



2022  
Project Implementation Report (PIR)



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**ICEAFT**

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## A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5804
GEF ID	9372
Title	Managing together: Integrating community-centered, ecosystem-based approaches into forestry and tourism sectors
Country(ies)	Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
UNDP-NCE Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Management Arrangements	NIM
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	1st PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY22
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

Project Description
<p>Owing to high levels of genetic and species diversity and endemism, Sri Lanka is designated as one of 34 globally significant biodiversity hotspots identified by Conservation International (CI). Birdlife International (BI) has identified the country as one of the world's 356 endemic bird areas. Sri Lanka's lowland rainforests, montane rainforests and south-western rivers and streams are listed in WWF's Global 200 eco-regions.</p> <p>This extremely high species diversity including a high level of endemism can be attributed to three factors. First, the wide variety of climatic, topographic and soil conditions that has resulted in high habitat variability (Sri Lanka comprise of 14 Great Soil Groups, 23 Agro-ecological regions, 15 floristic regions and four major ecosystems that can be further divided into 29 sub-systems). Second, abundance of water that includes 103 river basins and large number of man made tanks. Third, long period of isolation from the closest land mass and presence of large number of natural barriers isolating species promoting evolution of new species as evidenced by the presence of high level of endemism in most taxonomic groups. For instance, 28% of the 3,771 species of flowering plants, 22% of the 96 species of mammals, 15% of the 227 bird species, 88% of the 255 species of land snails, 55% of the 102 species of freshwater fishes, 86% of the 119 species of amphibians, 65% of the 216 species of reptiles and 98% of the 51 species of fresh water crabs found in the country are endemic. Endemism among vertebrates is about 43%, with the highest endemism quotient being recorded among the herpetofauna and freshwater fishes. More than 75% of the endemic species of flora and fauna are restricted to the tropical wet forests located in the southwestern region of Sri Lanka.</p>

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Project Implementing Partner	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

**B. Overall ratings**

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	moderate

## C. 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					
To strengthen protection of globally significant biodiversity through mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable practices into land use planning and sectoral decision making in forestry, agriculture and tourism sectors					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2021	Cumulative progress since project start
Indicator 1 (Ref. GEF Core Indicators 4 & 5): Area of land and marine habitat administered under a landscape conservation design that mainstreams biodiversity conservation into natural resource management (hectares)	Land 0 Sea 0	Land 80,000 (TL1 44,000 + TL2 27,000 + TL3 9,000) Marine (TL3) 20,000	Land 155,000 ha (TL1 87,000 + TL2 53,000 + TL3 15,000 )  Marine (TL3) 55,000	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Indicator is off track with the mid-term level targets although the biodiversity assessments conducted so far covered the areas, yet, the management plans are to be completed, administered and mainstreamed. Total land area covered by biodiversity surveys of the project was 177,367 ha as compared to the land area of 155,000 ha to be converted by the end of project. This 177,367ha comprises of TL1 26,118 ha; TL2 79,296.7 ha; and TL3 11,952 ha. Once the management plans are completed and implemented the project will be on track.</p> <p>The marine landscape is covered only in the TL3. The ocean scape assessments will continue (considering the seasons) and already 4,000 ha (40 km<sup>2</sup>) in Silavathurei coral reef has been surveyed and another 3,000 ha (30 km<sup>2</sup>) of coral reefs in Arippu is planned to be surveyed before the November 2022 due to bad weather season. From April to October South West Monsoon is activated and not suitable for marine assessments. Overall by the midterm the area investigated will be 7,000 ha. Again, the management plans are to be developed, yet., as such the indicator is off track.</p> <p>The rest of the sea scape (about 55,000 ha) identified during the</p>

				<p>project preparation does not contain large coral patches based on past work yet there are isolated patches of corals and seagrasses contributing to the overall health of the Gulf of Mannar (part of TL3). We may increase the target but it will certainly be less than 55,000 ha.</p> <p>Literature available on land and marine environmentally sensitive areas has been collected; biodiversity, water quality and related information gathering including the details of the responsible agencies/custodians of resources / stakeholder entities have been carried out.</p> <p>This literature and baseline information informed the management strategies, planning of project interventions towards mainstreaming biodiversity into NRM. Summary of information has been presented to the second Project Board meeting. The Project Management team along with consultants are in the process of preparing the final baseline assessment reports by August 2022.</p> <p>The indicator 1. requires complete implementation of the biodiversity friendly practices. The baseline and information gathering completed will serve as the starting point to the work towards the indicator on planning of biodiversity friendly livelihoods. Based on the assessments biodiversity friendly actions will be planned and implemented supporting indicator 1.</p> <p>Following are some of the potential interventions, but not limited to:</p> <p>a. Restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services through restoring forest corridors, grasslands and degraded lands</p>
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				<p>b. Ecological restoration of traditional water reservoirs (tanks) to enhance ecosystem services with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gasgommana (tree barriers to block wind to minimize evaporation)</li> <li>• Kattakaduwa (trees to absorb metals from irrigation water to prevent plant toxicity)</li> </ul> <p>c. Restoration of Stream and canal banks to ensure natural drainage</p> <p>d. Adoption of landscape based restoration techniques such as Assisted Natural Regeneration; Home garden restoration; and roadside and avenue plantations</p> <p>- use of citizen science with reference to school butterfly gardens and medicinal gardens</p> <p>Project delivered several presentations to different audiences towards facilitating the landscape-based biodiversity friendly approaches:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two Virtual discussions with district level senior Government officials to introduce the project followed by two physical meetings at Anuradhapura (to cover Anuradhapura district and Vavuniya districts) and in Mannar (to cover Manaer District – coastal).</li> <li>2. One day consultative event at Anuradhapura headed by the District Secretary with participation of Water Board, Central Environment Authority, District Planning, Health Officials on linking Govt. Sponsored “River Protection – Surakimu Ganga” programme and to identify the capacity building needs.</li> <li>3. Two day multi-sector and multi-stakeholder consultative session headed by Additional District Secretaries of Anuradhapura and Mannar, with the participation of 26 agencies and large projects where potential synergies were evaluated – one of the main outcomes were the recognition by the ADB funded Lower</li> </ol>
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					<p>Malwathu Oya project of the value of Managing Together for technology transfer, model restoration and agriculture development and high end tourism development (all part of the ADB funded projects as well). – proceedings uploaded</p> <p>4. Three virtual meetings with Additional Secretary Irrigation and senior staff of the Lower Malwathu Oya project and several key value chains (super markets for vegetables and export crops) on establishment of a model farm in TL2 area and linking eco-friendly livelihoods to markets.</p> <p>Consolidation of the results of these discussions will facilitate convincing the stakeholder agencies to work with the project and to adopt biodiversity friendly landscape approaches.</p>
Indicator 2 (Ref: GEF Core Indicator 11): The number of people, disaggregated by gender, that have benefitted either monetarily or non-monetarily, or both, from project-induced changes in livelihoods.	Male 0 Female 0	Male 500 Female 500	Male 1,600 Female 1,600	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Progress in identifying beneficiaries is on track. So far the focus is on two Village Clusters Mahakandarawa and Thanthirimale.</p> <p>The project during the reporting period identified the beneficiaries in Mahakandarawa Village Cluster Area in TL 1 Total 2,750 (M: 1,775 and F: 975) and Thanthirimale Village Cluster in TL2 Total 2,385 (M: 1,168 and F: 1,217).</p> <p>The above identification is based on biodiversity and initial assessments. Beneficiary identification will be further refined through the detailed land use planning that is upcoming. For example, the activities benefitting the people may include, but not limited to in TL 1 would be: biodiversity friendly livelihoods; educating and promoting best land use practices minimizing erosion and offsite pollution (see uploaded documents on selected value chains and proposed project interventions as examples of the ongoing work). Project aims to complete the beneficiary identification process in all three TL's by November 2022. The resulting total number of beneficiaries would exceed the mid-term</p>



					<p>target and possibly the end of the project target too.</p> <p>Project beneficiaries will include the Govt., Non-Govt. and Community based entities whose capacities are improved as a result of knowledge, equipment support, technology adoption and enhanced income and quality of life.</p>
Indicator 3 (Ref: GEF Core indicator 3): Area of tropical dry forest and mangrove in the three Trial Landscapes restored and rehabilitated under a landscape conservation design (hectares)	0 ha	6,000	21,000	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Indicator 3 is on track to achieve with ongoing work. To identify the tropical dry forest and mangroves first the literature supported identification was conducted and completed during the reporting period. Detailed Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) based on the field level assessments, as described in "Indicator 1" will identify the areas for indicator 3.</p> <p>The PLUP will bring multiple stakeholders to a transparent planning process supported by literature, field assessments and inputs from stakeholder entities. Result would be the locations of the tropical dry forests and mangrove to be restored/rehabilitated during the project. The PULP process will be completed by end 2022 and will inform the 2022 work plan. Further, the PLUP will also generate further supporting information to strengthen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Baselines for restorations/enhancements</li> <li>•Spatial distribution of specific areas within Trial Landscapes with their current and expected land uses</li> <li>•Ecosystems and species to be restored or rehabilitated</li> <li>•Specific threats including anthropogenic actions and drivers of biodiversity reductions</li> <li>•Specific conservation activities incorporated with biodiversity friendly livelihood development options</li> </ul>

