



## 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)

### **Semi-Annual Progress Report (January-June 2022)**

**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..... 6
V. Annexes..... 6

I. Executive summary

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

1. Data/information management

- Procurement list for IT/network for CEMIS finalized; procurement started.
• New beta platform of the CEMIS developed.
• Structure of Decision Support System (DSS) under the ISDS component for PA zoning extensively discussed with various stakeholders.
• Essential Life Support Areas (ELSA) map for 2021 finalized.

2. Sustainable financing

- Prioritization of sustainable financing options for operationalization completed.
• Assessment of the most appropriate mechanisms for revenue management derived from these sustainable financing options carried out, including recommendations for improvement.
• Roadmap for operationalization of prioritized sustainable financing options under development.

3. Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) baseline reports prepared.
• Project Beneficiaries Satisfaction Survey designed and pre-tested.
• Support to M&E progress reports provided.
• Support to M&E data collection provided.

## 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>	<b>Baseline (July 2021)</b>	<b>Target (Dec. 2022)</b>	<b>Current status (Jun. 2022)</b>
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A beta-version of CEMIS platform developed</li> <li>• Procurement completed and IT/Network System is installed</li> <li>• Agreement on three-tier models/products for ISDS system on Protected Area Zoning</li> </ul>	Delivery <i>in line with</i> plan
<b>Narrative</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national consultation event on CEMIS Inception was conducted at Independence Hotel in Sihanoukville. The event was attended by more than 130 participants, including participants from various development partners, Government ministries, and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• A procurement list on IT/Network has been developed through consultation with PIU, World Bank and Procurement Unit. The final approved procurement list on IT/Network had been published for invitation to bid on 28 June 2022.</li> <li>• Two missions from “Oy Arbonaut Ltd” were conducted, one in January and one in May. The first mission was focused on management issues of the CEMIS/ISDS technical support services. The second mission in May covered aspects of various design elements of the CEMIS beta platform and investigated existing database infrastructure at provincial-level. Various stakeholders and field officials were consulted during the two-week long mission.</li> <li>• A new CEMIS beta platform has been developed and currently under internal revision by DGIS and UNDP. As of June 2022, the platform hosts 56 geo-spatial layers, both in vector and raster format.</li> <li>• The Decision Support System (DSS) under the ISDS component for PA zoning has been extensively discussed with various stakeholders. Various zoning practices (methods and guidance) have been reviewed to develop a general understanding on the complexities and lessons learned through the various zoning practices.</li> <li>• In consultation with various stakeholders, key resource personnel, and DGIS, it was agreed that the DSS on PA-zoning should be three tier-level products depending on the resource availability, human resource capacity, available secondary datasets, and time. Tier 1 output will be basic level zoning product, tier-2 will be intermediate, and the best quality zoning map is expected through using the tier-3 protocol.</li> <li>• The Cambodia ELSA map 2021 has been finalized which will be made available for stakeholders through the CEMIS platform. A discussion is underway to develop a special connector for CEMIS which will allow CEMIS users to get direct access to the United National Biodiversity Lab (UNBL) (UN-led collaborative global platform). The UNBL is currently hosting 400+ geospatial layers on nature and biodiversity and allows it to conduct various spatial analyses. This connection will benefit CEMIS users to conduct additional analysis, resource access, and create new layers.</li> </ul>			
<b>Key activities in Q3-Q4 of 2022</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least two stakeholders’ consultation events to share work progress under the CEMIS/ISDS component of CSLEP.</li> <li>• Organize a knowledge exchange event with Papua New Guinea and Uganda on developing and operationalizing a similar national-led geospatial platform and decision support system.</li> <li>• Review and update the CEMIS beta platform</li> <li>• Organize a two-week mission sometime in September/October (TBD) by the DSS-expert from Oy Arbonaut Ltd. has been planned. This mission will focus on selecting various design elements of the three Tier models on PA zoning.</li> <li>• Develop a protocol for data sharing for CEMIS/ISDS platform.</li> <li>• Develop 2023 AWPB in consultation with relevant partners.</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. 2022)</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: A set of preliminary action steps (roadmap) for priority sustainable finance mechanisms identified	Delivery <i>in line with</i> plan
<b>Narrative</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building on the two studies carried out in 2021 (<i>1. Examination of existing revenue streams and gaps for sustainable financing of Cambodia’s protected areas; 2. Review of existing economic valuation studies on specific ecosystems in CSLEP</i>), UNDP and MoE carried out an exercise to prioritize the sustainable financing mechanisms that will be operationalized by the CSLEP. This was the result of desk review, stakeholder survey and various stakeholder consultations: technical meeting with MoE on 15 March with 39 participants (6 female); meeting with ESF Secretariat; meeting with MEF; multi-stakeholder consultation meeting on 01 April 2022 with 85 participants (14 female). As a result of this process, the following sustainable financing solutions were prioritized: REDD+, PES, ecotourism and blended finance.</li> <li>As next step, UNDP conducted an analysis to define the most appropriate mechanisms for revenue management derived from these sustainable financing options. An example of mechanism is the Environment and Social Fund. Through this work, UNDP prepared different scenarios, assessed strengths and weaknesses of different options, and provided recommendations for improving these domestic vehicles to make them fit for purpose. It is indeed critical to have in place one or more revenue management mechanisms that are solid enough to effectively support the implementation of Cambodia’s environmental reforms. At the end of June, the draft report was ready and reviewed by a lawyer to give a legal opinion on the recommendations provided in the report.</li> </ul>			
<b>Key activities in Q3-Q4 of 2022</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop roadmap with a set of preliminary action steps (roadmap) for priority sustainable finance mechanisms identified.</li> <li>Carry out an extensive stakeholder consultation process to review (and eventually adopt) the roadmap to ensure ownership and buy-in.</li> <li>Develop 2023 AWPB in consultation with relevant key stakeholders.</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. 2022)</i>	<i>Current status (June 2022)</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: A set of project M&E requirements including METT, projects beneficiaries’ satisfaction, job creation indicators and reporting drafted.	Delivery <i>in line with</i> plan
<b>Narrative</b>			
<p><b>Monitoring Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT):</b> Building on the METT baseline assessment and the METT workshop to present and discuss the results of the baseline survey on PA monitoring effectiveness tracking tools (METT) conducted in end December last year, coordination and technical support was provided to prepare the METT baseline reports. The draft METT baseline reports for seven of the total fourteen Protected Areas assessed were prepared for stakeholder’s review. Currently, coordination and discussion are ongoing with M&amp;E Team and project national M&amp;E consultant to prepare planning to conduct mid-term METT assessment prior the project mid-term review in 2023.</p> <p><b>Project Beneficiaries Satisfaction Survey:</b> Coordination and technical support was provided to prepare the CSLEP Project Beneficiaries’ Satisfaction Survey with CSLEP M&amp;E National Consultant, the CRCC M&amp;E Consulting Firm consultant and WBTT. Pre-testing of the draft survey questionnaires was conducted and feedbacks incorporated into the final draft of the survey questionnaires. As a next step, UNDP will continue to provide coordination and</p>			

