



## UNDP's TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT ON:

*Cambodian Environmental Management Information System  
Sustainable financing  
Monitoring and Evaluation of project activities*

To support the implementation of the  
**CAMBODIA SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE AND ECOTOURISM PROJECT**  
(World Bank's IDA Credit No. 6433-KH; Reference No. MOE-CS-16-SSS-CSLEP)

### 2021 Annual Report

**Project ID & Title:** 00118412; Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project (CSLEP)

**Output ID:** 00115244

**Duration:** 2021-2025

**Total Budget:** US\$ 1,367,596

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP

**Country Programme Outcome:** By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular those marginalized and vulnerable, live in a safe, healthy, secure and ecologically balanced environment with improved livelihoods, and are resilient to natural, socio-economic and climate change related trends and shocks.

Table of Contents

I. Executive summary ..... 2
II. Implementation progress ..... 3
III. Project implementation challenges or other issues for consideration ..... 5
IV. Financial status and utilization..... 5
V. Annexes..... 6

I. Executive summary

Project implementation started in Q3. The inception activities included consultations between UNDP and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to discuss and agree on activities and approaches, as well as the recruitment of staff and consultants/contractor to support project implementation.

Results and progress under each component of the technical assistance are included below.

1. Data/information management

- Inception report prepared for CEMIS/ISDS deliveries outlining various aspects of the CEMIS/ISDS components including a detail risk analysis and workplan
• Procurement list for CEMIS/ISDS network and infrastructure prepared in close consultation with DGIS (MoE) and PIU (CSLEP).
• Consultation event held between the key development partners and CEMIS/ISDS team (DGIS-MoE, UNDP, Arbonaut and Slash IT) to discuss the CEMIS/ISDS concept, design elements, and scope for collaboration.

2. Sustainable financing

- Review of 1) existing revenues and gaps for financing protected areas and 2) existing economic valuation studies for CSLEP ecosystems completed.

3. Monitoring and evaluation

- Tracking Tool developed to streamline the reporting process for the CSLEP project, ensuring that information on progress is provided in a timely, coherent, and consistent manner.
• Stocktaking report (2021 annual progress report) was prepared.
• Planning meetings conducted with individual project components to draft the 2022 work plan to ensure that the clear achievable targets are clearly set and that the sequence of the activities plan, social and environmental safeguards, gender mainstreaming plus clear timeline are well sought to the extent possible prior to the workshop.

## II. Implementation progress

<b>Output 1: Technical input and advice and other required support for the development of a robust Information Systems and Decision Support as part of the “Cambodian Environmental Management Information System” (CEMIS).</b>			
<b>Output Indicators</b>	<i>Baseline (July 2021)</i>	<i>Target (Dec. 2021)</i>	<i>Current status (Dec. 2021)</i>
Extent of progress in for the development of a robust Information Systems and Decision Support as part of the “Cambodian Environmental Management Information System” (CEMIS).	1= Limited extent: initial function of CEMIS	2= Moderate extent: DGIS team conducted an inventory of existing spatial data to be used in ISDS and developed an open-source platform.	Delivery <i>in line with</i> plan
<b>Narrative</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Procurement list prepared and finalized for establishing a CEMIS/ISDS infrastructure:</b> In consultation with the Department of Geographic Information System (DGIS) at MOE and Slash IT, a detailed procurement list has been prepared and shared with PIU of CSLEP. The entire procurement list is divided into five components: general network hardware requirements, EMIS server application hosting, workstations and other related equipment, geospatial and field equipment, and software licenses. The list was reviewed and commented on by the PIU. During discussions with DGIS, the technical team (UNDP and Slash IT) had identified some areas where necessary improvements are needed for a fully functional CEMIS/ISDS: improve capacities on remote sensing and GIS analysis, management of CEMIS, cloud based CEMIS server, data access and/or data sharing across stakeholders are the critical areas where further actions or careful consideration are needed for CEMIS to function at its full-scale.</li> <li>• <b>CEMIS/ISDS Inception report:</b> After addressing the feedback from UNDP and DGIS, a revised version of the inception report has been prepared by Arbonaut. The current version is undergoing the stakeholder consultation process. Feedback received through the consultation process will then be consolidated to prepare a list of suggested changes. The inception report will be updated and finalized based on the list. However, given the agile principle of the CEMIS/ISDS design and deliveries, the inception report has been kept live and will be updated or changed as required.</li> <li>• <b>Stakeholder consultation:</b> The first virtual consultation event with the primary development partners had been organized on 22nd December 2021 to introduce the CEMIS/ISDS concept, outline various geospatial systems and platforms developed by various development partners in Cambodia, and identify practical options for an active collaboration among stakeholders to support CEMIS/ISDS development and operations. DGIS (MoE) hosted the event and was attended by 20 individuals from different development agencies such as JICA, FAO, USAID (GPL), WCS, CI, SERVIR Mekong, SilvaCarbon, Flora and Fauna International, UNDP. The CEMIS/ISDS technical team (UNDP/Arbonaut/Slash IT) and MoE are committed to continue to consult stakeholders on a regular basis to discuss various technical, operational and administrative elements of the CEMIS/ISDS component.</li> </ul>			
<b>Key activities in 2022</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release CEMIS beta version for testing.</li> <li>• Under the ISDS, develop and test various decision support systems for Protected Areas Zoning in consultation with various stakeholders.</li> <li>• Prepare a guideline document on data sharing in consultation with stakeholders.</li> </ul>			