<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>Off track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	YES				
<b>Outcome 1</b>					
<b>An enabling environment to mainstream integrated approaches into natural resource management in production sectors and landscapes</b>					
<b>Output 1.1: Draft ministerial directives and subsidiary agreements for special working arrangements between government agencies and administrations in the three Trial Landscapes</b>					
<b>Output 1.2: Integrated Landscape Management and Mainstreaming Modules for institutions offering in-service and pre-service training of state employees</b>					
<b>Output 1.3: Coordination established with relevant development projects, programmes, and public and private sector initiatives operating in the same geographical area</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
Indicator 4: Number of sectoral and vocational training institutions that have adopted modules on mainstreaming of biodiversity into natural resource management, tourism and other economic development	0	4	9	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The progress on indicator achievement is on track with number of institutions identified along with the type of trainings and capacity building needs towards biodiversity mainstreaming at different levels (national to village level).</p> <p>The project carried out a stakeholder mapping exercise and needs assessment exercises, under the Component1 led by the Ministry of Environment. Potential institutions and key stakeholders to be involved in capacity building had been pre-identified through the initial reports.</p> <p>Following the capacity assessment training modules for the selected 9 institutes and other training related initiatives will be developed. The details of the institutions and the type of</p>

					<p>programmes to be conducted will be available within year 2022.</p> <p>Capacity building will include in-service and pre-service training programmes, field visit to observe proven models and transferring global and local best practices. The development of modules and approaches will be completed within 2022 with the support of the Senior Technical Advisor (hired in July 2022) and trainings will be initiated in 2023.</p>
Indicator 5: Capacity of institutions as measured by the UNDP's Capacity Development Scorecard	District 18/45 Division 14/45	District 22/45 Divisional 17/45	District 30/45 Divisional 30/45	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Indicator 5 is not achieved as the project is in the first year and initial work on identification and engagement of institutions are underway.</p> <p>Beyond training entities, potential leveraging partner opportunities for capacity development on biodiversity mainstreaming include: area-based projects such as the Govt./ADB Lower Malwathu Oya project, UNDP GCF funded Tank Rehabilitation project, Tourism and Agriculture Private Sector initiative etc. In preparation towards a systematic capacity development approach the project conducted a multi-agency consultative event in Anuradhapura in April 2022, where 26 agencies including four large GEF, GCF, WB and ADB projects participated. The report of the event is uploaded.</p> <p>An innovative capacity development entry point was developed by the project through benchmarking the stream and tank water quality. It will help identify the capacities needed for biodiversity friendly livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries and tourism, in addition to the other biodiversity field assessments. Water quality and</p>

					<p>biodiversity assessments are uploaded.</p> <p>Therefore, it is advisable to carry out the UNDP CA approach once the activities are clear and defined – which will happen towards end 2022. The end points and mid-points of the intended goals for capacity enhancements in the UNDP capacity assessment approach will be completed by year 2023 with some capacity building starting in early 2023.</p>
<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>Off track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	YES				
<p><b>Outcome 2</b></p> <p>resource management, tourism and land use are guided by a strategic design for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods across multiple jurisdictions in three Trial Landscapes in the Northern and North Central Provinces.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1: Public information and involvement programme designed and implemented across all Districts and Divisional Secretariats represented in the Trial Landscapes</b></p> <p><b>Output 2.2: Mechanisms for trans-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral consultations in the landscape conservation design established and implemented</b></p> <p><b>Output 2.3: Strategic conservation designs for each Trial Landscape for incorporation into government decision making and local development plans</b></p> <p><b>Output 2.4: Guidelines for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into natural resource management, tourism and land use planning.</b></p> <p><b>Output 2.5: Technical and material support for immediate actions required under the agreed strategic designs</b></p>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target</b>	<b>End of project</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>

		level	target level		
Indicator 6 (Ref. GEF Core Indicator 4.1): Area of High Conservation Value Forest that is under improved management to benefit biodiversity under landscape conservation designs in the three Trial Landscapes (hectares)  (equivalent to GEF Core Indicator 4.1 but excluding the 1,219 ha of Forest Plantation)	0	0	18,824	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Achieving the indicator 6 is not on-track as the areas of HCVF have not been identified yet. The project conducted several activities supporting outputs under outcome 2.2 during the reporting period towards achieving indicator 6.</p> <p>For example, extensive spatial maps on all TLs have been developed (uploaded as map compendiums, TL related maps etc.) supporting the output 2.1.</p> <p>Towards output 2.2 the multi-sector consultative event held in April 2022 in Anuradhapura participated in by 26 agencies paved the way for multiple sector collaboration with identified opportunities to work together (see the uploaded opportunities and summary of large ongoing projects in the Managing Together Project area with leveraging potential). Together with these agencies the impacts on HCVF forests will be identified (as these projects also impact HCVF – ex: ADB funded Lower Malwathu Oya irrigation diversion). By mid 2023 the target HCVF areas will be identified and Management Effectiveness Tracking (METT) will be in place.</p> <p>To the advantage of the project, the management of the following identified HCVF areas under the Fauna and Flora Ordinance could be improved totaling about 19,100 ha).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve by DWC - 905 ha</li> <li>2.Mahakandarawa Sanctuary by DWC - 67 ha</li> <li>3.Willpattu National Park by DWC – 5,621 ha</li> <li>4.Giants Tank Sanctuary + Madu National Park managed by DWC – 4,030 ha + 654 ha, respectively</li> </ol>

					<p>5.Mavillu FR+ Madu FR by FD – 3,101 ha+ 4,703 ha, respectively</p> <p>6.Vankalei Sanctuary by DWC - 48 ha</p> <p>These areas need better scientific conservation practices to convert them to HCVF's and to develop mechanisms for biodiversity friendly PES and other benefit sharing systems with communities engaged in agriculture, tourism, fisheries etc. In addition, the project conducted biodiversity assessments and micro level environmental assessments will inform the “Other High Conservation Value Forests” outside Protected Areas and potentially to introduce “effective area-based conservation measures” to make them HCVF. These areas will be refined and reported during 2023 report.</p>
Indicator 7: Annual percentage of Minor and Major Permit applications in which biodiversity impact criteria used in decisions by Coast Conservation Department in Trial Landscape 3	[To be determined for the preceding twelve months before Inception]	Increase on baseline to be determined by Inception (depending on baseline value)	Increase on baseline to be determined by Inception (depending on baseline value)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The progress on achieving indicator 7 is not-on track as it will take more time to get established. The indicator 7 is primarily focusing on the ocean scape and setting up of permitting systems including manage or no-take zones are new subject areas for Sri Lanka. Currently the Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources enforce fishing related regulations and most of them are focusing on Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices (IUUs).</p> <p>However, the permitting aspects in industries, tourism and agriculture operations are also important in TL1 and TL2, in addition to fisheries and tourism permits in TL 3. As such this indicator and the scope could be revisited at the MTR including the addition of other agencies into the stakeholder list on permitting, such as Dept. of Fisheries, Marine Environment Protection</p>

					Agency, Sri Lanka Tourism etc. There are provincial counterparts for these organizations.
Indicator 8: Mean score (+/- SD) on a standard environmental/biodiversity impact assessment score card modified for the project, of tourism operations (a) marine-based (b) land-based in the three Trial Landscapes	To be established by Inception	To be established by Inception	To be established by Inception	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The progress towards Indicator is yet to begun. The Mean Core (enhancements or reductions) will start with the finalization of baselines and in the areas where the project is focusing activities.</p> <p>Adequate information was not available at the inception and the setting up of the road map to address indicator 8 will start led by the Senior Technical Advisor in the latter part of 2022. The project will be able to start reporting starting 2023 in both a) and b).</p>
Indicator 9: Estimate of the annual amount of carbon (tCO <sub>2</sub> eq) sequestered/ emissions avoided over the twenty years following the project's inception taking into account progress on the development, adoption, and implementation of the strategic designs at the heart of the project.	889,058	889,058	889,058	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The progress towards Indicator 9 is on track. The likelihood of estimating avoided emissions is high once the areas and the type of vegetation is known with the extent of areas. The project identified a number of carbon tools including FAO EX-ACT to estimate potential carbon sequestration in this reporting period.</p> <p>The envisaged timeline for system development and application in this respect is around February 2023, when land use plans related to the project are available with the spatial distribution of land use categories.</p> <p>Awareness and education on tools and developing support mechanisms to carry out carbon estimations will be incorporated to the technical assistance components in the project.</p>

