, capacity building activities on community monitoring and community conservation agreements through various new tools and procedures have enhanced community and stakeholders' capacity in building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

L. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.
The project continues to implement knowledge management activities as outlined in the project document with strong emphasis on documentation, dissemination and stakeholder learning. Knowledge management activities have been integrated across planning, implementation and awareness processes, ensuring structured capture and sharing of lessons learned, methodologies and good practices. During the reporting period, key knowledge management products developed included the production and dissemination of 24 knowledge products ranging from the Integrated Climate Resilient Flood Management Strategies (ICFMS) for five districts in Savannakhet province and Luang Prabang city (in both Lao and English), an economic valuation report for Luang Prabang City, gender and grievance redress mechanism (GRM) posters, informational briefs and digital materials for broader outreach. The products were shared through workshops, training sessions, stakeholder dialogues, and online platforms. All outreach materials were produced in both Lao and English to enhance inclusion and access by the target audience. Multimedia formats (video, photography and narratives) were used to document case studies, success stories and community engagement procedures in order to promote replication and participatory learning. In order to facilitate peer learning and stakeholder engagement, the project has also developed a dedicated project website that will act as a central repository of technical resources, training tools, and knowledge products. The project has leveraged national events such as like National Water Day and World Environment Day to promote awareness and showcase project outcomes. Knowledge products such as maps, infographics and video content were disseminated through the project website. Furthermore, lessons learned and best practices are being documented and shared in national forums and potential replication in other river basins. Communication and visibility initiatives remain a priority, with messaging designed to increase awareness on the importance of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in building climate resilience. External communications through social media(Facebook and LinkedIn), video campaigns and public events have elevated the visibility of project objectives and achievements, while internal communications have enhanced programmatic coordination and strengthened stakeholder ownership. The project has laid a strong foundation for knowledge exchange, institutional learning, and community engagement. Moving forward, efforts will focus on enhancing digital access to knowledge products, deepening community-based monitoring mechanisms, and producing policy-relevant

lessons for uptake by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment and other national actors.

2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)

UNDP

https://www.undp.org/laopdr/stories/delivering-new-hope-through-sustainable-solutions(Lao CO)

https://www.undp.org/laopdr/blog/protecting-water-people-and-nature

Project website

https://laoiwrm-eba.com/en?955DDE90-F6C7-46AD-8975-0987D8EDC5F5_kis_cup_C6FA3ED5_6D17_47D1_B6E2_F4B02CC905E0_

Social Media

https://www.linkedin.com/in/iwrm-eba-project-89a587340/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ekvs39i8Z/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15K29bk9cx/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19H3gbCb6w/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Dh5eV4Zd9/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BKptvxNn8/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16257GJ7nX/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BqgpDiWWR/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16FB1AsCiK/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Abd4UfMmd/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1TSUy4RSUh/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Eq2NPKhi8/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1G6eBb4Ff5/

https://www.facebook.com/share/1J1CSHzUW9/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16KTm9SMk2/

https://www.facebook.com/61569589814998/videos/583906868134795/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/195jqY18bu/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16K8ADvj6p/

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02fkZX595Lrdk1andBfWgCaN9fnYK6KuDeWPov7sHcESZqB6F6kVkjZEP77j9r7e3JI&id=61569589814998

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BKSR5SSP9/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Bgyv1NzRv/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BMW9PY7kf/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1EUCnjaz56/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18ma4rcGf7/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AKDPCZCgh/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CzmMMSNcE/

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02NGKvxxrP66KygKx4VyyHQNRtUNcebWM4hmJTF1rrgGtMbVQ89pwsqnv7GXpCrh1wl&id=61569589814998

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1NqFNpy8r7/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18kxY3wHTL/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19GbM9tCW9/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AT1wTG3nf/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BVRQFr9kE/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16MSGNASJ3/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1YrUAjyk3b/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16GDrb5AHN/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/196BQ3gfdA/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1XwHEJbWT1/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16YN2VkTJ4/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1APKsLhaKw/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16nwBtAz5W/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DpW7KDqVw/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16m4rKnsrd/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1G3oTmy1Wy/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18woPGewTJ/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AkNDoXXYu/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DxrvmMgZt/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ZqAaRToYH/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/167G6Q952A/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19KZPhVFaa/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JXs5usWpz/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16bVFzbdfs/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CJWJXMP6B/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JLUgPTVzq/

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CiZ8r3vfX/?mibextid=wwXIfr

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/12MiN5CiAHX/

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16WYt8HtAK/

3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.

Achievement of Project Video.mp4
DJI_20250128205940_0017_D.JPG
DJI_20250128222154_0027_D.JPG
DJI_20250128222329_0029_D.JPG
DJI_20250129195549_0047_D.JPG
DJI_20250129195738_0050_D.JPG
DJI_20250129205351_0054_D.JPG
DJI_20250129205843_0058_D.JPG
DJI_20250129214907_0063_D.JPG
DJI_20250129215157_0066_D.JPG
DJI_20250130134321_0078_D.JPG
DJI_20250130134556_0083_D.JPG

M. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

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

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure and any minor challenges are being addressed through an adaptive management plan. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure and minor challenges can be addressed if an adaptive management plan is promptly put in place.

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

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to only partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure and adaptive management is not expected to materialize.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Implementation of all outputs/activities is fully on track, proceeding as planned, The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor challenges that are being addressed. Implementation of all outputs/activities is on track with minor deviations The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor challenges that have not yet been addressed. Implementation of most outputs/activities is on track with minor deviations.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces implementation challenges. Implementation of many outputs/activities is off track Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation challenges. Implementation of most outputs/activities is off track.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under-performing. Implementation of all outputs/activities is severely off track.