<b>Output 2: Technical input and advice and other required support for the design of sustainable financing mechanisms</b>			
<b>Output Indicators</b>	<i>Baseline (July 2021)</i>	<i>Target (Dec. 2021)</i>	<i>Current status (Dec. 2021)</i>
Level of technical input/advice and other required support for the design of sustainable financing mechanisms effectiveness	1= Limited effective: initial assessment and analysis	2= Moderate effective: examined existing revenue sources and gaps for protected area management and reviewed options for sustainable finance	Delivery <i>in line with</i> plan

		mechanism.	
<b>Narrative</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build the foundations for this component, two reports were prepared and presented to MoE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examination of existing revenue streams and gaps for sustainable financing of Cambodia’s protected areas.</li> <li>Review of existing economic valuation studies on specific ecosystems in CSLEP and identification of key ecosystems to be targeted under sustainable financing options.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Building on these reports, UNDP and MoE started the process to prioritize the sustainable financing mechanisms that will be operationalized by the CSLEP.</li> </ul>			
<b>Key activities in 2022</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete prioritization of sustainable financing options.</li> <li>Review financing mechanisms and identify necessary regulatory and financial measures to implement prioritized financing options.</li> <li>Provide a set of preliminary action steps for priority sustainable finance mechanisms identified.</li> <li>Support the design and operationalization of the prioritized sustainable financing options (roadmaps, operational and technical guidelines etc.) – this will be continued in 2023.</li> </ul>			

<b>Output 3: Technical input and advice and other required support for effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) of project activities</b>			
<b>Output Indicators</b>	<i>Baseline (July 2021)</i>	<i>Target (Dec. 2021)</i>	<i>Current status (Dec. 2021)</i>
Level of technical input/advice and other required support for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) effectiveness	1= Limited effective: initial M&E functioning	2= Moderate effective: Developed annual, semi-annual and quarterly work plans, M&E and communication plans. Supported designing and completion of baseline survey questions and data collection, entry and analysis.	Delivery <i>in line with</i> plan
<b>Narrative</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A “tracking tool” was developed in collaboration with the PIU to streamline the reporting process for the CSLEP project, ensuring that information on progress is provided in a timely, coherent and consistent manner. The tracking tools aims to improve the quality and timeliness of project progress reports, easily track if the expected outputs are being achieved within the agreed timelines, receive information on challenges or other project management issues that require immediate attention and enhance communication among different stakeholders.</li> <li>Building on this tool, coordination and technical support was provided to PIU to collect, assess, and record and take stock the key achievement made by the project to determine the status which will be served as a bases to set the target for 2022 annual workplan and budget (AWPB). This was done through series of coordination meetings with both the PIU and subcomponents. As a result, the draft stocktaking report (2021 annual progress report) was prepared, as well as the draft 2022 AWPB with achievable targets, sequencing of the activities plan, integration of social and environmental safeguards and gender mainstreaming with clear timeline. These documents were inputs to the annual project reporting and planning workshop.</li> </ul>			
<b>Key activities in 2022</b>			
<p>Coordinate and support PIU for effective M&amp;E of project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support quarterly/monthly planning and progress review meeting</li> <li>Support refinement of data collection methods and filling for M&amp;E</li> <li>Support designing survey method/question and coordinate annual project beneficiaries’ satisfaction assessment</li> <li>Support regular monitoring and reporting of project progress including project bottlenecks as well as compliance issues.</li> </ul>			