<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>On track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	YES				
<b>Outcome 3</b>					
<b>Biodiversity conservation priorities shape sustainable livelihoods in natural resource management and tourism in six Focal Village Clusters in three Trial Landscapes in the Northern and North Central Provinces.</b>					
<b>Output 3.1: Public information and involvement programme designed and implemented in the focal village clusters</b>					
<b>Output 3.2: Participatory mechanisms to bring together community and government stakeholders in a landscape conservation design approach to local land use planning</b>					
<b>Output 3.3: Biophysical and socio-economic information required for analysis and reference before and during community-centred land-use planning.</b>					
<b>Output 3.4: Six village cluster land-use plans that provide opportunities for novel or modified livelihoods linked with biodiversity conservation</b>					
<b>Output 3.5: Livelihood interventions to enhance tourism and natural resource management under the land-use plans developed and implemented</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
Indicator 10 (Ref. Core indicator 4.3): Area of land in production systems under sustainable land management compatible with biodiversity conservation (hectares)	Likely to be zero - to be measured by inception	15,000	50,406	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress towards achieving indicator 10 is on-track with several interventions carried out by the project during the reporting period.  The quantitative values for the indicator will be estimated once the activities in TLs are confirmed along with proposed land uses at the end of year 2022 which will also inform the 2023 work plan of the project.



				<p>Towards supporting the potential land to put under sustainable land management with biodiversity conservation, land use maps of TL's comprising of soil-water-climate information and socio-economic data have been completed (biodiversity assessments maps and material on terrestrial and coastal uploaded).</p> <p>For example, in the two village clusters (Mahakandarawa and Thanthirimale) the Participatory Planning and matching biodiversity friendly approaches have been started where the type of sustainable land uses and the type of land uses will be documented and reported in the next PIR and also be available in most part by the MTR in early 2023.</p> <p>With the available information through the livelihood identification carried out by the project a list out potential sustainable land use practices with biodiversity friendly approaches can be reported. These will be further refined to include the areas under different practices and sectors (agriculture, tourism and land management).</p> <p>Providing livestock and poultry development opportunities to minimize forest damages by livestock and pressure on wildlife through hunting of animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low input farming systems in agriculture with the aim of soil and water conservation</li> <li>• Promotion of agroforestry introducing forest species and perennial crops to enhance the canopy and create forest mosaic landscape to assist the survival of endemic flora and fauna species</li> <li>• Protect forest areas through introducing eco-tourism and nature-based tourism making people dependent on conserved nature to increase the tourist arrivals and the income of the forest adjacent communities.</li> </ul>
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					The project expects to provide quantified and qualitative information along with the work plan for 2023 which will be available for MTR and PIR 2023.
Indicator 11: Number of new instances each year of major coral damage along a 1km reef transect in Trial Landscape 3	Measured after one year against baseline condition measured by inception	Decrease on baseline by 10%	Decrease on baseline by 30%	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The progress towards the Indicator 11 is on track although not completed.</p> <p>Based on the past work by various agencies (IUCN, National Aquatic Resource Agency, Universities etc.) the key coral areas have been identified as Arippu and Silavathurei (see the upload on coral survey). These areas cover a diverse set of coral types and reef fishes with following characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Live coral 30 &gt;35 %</li> <li>2. Dead coral 15 &gt; 20 %</li> <li>3. Coral rubble 20 &gt; 25 %</li> <li>4. Old consolidated limestone 0&gt;1 %</li> <li>5. Other 20 &gt; 25 %</li> </ol> <p>Coral diversity included 1.7 genera in Arippu; 2.1 genera in Silavathurei; with Reef fish diversity of 1.253 species in Arippu and 2.223 species in Silavathurei.</p> <p>With this information the project will establish the areas to study to report under Indicator 11 including the development of transects to</p>

					<p>study coral damages as required by the Indicator.</p> <p>As such, during the next season, several transects will be established to monitor coral damage. However, the nature of indicator 11 depend on the type of human interventions and some of the factors impacting corals (bleaching) has a climate change connection where solutions are no possible within the project.</p>
Indicator 12: Percentage of interviewees disaggregated by gender in Focal Villages who say that livelihoods have been enhanced as a result of mainstreaming biodiversity into land-use plans	0 (men) 0 (women)	20% (men) 20% (women)	50% (men) 50% (women)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>This will be initiated in April 2023 as the reporting period is too early to start interviews due to lack of ground level interventions.</p> <p>The modality to arrive at the indicator 12 would be that:</p> <p>a. The participatory planning processes will first decide on the sites and type of interventions in agriculture, tourism and SLM</p> <p>b. While deciding on the sites under different land management and interventions at the focal villages, the gender disaggregation will be done in terms of beneficiaries and contributions .</p> <p>c. The perception surveys, beneficiary interviews and other modalities of collecting information will contribute to Indicator 12.</p>
Indicator 13: Percentage of key government and community organizations that publicly endorse and commit to each of the six village-cluster land-use	Plan 1: 0 Plan 2: 0 Plan 3: 0	Plan 1: 30 Plan 2: 30 Plan 3: 30	Plan 1: 60 Plan 2: 60 Plan 3: 60	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Progress towards indicator 13 is on track with initial discussions completed with project stakeholders at Govt. level and selected communities in the six village clusters (ongoing). The indicator primarily focuses on village clusters, therefore, the key Govt.</p>

plans	Plan 4: 0 Plan 5: 0 Plan 6: 0	Plan 4: 30 Plan 5: 30 Plan 6: 30	Plan 4: 60 Plan 5: 60 Plan 6: 60		<p>entities consulted so far included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Divisional Secretaries (DS)</li> <li>2. Economic Development Officers based on DS offices</li> <li>3. Gama (village) sevaka (officers)</li> <li>4. Dept. of Agriculture extension</li> <li>5. Dept. of Agrarian Services</li> <li>6. District and Divisional level Planning Officers</li> </ol> <p>These officers form the core group of Govt. staff involved in village cluster related programming.</p> <p>At the cluster level in six village clusters the above officers and village level community leaders are involved in the discussions and planning. The initial discussions in village clusters have been positive and by July 2022 the Participatory Land Use Planning process is continuing in village clusters with the expectation of completion by October 2022.</p> <p>The project is planning to adopt the following targets as milestones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% - engaged community, village level officers and Divisional Secretariats</li> <li>• 60% - in addition to above, sector wise mandated agencies and district level stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>The initial report on Indicator 13 is possible in late 2023.</p>
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Indicator 14: Policy, community readiness for sustainable tourism in the Focal Village Clusters measured by Scorecard in Annex Y	To be determined at Inception - score out of total 205	Increase of 15% on baseline score out of 205	Increase of 35% on baseline score out of 205	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Progress towards Indicator 14 is delayed as the project activities on tourism are being designed. The targets provided in the Project Document need to be reviewed against the Annex Y. Since the inception workshop was too early to decide the target, perhaps MTR would provide recommendations on the final target.</p> <p>Based on the upcoming Land Use Plans that also cover tourism options the project will be in a position to adopt the Scorecard and count against the indicator 14.</p>
<b>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</b>	<b>Off track</b>				
<b>Evidence uploaded:</b>	YES				

<p><b>Outcome 4</b></p> <p><b>Monitoring and evaluation, and dissemination of knowledge of project methods and results contributes to wider application of landscape approach to mainstreaming of biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>Output 4.1: Monitoring protocols and necessary institutional agreements to assess the impacts of the landscape conservation design and livelihood-focused interventions both during and after the end of the project</b></p> <p><b>Output 4.2: Periodic reviews and evaluations of monitoring data collected during the project</b></p> <p><b>Output 4.3: Publications, films, exhibitions, databases that publicize the methods used and the results of the project interventions</b></p> <p><b>Output 4.4: Organized visits by the public and by national and regional government officials to project sites to demonstrate and explain project activities and</b></p>
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achievements					
Output 4.5: Talks and presentations by project staff in Colombo and in District and Provincial centres to explain project methods and results					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2021	Cumulative progress since project start
Indicator 15: Number of (a) villages and (b) DSDs in which independent monitoring of project impacts is taking place according to sound protocols	(a) 0 (b) 0	To be determined by Inception based on numbers of villages in Focal Village Clusters	To be determined by Inception, based on numbers of villages in Focal Village Clusters	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>The progress towards Indicator 15 is on track with the villages identified and monitoring systems being planned starting with water quality and biodiversity.</p> <p>The monitoring using sound protocols have not been established yet. These will take time as the monitoring indicators and the type of parameters, frequency and modalities will depend on the type of project activities to be implemented at DSD levels and village clusters.</p> <p>An approach based on hydrologic boundaries was tested as the water quality-based monitoring approach. It was developed by IUCN Sri Lanka Country Office based on the surface (streams and tanks) water quality where health of water (based on Dissolved Oxygen, Pathogens, Chemical Oxygen Demand, Microplastic content, Metals etc. were evaluated under three conditions, namely, the suitability to drink, suitability to bathe and suitability for fish and aquatic life. Minor Watershed Health Cards that can be found at:</p> <p><a href="https://1drv.ms/b/s!ApqZkyNSjS6JiW1WPDsMzqoYVaBt?e=rsirh3">https://1drv.ms/b/s!ApqZkyNSjS6JiW1WPDsMzqoYVaBt?e=rsirh3</a>)</p> <p>In terms of the Indicator 15 sub categories:</p> <p>a) Setting up of the monitoring systems at cluster villages will</p>

					<p>take place once the activities in each cluster village is confirmed by end 2022</p> <p>b) Setting up of DSD level has several challenges as some of the indicators can be aggregated at DSD (geographic level) and some indicators may need hydrological boundaries. A method to combine DSD level measurements and hydrological boundary based tracking will be developed.</p> <p>The water quality-based health allows monitoring as well as an entry point to engage village clusters as well as DSD level monitoring related work, including introducing citizen science in monitoring. In this context, an approach was described for Mahakandarawa Cluster (uploaded) to better understand this possibility. It is expected that the full-fledged monitoring systems and management effectiveness tracking approaches will be in place towards the end of 2022.</p>
Indicator 16: Number of substantial knowledge products that reflect best practices and lessons learned including project results and sustainability strategy.	0	22	42	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Indicator 16 on substantial knowledge products are on track. The key products included:</p> <p>a. Project webpage on “Managing Together” that articulate the project concept, status and programming potential in agriculture, tourism, land management. The webpages carry large number of maps and information useful for project design, management and education.</p> <p>b. 10 posters designed targeting general public and village clusters highlighting the features of trial landscapes and sector information on agriculture, tourism etc.</p> <p>c. A project brochure was developed</p> <p>d. A Radio Show in Sinhala covering project introduction,</p>

					<p>sector specific specialized knowledge on water, wildlife, forestry etc. Overall six radio programmes were conducted during the reporting period.</p> <p>e. Health of water quality in minor watersheds (uploaded)</p> <p>f. Environment management system for Mahakandarawa Cluster as an illustration</p> <p>g. A video on Malwathu Oya Basin covering key features that are useful in tourism and conservation including nature, culture and heritage aspects</p> <p>h. Series of newspaper articles on Managing Together initiated</p> <p>i. Additional communication products uploaded in the link (in the evidence uploaded)</p> <p>j. Project Logo was designed and being used in letterheads and other communications</p> <p>k. Number of publications on biodiversity assessments in village clusters – printed separately</p> <p>a. Biodiversity survey – terrestrial</p> <p>b. Biodiversity survey – coastal</p> <p>c. Biodiversity survey – marine</p> <p>l. Water quality study – power point developed</p> <p>m. 80 plus village-based proposals for livelihood development</p>
<p>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</p>	<p>Off track</p>				



Evidence uploaded:	YES
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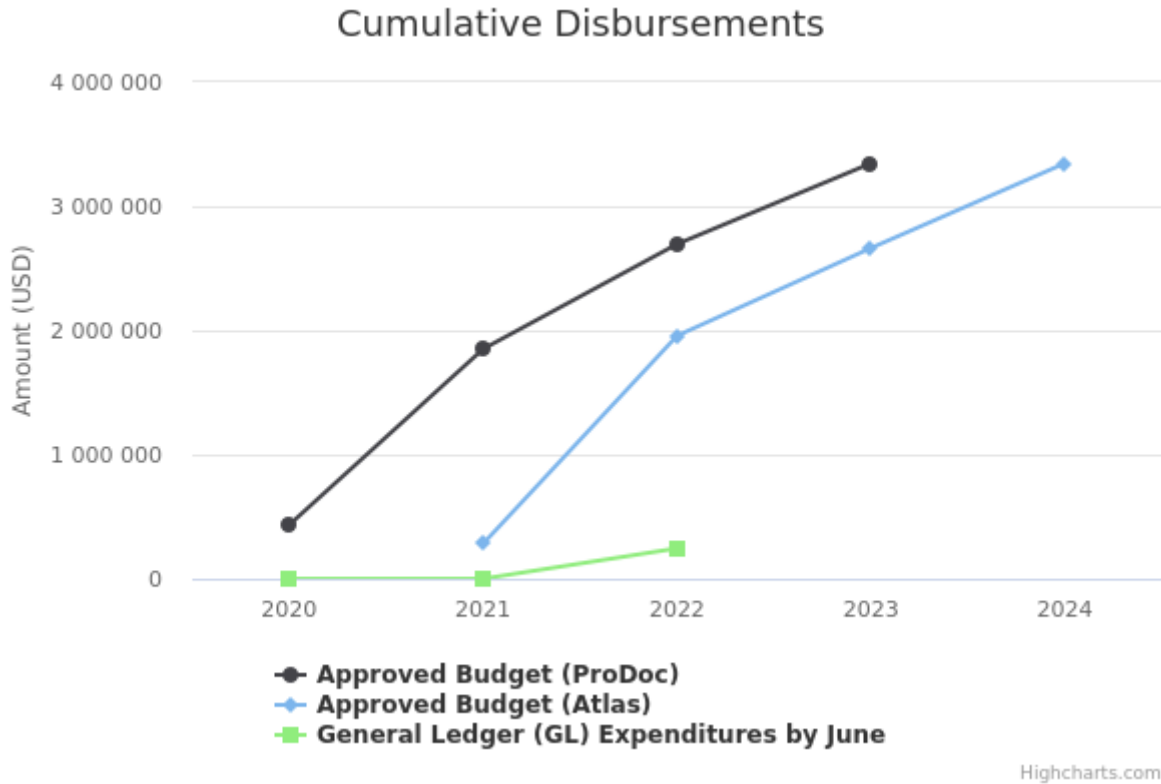
## Action plan

Off-track objective/outcome	Action(s) to be taken	Responsible party/ies	Due Date
Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearly link all project activities with the biodiversity assessments and national and provincial plans for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</li> <li>2. Immediately develop / adapt of strategic landscape development plans for each Trial Landscape</li> <li>3. Agree on an accelerated action plan in line with the Theory of Change, project goals and objectives that can be implemented within the project time period.</li> <li>4. Review the barriers for Project Management Team to achieve the objectives and identify if there are any administrative issues for such delays and address them in priority basis</li> <li>5. Clearly identify the biodiversity – agriculture-based livelihood, biodiversity- tourism and other related nexuses and identify strategic interventions to capitalize on the positive relationships and reduce/ prevent/ avoid / mitigate negative relationships</li> <li>6. Based on the MTR recommendations revisit the project implementation modalities and make corrective actions</li> </ol>	Project Director and Project Manager (IUCN)	Dec 31, 2022
Outcome 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop district and provincial level coordination mechanisms with the leadership of relevant government sector organizations, private sector and civil society organizations (To address delays related to Output 1.3).</li> </ol>	Project Director and Project Manager (IUCN)	Dec 31, 2022

	<p>2. Actively engage all relevant key stakeholders in designing, implementation and monitoring of the project activities related to drafting ministerial directives (output 1.1) and developing training modules (output 1.2)</p> <p>3. As this outcome may depend on the lessons learnt through other outcomes of the project, take actions to expedite the achievement of outcome 2, 3 and 4.</p> <p>4. Strengthen existing and already institutionalized stakeholder coordination mechanisms available in the relevant geographical areas to broaden the scope and achieve the objectives of the project</p>		
Outcome 3	<p>1. Clearly identify the biodiversity – agriculture based livelihood, biodiversity- tourism and other related nexuses and identify strategic interventions to capitalize on the positive relationships and reduce/ prevent/ avoid / mitigate negative relationships</p> <p>2. Design public information programmes to address the identified issues through the assessments and in line with the project objectives</p> <p>3. Prepare land use plans for the village clusters in line with the strategic designs of the landscape</p> <p>4. Adhere to the methodologies prescribed in the Project Document to achieve the outputs</p>	Project Director and Project Manager (IUCN)	Dec 31, 2022
Outcome 4	<p>1. Streamline all project activities based on the Theory of Change of the project and document the lessons learnt in the process of implementing actions accordingly.</p>	Project Director and Project Manager (IUCN)	Dec 31, 2022