### III. Project implementation challenges or other issues for consideration

**Data/information management component**

- Operational management of CEMIS:
  - DGIS currently has limited capacity on remote sensing, GIS and database management. Adequate human resources and capacity building opportunities should be provided to ensure the maintenance and long-term sustainability of the entire system.
  - A decision of the CEMIS hosting either on a physical server or on cloud system is necessary before official release. A cloud-based system will allow better efficiency of the system while physical service might be slower and higher complication in system maintenance.
  - The procurement process of the IT and Network System equipment needs special care to fast-track the process.
- Stakeholder engagement:
  - Majority of CEMIS/ISDS activities are focused on communication and engagement by the stakeholders, including government agencies. This is a time intensive process and so it requires timely planning of activities.
  - Engagement of the government agencies other than MoE has been limited. Effective strategic planning and actions are needed to ensure that government agencies are fully engaged.
  - Accessibility of data within the MoE and from other stakeholders is limited. Currently the CEMIS/ISDS is using the data available on Open Development Cambodia which could be useful at testing phase but before making the CEMIS/ISDS fully operational, data from various stakeholders are necessary.

**Sustainable financing component**

- It is key to integrate this work under the CSLEP with other initiatives on sustainable financing implemented by the Ministry to achieve more impact.
- There is the need to ensure that knowledge transfer is carried out effectively under this work. There is already a plan to form a group of MoE staff across various directorates (to be later expanded to other relevant stakeholders) to benefit from knowledge transfer sessions.
- To ensure success, it will be key for MoE to collaborate with relevant RCG agencies and other stakeholders in the operationalization of sustainable financing options.

**Monitoring and evaluation component**

- Empowerment on the ground (strengthening the provincial team, budget allocation etc.) is needed to keep implementation moving and have a stronger engagement of local stakeholders, in particular those affected by the project.
- Various tools were introduced in 2021 to improve project management and monitoring. In 2022, under the leadership of the Project Director and Project Manager, it is key that these tools are properly used by the project team at all levels.

### IV. Financial status and utilization

**Table 1: Contribution Overview**

Donor Name	Contributions		Outstanding contribution
	Committed	Received	
MOE-WB-00084	1,154,896.00	129,551.50	1,025,344.50
UNDP-00012	325,134.00	77,652.93	247,481.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,480,030.00</b>	<b>207,204.43</b>	<b>1,272,825.57</b>

**Table 2: Cumulative Expenditure by Outputs for year 2021 (as of 31 December 2021)**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Expenditure 2021</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Delivery</b>
<b>Output 1:</b> Technical input and advice and other required support for the development of a robust Information Systems and Decision Support as part of the “Cambodian Environmental Management Information System” (CEMIS).	123,803.21	123,804.11	(0.90)	100%
<b>Output 2:</b> Technical input and advice and other required support for the design of sustainable financing mechanisms	44,009.00	33,509.00	10,500.00	76%
<b>Output 3:</b> Technical input and advice and other required support for effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of project activities	16,237.20	13,055.49	3,181.62	80%
<b>Project Management</b>	22,134.00	15,022.38	7,111.62	68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>206,183.41</b>	<b>185,390.98</b>	<b>20,792.44</b>	<b>90%</b>

## V. Annexes

The documents/reports mentioned in this report are attached separately.