	<p>2. Establish monitoring protocols for landscape conservation design as a priority</p> <p>3. Develop a mechanism to review the project progress for every quarter based on the monitoring framework</p>		
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## D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	7.31%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	9.08%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June:	244,675

### Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	100,000
GEF Grant Amount	3,346,708
Co-financing	29,252,222

### Key Project Dates

Project duration	48 months
PIF Approval Date	Nov 30, 2017
CEO Endorsement Date	Feb 13, 2020
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Jan 1, 2021

Date of Inception Workshop	Feb 25, 2021
First Disbursement Date	Jul 19, 2021
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Jan 1, 2023
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Oct 1, 2024
Original Planned Closing Date	Jan 1, 2025
Revised Planned Closing Date	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

**Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2021 to 1 July 2022)**

2021-07-02

2022-03-08

**Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.**

No major delays against the key project dates mentioned above

**CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance**

Once the low financial delivery of the project was predicted through the monitoring mechanisms, UNDP convened a meeting between the Senior Management of UNDP and IUCN on 18th May 2022 and agreed to expedite the delivery and achieve 100% annual financial and physical target by end of 2022. UNDP requested to expedite the hiring of all relevant project staff and supported IUCN to find suitable candidates for the Senior Technical Advisor position. Further UNDP requested to develop a procurement plan in June 2022 covering the balance of the year. Bi weekly progress review meetings have been requested with the participation of the Project Director and other key officials since May 2022. Further UNDP has requested IUCN to hire a safeguard specialist to revisit the plan and set up a safeguard monitoring system including grievance redress mechanism.

UNDP conducted a financial spot check on the financial performances of IUCN in March 2022 and found some concerns about eligibility of costs and corrective actions were proposed. Another financial spot check has been scheduled for IUCN and the Ministry of Environment in October 2022 to ensure that all transactions are being taken place in transparent and accountable way.

Once the concerns about eligibility of costs were observed through a Financial Spot Check, UNDP took actions to inform the Responsible Party to stop the practice till a final decision is taken to decide whether it's an irregularity and if so how to address it appropriately. A discussion was held between the Senior Management of the two agencies to emphasize on the importance of avoid such practices in future. UNDP CO did seek clarifications from the Technical Advisors, Management and Oversight

Specialist and other key officials on whether the practice observed was an irregularity. Once it was confirmed, now corrective actions are being taken to address the issue of eligibility of costs and ask the RP to reimburse any costs that are ineligible.

To address the low delivery of the project against physical and financial targets following actions have been taken;

- UNDP Senior Management and Climate and Environment Team of UNDP are closely monitoring the financial progress and advice how to facilitate the quality assurance processes
- Project Director is chairing regular meetings with the Project Management Team to review the progress and advice how to accelerate the project delivery
- Senior Technical Advisor is closely working with the Project Manager and the other staff on different strategies to accelerate the delivery in line with the project objectives
- All the project staff members have been recruited and guidance have been issued on the project objectives and operational mechanisms

**NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.**

My IP rating is Moderately Unsatisfactory because the project is not being managed well. Almost all the outcomes and the project objective are off-track. There have been significant delays in the recruitment of the project team and procurement processes of IUCN, who is the responsible party, are very slow. The financial spot check conducted by UNDP CO also showed irregularities in the way in which IUCN has charged an indirect cost of 9.5% in 2021 and 2022 for acting as responsible party. Additionally, the MTR preparation has not started and the likelihood of the MTR being completed in the delayed manner is high.

UNDP CO is providing closer oversight and a meeting was convened between UNDP and IUCN senior management to discuss corrective measures. A detailed Financial Delivery Plan and Procurement Plan is required of IUCN outlining how 100% delivery target for 2022 will be met. CO and IUCN will connect on bi-weekly meetings to monitor how activities are progressing and to check that work plan targets are being followed. UNDP CO is discussing how to rectify the 9.5% indirect cost charged with UNDP Management Advisory Services Team and the corrective action needed to ensure compliance with UNDP and GEF policies will be provided for IUCN to follow. A financial spot check will be undertaken again in October 2022 by the CO and MoE to make sure transactions are transparent and accountable.

To specifically address low delivery against the workplan, the Project Director is chairing regular meetings with the Project Team to review the progress and advice how to accelerate the project delivery. The Senior Technical Advisor is closely working with the Project Manager and the other staff on different strategies to accelerate the delivery in line with project objectives. All the project staff members have been recruited and guidance has been issued on the project objectives and operational mechanisms.

Following discussions with me, CO has advised IUCN to procure a safeguards expert consultant to review the SESP again, update it, develop any additional risk management plans and establish a GRM as a priority. A ToR will be developed to hire an expert and shared with me for review. To

ensure the right expert is procured with appropriate experience, a member from the UNDP safeguards team will be on the panel selection. The hiring of an expert to review the SESP should be completed as a priority so that a better risk management approach can be adopted by the project.

I have also advised the CO to start preparation for the MTR but this has not begun yet and it is likely that the MTR will be completed in a delayed manner.

## E. Project Governance

<b>Dates of Project Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.</b>
2021-07-02
2022-03-08



## F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2022 Development Objective Progress Rating	2022 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory

Role	2022 Overall Assessment
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	<p>This is the first PIR of the project 'Managing together: Integrating community-centered, ecosystem-based approaches into forestry and tourism sectors'. The PIR has been completed at a time when the country is going through political and economic instability with project team and UNDP CO staff impacted and the quality of the PIR reflects this.</p> <p>The project has been facing many challenges with all the outcomes and objective off-track except for outcome 2. The financial delivery at 7% is significantly low and there have been many delays in terms of implementation of activities planned. The project began implementation on 1 January 2021 and is approaching the mid-term stage with a MTR deadline set for 1 January 2023. As the project started, setting up the administrative structure with IUCN as the responsible party for the majority of the project's activities took considerable time and the implementation of activities was delayed. Following that, recruitment of the project team took very long and on the whole, the management of the project since then has been lacking. As noted in the CO's overall assessment, the design of the project in terms of the theory of change is not reflected in the work planning and activities planned on the ground by the project team. This raises serious concerns about the project meeting any of its mid-term targets. These issues have been flagged with the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and UNDP CO Senior Management has been discussing the challenges with IUCN Senior Management. Some of the adaptive measures that have been advised are for IUCN to develop and present a detailed revised Financial Delivery Plan and a detailed Procurement Plan to reach intended targets. The project Director is chairing regular meetings with the project team and the Senior Technical Advisor is closely working with the Project Manager and the other staff on different strategies to accelerate delivery in line with project objectives. UNDP CO is also monitoring the implementation plans and delivery more closely. However, whether the project team will successfully be able to take corrective actions and bring the project back on-track in time remains to be seen and is not necessarily a given at this stage. The project team in consultation with the PSC needs to take adaptive management actions as a priority and with urgency. The upcoming MTR assessment will be extremely important and helpful in providing an in-depth analysis of project team capacities, IUCN's role as responsible party and the major modifications that are needed in terms of strategies and implementation for the project. At present, preparation for the MTR has not started and no ToR has been shared with me for inputs. Whether the MTR will be initiated in the next couple of weeks and be able to meet the deadline is questionable. There is a strong likelihood that the MTR will be completed in a delayed manner.</p>

Thus, I agree with the CO in terms of the ratings and my rating for both progress towards Development Objectives and Implementation Progress is "Moderately Unsatisfactory" as well.

PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO) is 'Moderately Unsatisfactory'

The project's objective is to strengthen protection of globally significant biodiversity by mainstreaming conservation and sustainable practices into land use planning and sectoral decision making in forestry, agriculture and tourism sectors. There are 3 objective level indicators where only partial progress has been made and none of the baseline amounts have been defined yet. a) In terms of the area of land and marine habitat administered under a landscape conservation design, some literature review has been undertaken along with initialization of surveys in the three landscapes. The project team plans to try and complete the survey in the ocean scape before November 2022 so that the rough weather season does not impact the finalization of the surveys. Some interventions that the project may consider as a part of landscape conservation design were identified. As no concrete baseline was defined for the land or marine project landscapes till now, this objective level indicator is largely 'off track'. b) No baseline of project beneficiaries was determined in this reporting period. The number of beneficiaries was identified only partially for certain landscapes through consultations and field level assessments. In TL1 and TL2 a total of 2,385 (M:1,168 and F: 1,217) beneficiaries were identified and for T3 the work to determine beneficiaries is still being planned. c) The baseline ha of area of tropical dry forest and mangrove in the three Tls has not been accomplished. Given that the project started implementation in 1 Jan 202, baselines should have been full defined at this stage with some progress towards meeting the end of project objective level targets. Therefore, the project objective is 'off-track'. The action plan to resolve this has not clearly been outlined and the project team should have a detailed step-by-step work plan in place with exact timelines of completing the surveys for each TL. In case there is additional technical expertise or field support required this should be included as planning for procurement and local partners could be identified to enhance progress. The need for a detailed action plan has been discussed with the project team and CO but is not reflected in the PIR.

1. Outcome 1 aims to support an enabling environment to mainstream integrated approaches into natural resource management in production sectors and landscapes. This is achieved through 3 outputs and 2 indicators which have not made sufficient progress and outcome 1 is 'off track'.

A) The project team plans to hire a Senior Technical Advisor to support selection of institutions for vocational training as well as develop modules on mainstreaming biodiversity into natural resource management, tourism and other economic development. The PIR mentions that this would be achieved by July 2022 but is still noted as needing to be completed in the DO progress section. Indicator 4 is 'off track'.

B) So far, the project conducted a meeting with 26 organizations including GEF, GCF, WB and ADB which revealed willingness to undertake joint capacity building activities, monitoring and provide co-finance. No capacity

assessment scorecard was applied yet and it is also not clear capacities of which institutions will be improved. Indicator 5 is 'off track'.

2. Outcome 2 focuses on putting in place strategic design for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods to guide resource management, tourism and land use in the three TLs. There are 4 outputs and 4 indicators that are progressing slowly. Since the foundational activities for most of these indicators have been established outcome 2 is considered 'on track'.

A) Extensive spatial maps were developed in this reporting period for each of the TLs. Detailed biodiversity assessments and micro level environmental assessments were also conducted refine the information required for HCV area development. The project team also identified the 6 specific action plans that will be required for improved management that will benefit biodiversity. Some of these action plans will contribute to creating an effective monitoring system for HCV areas that has the potential to continue after the project closes. Indicator 6 is 'on track'.

B) The baseline for annual percentage of minor and major permit applications has not been determined yet. The project team determined that beyond the Coast Conservation Department the Department of Wildlife Conservation may need to be involved in this indicator as they are responsible for the extension of permitting processes. The project plans to revisit this indicator and any need for change during the MTR.

C) There was no mean score developed yet and the project plans to define this for the TL's by October 2022.

D) In terms of estimating avoided emissions, the project team identified a number of standardized carbon tools like EX-ACT that can be utilized to calculate carbon sequestration amounts due to project activities. The technical expertise that was needed to undertake the carbon calculations were also planned to into the sub-contracts that the project is putting in place. Indicator 9 is progressing.

3. Outcome 3 intends to shape sustainable livelihoods in natural resource management and tourism in the six Focal Village Clusters in three Trial Landscapes based on biodiversity conservation priorities. There are 4 outputs and 5 indicators where very little achievements have been made till now and outcome 3 is 'off track'.

A) In order to bring land in production systems under sustainable land management compatible with biodiversity conservation, the project started compiling land use maps capturing information on soil-water-climate and socio-economic data. The specific land production systems that may be compatible with biodiversity conservation were also identified. While initial assessments to determine ha of land eligible in production systems were undertaken into two village clusters (Mahakandarawa and Thanthirimale), no progress was made in terms of ha of land being brought under sustainable

land management. At this stage, the project should have made more progress and should have a quantitative indication of ha achieved towards the end of project target. Indicator 10 is 'off track'.

B) There are two coral areas in TL3 and no assessments on coral damage have started yet. In this reporting period, literature surveys and data from other projects on coral and reefs was mostly analyzed. Indicator 11 has made no progress so far.

C) The project team did not undertake any interview with focal villages on livelihoods enhanced as it is noted that this would only be possible after the ground interventions are completed. Therefore, no data on gender is available either and this indicator is affected by the delay in terms of the implementation of activities of the project. Indicator 12 is 'off track'.

D) As the work in the village clusters has not begun there was no analysis of the level of buy-in and commitment in government and community organizations. Indicator 13 has made no progress and is 'off track'.

E) No scorecard assessment was completed on improvements in policy and community readiness for sustainable tourism in the village clusters. Indicator 14 is 'off track'.

4. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, and dissemination of knowledge of project methods and results which contribute to wider application of landscape approach to mainstreaming of biodiversity, there are 5 outputs and 2 indicators where little progress has been achieved. Outcome 4 is 'off track'.

A) No baselines or targets were determined by the project for the number of villages and DSDs in which independent monitoring of project impacts is in place. This was supposed to have been achieved by the time of inception or should have at least been clarified within the 1st year of implementation. In this reporting period, the project primarily tested monitoring approaches and conducted meetings with government officials to create awareness about the project and understand capacity needs. Indicator 15 is 'off track'.

B) The project published a range of products as listed in the knowledge management and communications section of this PIR. However, as barely any progress has been made on project implementation it is difficult to categorize these products as substantially capturing lessons learned and best-practices. Therefore, indicator 16 is considered 'off track'.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS is 'Moderately Unsatisfactory'

My rating is 'Moderately Unsatisfactory' which is consistent with the CO because the project has not been implemented effectively since the beginning

and is facing numerous delays. The hiring of project staff was very slow. As seen with the DO progress many activities are also affected by the fact that sub-contracts and technical experts still need to be hired and the procurement process keeps lagging. The project did not define any of its baselines which should have been completed by now and practically all outcomes and the project objective are off-track. While COVID-19 and the political and economic insecurity that emerged in the country impacted project implementation, they are not the only reason for the project being where it is now. The political situation has, however, affected project team members at an individual level along with in the UNDP CO. Based on discussions between UNDP CO senior management and IUCN senior management, there is willingness in IUCN to take adaptive measures and accelerate delivery in a manner that it aligns with the overall results framework and theory of change and so that on-ground activities are consistent with the project's end targets. If the project team, under the advice of the PSC, takes corrective actions urgently it is possible for the project to start moving in the right direction and initiate catching up from this year. UNDP CO must also enhance its oversight and have at least bi-monthly calls to check on work plan activities. The project team has good coordination and communication with the PSC, which should meet more than twice a year under the current scenario for the project to review progress and provide advice on adjustments needed and to address challenges proactively.

The project's cumulative delivery as of 30 June 2022 is 7% which is extremely low and reflects on the lack of progress being made across the indicators. Given the remaining years (2.3 years ) left, 93% of funds are unspent. As detailed in the CO's overall assessment, MoE and IUCN delivery against the annual budget allocation is poor for 2021 and 2022 and discussions have been conducted to ensure there is planning and commitment to increase delivery to reach 100% of the annual target by the end of 2022. UNDP CO, in collaboration with PSC and senior management from both UNDP and IUCN must get together and review the Financial Delivery and Procurement Plans submitted by IUCN so that there is strong oversight and delivery is greatly accelerated. In terms of co-finance, not much has materialized apart from the government and GEF investment at this stage. Furthermore, the financial spotcheck conducted by UNDP CO in 2022 found irregularities in the way in which IUCN charged indirect costs of 9.5% in 2021 and 2022 as fees for acting as responsible party. The project has a LOA in place for IUCN to act as RP and such cost is not reflected there. This issue and the need to address this is being discussed between UNDP and IUCN so appropriate actions are implemented that ensure compliance with GEF criteria and UNDP policy. At the time of this PIR, the discussion between UNDP's Management Advisory Services Team and UNDP CO is ongoing and corrective measures are being outlined that will be required of IUCN. Another financial spotcheck is planned for October 2022 where MoE and CO will monitor and review that all transactions are being undertaken in a transparent manner and following the requirements.

The project's SESP is rated 'High' and based on discussions with me, CO has recommended IUCN to procure a safeguards expert to ensure SES policy is being followed and no risks are overlooked. At this stage, no project Grievance Redress Mechanism has been set up. IUCN has agreed to initiate the process of hiring an international safeguards expert and a ToR is being developed. CO must ensure to provide inputs to the ToR and share it with me so that it appropriately reflects the needs of the assignment. I have also recommended that one person from UNDP's safeguards team should be part of the expert

selection panel so that there is close monitoring of who is hired and high quality safeguards expertise is brought in to support the project. While IUCN has agreed to do this, not much progress has been made and the process of developing the ToR, finalizing it and advertising it has been moving very slowly. This procurement of the expert should be expedited and the SESP should also be reviewed again to assess if any risks are overlooked and if any additional risk mitigation plans are needed. This should be done as a priority this year.

As a GEN2 project, the project aims to benefit 1,600 women. Women are in 5 out of the 8 positions in the project team. In this reporting period, the project conducted some trainings with government officials that closely work with communities on how livelihoods could be strengthened. About 65 women were part of these trainings. Gender focused activities are happening in an ad hoc manner and the project does not show evidence of gender mainstreaming. I would advise that IUCN hires a gender specialist to guide the project and enhance gender responsive implementation. As the project team is still being hired this leaves scope for a gender specialist to be brought in as a core part of the team.

Not much has been achieved when it comes to knowledge management. As the project has barely made progress on the indicators, apart from a few products noted in the knowledge management section of the PIR, no best practices or lessons learned can be captured. Therefore, substantively there is little knowledge that can be disseminated. The project will need to put in place a strong knowledge management approach and a communications expert could be hired for specific publications to be published that are of high quality.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The action plan for each off-track outcome has to be fleshed out much more and a timeline for each activity that will be undertaken is needed. A detailed action plan should be developed in consultation with the project partners and the PSC following on and reflecting the ongoing discussions between UNDO CO and IUCN senior management on addressing challenges.
2. A safeguards expert and gender specialist should be procured, even as consultants, to provide the necessary support to bring the project back to meeting its objectives and to ensure UNDP and GEF policies are being met. A GRM should be established as a priority.
3. The MTR preparation should be initiated with the ToR shared with me for inputs. The MTR will provide an opportunity for the project to modify its approach and outline the corrective actions required. This is a critical milestone for the project and timeline for the MTR should be closely followed.
4. The PSC only met once even though the project is off-track. The PSC should be convened on a quarterly basis so that they can advice on addressing the implementation challenges that are being faced and provide

	<p>oversight.</p> <p>5. UNDP CO senior management and IUCN senior management must review IUCN's management as responsible party regularly. UNDP CO should undertake spotchecks consistently throughout the implementation of the project to ensure no financial irregularities occur and there is compliance with GEF and UNDP policies.</p> <p>6. Financial delivery and progress against the indicators must be accelerated significantly with adaptive actions undertaken as a priority in consultation with the PSC.</p>
<p><b>UNDP Country Office Programme Officer</b></p>	<p>The Project is experiencing considerable delays and lagging in terms of the financial and physical targets set at the beginning of the project. In terms of financial progress, the project has attained approximately 7% delivery, as per the original Annual work plan. As the mid-term evaluation is due in January 2023, the project is at risk of not achieving the targets set for the mid-term in the project document, both physically and financially. Slow progress (both physical and financial) was a key concern at the Project Board Meeting held and other key discussions held between the UNDP Senior Management and the Responsible Party - IUCN. If necessary actions are not implemented, there is a high risk of not attaining the implementation milestones. Currently, certain adaptive measures have been proposed and are being closely monitored by the IP to improve project delivery. Considering these factors both DO and the IP have assessed project performance as Moderately unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Project implementation started on 01st January 2021 and is expected to conclude by 01st January 2025. The mid-term evaluation is planned for 15th November 2022 as per the signed project document. However, the commencement of project activities was delayed due to administrative challenges in taking IUCN onboard as the responsible party. As such, most of the project activities only commenced in June 2021. Therefore, this serves as the first Project Implementation Report (PIR).</p> <p>While the project has initiated some activities as of 30th June 2022, implementation progress is lagging significantly. The main components of the project, such as setting up the baseline and beneficiary selection process, have not been completed yet. In addition, while the project has progressed in certain other activities such as cluster level integrated planning, identification of priorities related to mitigation of threats to biodiversity, and processes related to integrated livelihood support provision, these progressions demonstrate an ad-hoc nature of implementation. As a whole, the attention paid to the Theory of Change in the project design in actual implementation is weak. The delay in project implementation was also impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns that prevailed during the reporting period, and, currently, the economic crisis and related fuel, energy, and other resultant issues. There are no major achievements related to the indicators as the ground level activities have still not been initiated, and only the preparatory activities are progressing as of 30th June 2022.</p>

	<p>Serious delays in recruiting the project team also contributed to said drawbacks and implementation delays. The project team maintains a good relationship with the Project Steering Committee and regular updates were provided to the members of the PSC even though the PSC has convened only once during the reporting period.</p> <p>After the inception workshop of the project, the budget allocated for year 2021 was 401,479 USD (approx. 12% of the total budget). Of this allocation, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) was expected to deliver 12.6% and IUCN was responsible for the delivery of 87.4% of the annual target. MoE's financial delivery for year 2021 was 17% against the annual target and IUCN's financial delivery was 3% against the annual target. The budget allocated for year 2022 was 1,555,601.68 USD (approx. 46.5% of the total budget). MoE is responsible for the delivery of 13% of the budget while IUCN is responsible for the delivery of 87% of the annual budget. As of 30th June 2022, MoE has delivered 17% and IUCN has delivered 39% of the annual targets. The Ministry and IUCN have agreed to expedite delivery to reach 100% by the end of the year. IUCN has shared a Financial Delivery Plan and a detailed Procurement Plan to reach the intended targets.</p> <p>The project is encouraged to commit to the expedited implementation plan shared with UNDP to reach the immediate targets that will enable the achievement of mid-term targets by November 2022. Further, the project team is encouraged to focus on the project objective, and subsequently, plan activities in-line with the identified targets and indicators.</p> <p>Moreover, it is advisable to pay close attention to implementing and monitoring the gender action plan, and the social and environmental safeguard plans. In addition, although the project has developed some communication materials around activities, the project team is encouraged to enhance the production of knowledge products and communication materials focusing on results and best practices. Knowledge management is also considered as a key requirement as the lessons and experiences of this project should be appropriately shared with a wider stakeholder group in order to achieve project objectives.</p> <p>While the project has attempted to incorporate gender into project activities in terms of beneficiary selection, participation etc., the project has not taken adequate measures to mainstream gender as outlined in the gender action plan. Relatedly, while there has not been new social and environmental risks identified during the reporting period, a monitoring and reporting system and a grievance redressal mechanism are yet to be established. To remedy this, the project is planning to hire an international consultant to revisit the social and environmental safeguards plan, and to develop a framework for a social and environmental safeguard monitoring mechanism.</p>
<b>Project Manager/Coordinator</b>	<p>Internal Environment</p> <p>Agreement between Ministry of Environment and UNDP was signed in January 2021 and the agreement between IUCN and UNDP was signed in June. The first disbursement of project funds has been taken place on 19th July 2021. Therefore nearly 06 months period of the inaugural year consumed by administrative procedures and it impacted the implementation and delivery of the project especially to the Ministry as Implementing Agency and IUCN as the</p>



#### Responsible Party.

The project still not officially hired a Senior Technical Advisor, IUCN several times advertised the ToR and proper candidate has not been identified. Also project has not established a proper M & E system and these two major factors are the reason for some draw backs in internal control systems suppose to lead by project team to keep the project on track in line with the Theory of Change of the project. The support of UNDP as the party who responsible for quality assurance, is expected by IUCN in setting up the internal quality control measures of the project. Dedicated M & E officer is not in the design.

Management Action Plan developed by IUCN was submitted to UNDP with the objective of achieving the delivery targets of 2022. The plan is being monitored jointly by three organizations and the project team was dedicatedly allocated to achieve the targets of the plan. The project is engaged with District and divisional level government officials and community level groups to develop biodiversity mainstreamed livelihood development activities related to agriculture, forestry and tourism. Through the process hundreds of proposals for sub projects developed and the project technical support was provided to the field teams to identify and prioritize sub projects according the value chains and in line with project objective. Technical evaluations of the projects has been done using ESMS check lists and ToC, therefore no adhoc planning has been entertained by the project team.

#### External Environment

The implementation of the project was a challenge during June 2021 June to July 2022 due to Covid 19 pandemic which caused delays and restrictions for movements to the field. From April 2022, the entire country is in a huge economic crisis where the prices of the consumer items are rapidly increasing. Essential goods that are imported like fuel, food, medicine etc. are not adequately available to match with the minimum requirements of the people. Therefore within this external environment, the project team comprising Ministry of Environment and IUCN were able to achieve good progress. Due to the operation models adopted to on line methods, it is observed the resources allocated for planned items like trainings, awareness and field visits were fairly under utilized.

#### Evidences on implementation

Evidence have been submitted for the indicators such as 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11,15 and 16. Conducting biodiversity surveys - coastal, terrestrial and marine, watershed health status of Malwathu Oya which is the flagship river in the project area, developing concepts to engage communities and officials on participatory land use planning, high level engagement with the stakeholders to identify opportunities in the sectors like Forestry, Agriculture and Tourism, capacity building trainings for village level government officials on developing conservation projects which generate more livelihood opportunities to the men and women in the project area, collection of literature and preparing spatial maps for effective decision making are the key process in the reporting year, all the required evidence have been uploaded.

<b>GEF Operational Focal point</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Project Implementing Partner</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Other Partners</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

## G. Minor Amendments

<b>A) Results Framework</b>
Yes
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to the 'Results framework'</b>
Uploaded Results Framework with minor amendments proposed at the project inception workshop.
<b>B) Components and cost</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Components and cost'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>C) Institutional and implementation arrangements</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Institutional and implementation arrangements'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>D) Financial management</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Financial Management'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>E) Implementation schedule</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Implementation schedule'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>F) Executing Entity</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>G) Executing Entity Category</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity Category'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>H) Minor project objective change</b>

No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'minor project objective change'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>I) Safeguards</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Safeguards'</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>J) Risk Analysis</b>
Yes
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Risk Analysis'</b>
A new risk emerged in this reporting period which is the political and economic insecurity in Sri Lanka.
<b>K) Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change to GEF project financing up to 5%</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>L) Co-financing</b>
Yes
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing'</b>
Since many lands of the government will be released to communities especially as farmlands and establish processing centres and tourist attractions, will be considered as part of the GoSL co-finance.
<b>M) Location of project activity</b>
No
<b>Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Other</b>
No
<b>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.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Upload any supporting documentation related to responses in this section.</b>

*(not set or not applicable)*

## H. 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.**

[Gender Action Plan update with case studies.docx](#)

#### Atlas 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 project is aiming to reach 3,200 beneficiaries (50% male and 50% female) through the biodiversity friendly livelihoods and related capacity building, at the community level. In addition, the project will work with several Govt. entities, NGOs and Corporates benefitting directly and indirectly through the project coordination, knowledge and partnership approaches.

Following are the initiatives taken during the reporting period:

- Project has trained government officers who closely work with the communities to identify potential interventions. So far nearly 130 public staff trained. Female beneficiaries were 50% or more in these trainings. These trained Govt. officers, mostly attached to Divisional Secretariats, after the training worked with community groups and developed about 80 concepts on how the livelihood options will be strengthened while ensuring the conservation of critical eco systems and the biodiversity.

- The project has developed the criteria for beneficiary selection and higher marks are allocated to women and family headed women to be entitled to receive the project assistance; monetary and non-monetary support

- Project will focus on diversifying livelihoods to minimize the family income dependency on natural resources. For example, fishing. The additional income sources will be created mainly focusing women and youth
- Project management team includes 4 female staff out of total 8 staff ensuring gender-based decisions in a more balanced manner.

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

In the 2023 work plan the following gender focused interventions will be advanced to provide the maximum benefits,

- Identifying women entrepreneurs and recognizing their work
- Utilizing more than 50% of women in labor that will contribute to conservation activities
- Utilizing more than 50 % of women to be engaged in home gardens development (500 home gardens are planned so far)
- Create 50% of job opportunities within the enterprise development sector that will be supported by the project in 2023.

## I. Risk Management

### A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

<b>CO Programme Officer: Has the Atlas Risk Register been updated during this reporting period?</b>
Yes
<b>NCE RTA:</b>
Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in Risk Register and risks included in the project's risk tab in PIMS+ ) undertaken in the reporting period and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project's risk tab in PIMS+.
<p>COVID-19 is not noted as a significant risk for the project although the lockdowns impacted the project team. A new risk incurred in this reporting period was the political and economic insecurity that emerged in Sri Lanka. This is causing challenges for project staff in terms of connectivity issues and high cost of living. The higher fuel costs also imply more costs for the project to undertake field activities and travel for meetings, etc. The team has been navigating through this situation by using online platforms and keeping connected with officials in the government and plans to continue to use this approach.</p> <p>As the SESP is rated high and no GRM has been established yet the CO has sought my advice and recommended that a safeguards expert consultant should be hired by IUCN. A ToR will be developed and advertised by IUCN. It will also be circulated through UNDP channels so that an expert with appropriate expertise can be procured. As part of the ToR, the SESP will be reviewed again to ensure no risks are being overlooked, it will be updated and any additional risk management plans that are needed will be developed. A member from the UNDP safeguards team will be a part of the selection panel to ensure there is compliance with UNDP and GEF criteria.</p> <p>Overall, the approach has been for UNDP CO to monitor the risks and update the risk logs. The Project Director, Senior Technical Advisor and the Project Manager are informed about identified risks and asked to address the risks as a priority. The Senior Technical Advisor is also monitoring the potential risks and discusses them with UNDP, Project Director and the PM. A better risk management approach is required and the review of the SESP with an expert will be critical in achieving this. A safeguards expert should be hired without delay. The GRM needs to be established as a priority.</p>

### B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

<b>For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.</b>
If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file below.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting</b>



<b>period?</b>
Yes
<b>If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.</b>
<p>Though the project has not identified significant social and environmental risks during the reporting period, the prevailing political and economic instability of the country will continue for few years or at least few months. However the external environment has created opportunities to the project to work with the government, stakeholders and the communities. Due to the economic impact for the key sectors like Agriculture, Tourism and Conservation activities, the project can play a significant role through the material and technical support to communities to enhance their livelihoods, income and living standards through engaging with the project.</p> <p>The fuel costs have one up by about 150% during the first six months of 2022 in SL Rupee terms which will impact the participation of Govt. officials in meeting etc. Therefore the project is optimizing the use of on line discussions with the key government agencies an stakeholders in all appropriate cases. The project costs will also increase but expected to be balanced by the currency gains due to SL Rupee depreciation. However, with escalating cost of living, retention of project staff in the field would be a challenge and need to be addressed via a dedicated mechanism, if needed.</p>
<b>2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks become more severe and/or has the project's SESP categorization changed during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to substantial/high.</b>
No
<b>If any existing social and/or environmental risks have become more severe and/or if the project's SESP categorization has changed during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it. Note that any change to the project's SESP categorization should be confirmed by the Project Board and by the NCE PTA (and potentially cleared by the NCE safeguards team).</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>3) Have any social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared or updated, and/or has the SESP been updated in the reporting period, as required? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.</b>
No
<b>If yes, please upload the document(s) above using the FILE LIBRARY button. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential ) during the reporting period?</b>
No
<b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status,</b>

<b>significance, who was involved and what action was taken.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>5) Is this project on track with the preparation and/or implementation of all safeguards measures required for compliance with the UNDP SES?</b>
Yes
<b>If no, please explain:</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

## J. Knowledge Management & Communications

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

<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>Indicator 16: Number of substantial knowledge products that reflect best practices and lessons learned including project results and sustainability strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project web site was developed and launched</li> <li>• Recruitment of the Learning and Communications Officer is completed. He will join the team in the end July 2022.</li> <li>• A standard project introduction power point presentation developed</li> <li>• A radio Programme called &amp;quot;Mihithalaya&amp;quot; (Earth) was designed to reach the masses And this is a multiple episode programme that discusses project concepts by several resource persons. # programmes have been already broadcasted.</li> <li>• Project Logo was designed and being used</li> <li>• Biodiversity survey – terrestrial – power point developed</li> <li>• Biodiversity survey – coastal – power point developed</li> <li>• Biodiversity survey – marine – power point developed</li> <li>• Water quality study – power point developed</li> <li>• 80 plus village-based proposals for livelihood development</li> <li>• 10 posters designed</li> <li>• A project brochure was also developed</li> </ul>
<p><b>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.)</b></p>
<p><a href="https://managing-together.lk/">https://managing-together.lk/</a></p>
<p><b>3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.</b></p>
<p><a href="#">IMG_4912.JPG</a>  <a href="#">IMG_4918.JPG</a>  <a href="#">IMG_4927.JPG</a></p>

## K. Stakeholder Engagement

**(A) 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.**

**(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.**

**(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.**

Status and the progress of the stakeholder engagements:

Government: All key government organizations are represented at the project board where the key decisions are being taken. There were 02 project board meetings conducted during the reporting period. The key agencies in the Anuradhapura and Mannar districts had been consulted before the ground level implementation started. The field technical teams and project staff are coordinating with the government institutes in implementing the project activities and the national level government projects are also take part in planning sessions and progress meetings. for example the Multisector services project of the Irrigation Department which is being implemented in the trial landscape 2 is closely working with the project.

Civil society: Farmer associations, fishery associations, women associations etc. are very active in the project area. The project just started working with them on ground level and expected more contributions and participation in the coming year.

Private sector: they engage in the project to play different roles. As the suppliers goods and services to the project including technical solutions for agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors, as the buyers of the community products in the future etc. Project has initiated discussions with several stakeholders like Cargills super market to engage as a potential buyer of green and organic products, Milco to engage as a potential partner for joint investments in the dairy sector and many more.

## L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

### Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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