technical support to M&E team and national M&E consultant to plan and roll out survey in the project target sites and supported activities.

**Jobs Creation Survey:** Coordination and technical support was provided to develop project job creation indicators and designing survey methodology and questionnaires. Currently, the first draft of the job creation indicators and survey methodology and questionnaires was prepared, and comments and inputs has been provided by the WBTT. UNDP will incorporate the comments and inputs from the WBTT team in the final draft and will coordinate and provide technical support to the project M&E team and national consultant to initiate baseline data collection.

**M&E Progress Report:** Coordination and technical support was provided to PIU to address the feedbacks and comments from the WBTT on the 2021 progress report. Majority of the comments and feedbacks were related to the compliance to the WB safeguards instruments and procedures of the project activities implementation. The draft feedbacks and comments were developed for PIU. This was done through series of meetings with the project M&E team and national consultant, Project Coordinator and Safeguards National Consultant. Data collection and supporting documentations were also collected as a justification supporting documents to be attached with the progress report as required by the WBTT.

**M&E Data Collection:** Coordination and technical support was provided to PIU and M&E team to continue to regularly collect, assess and record data and supporting documentations on project implementation progress, using the M&E tracking tools. Data and supporting documents collected were analyzed and consolidated and used as a basis for regular monitoring and follow up implementation as well as for preparing monthly, quarterly, semester and subsequently the annual progress reports. Monthly, quarterly and first semester consolidated M&E progress report drafted and submitted to PIU. In addition, to ensure proper and effective data filing and management, in close consultation with PIU, a data filling system was also structured and submitted to PIU which will be used to incorporate into the project online data storing and sharing system being developed with the support from Softline company currently under the contract with PIU.

#### Key activities in Q3-Q4 of 2022

Coordinate and support PIU for effective M&E of project activities:

- Support finalizing METT baseline survey reports and mid-term METT assessment
- Support rolls out project Beneficiaries' satisfaction survey
- Support finalization of project job creation indicators and designing of survey methodology and questionnaires
- Support regular monitoring and reporting of project progress including project bottlenecks as well as compliance issues.
- Support regular planning, progress review meeting, project steering committee meeting, and preparation for project mid-term review as required by PIU.
- Support M&E team to develop M&E 2023 AWPB

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

#### Data/information management component

- Procurement process supposed to be completed by Quarter 1 of 2022, still under process of finalization.
- Limited data sharing; CEMIS issues are cross-sectoral and cover various ministries.
- Need for Administrator/Manager for CEMIS IT/Network.
- Trade-offs between Cloud vs Local Server for the CEMIS-ISDS.

#### Sustainable financing component

- Lengthy process to engage critical stakeholders and receive feedback.

#### Monitoring and evaluation component

- Some of the planned activities at local level were changed and/or delayed because the organization highly depends on the national level team in the PIU in Phnom Penh. The nature and the focus of project requires intensive facilitation and multi stakeholder engagement efforts

at the local level (local community, indigenous people, CSOs, NGOs etc.) to ensure effective and long-term sustainability management. There is a need to find out a way to enhance and empower the project teams on the ground (facilitate the process on a timely manner, strengthening and delegating tasks including budget allocation to provincial team etc.) to avoid further delay.

- The CSLEP has certain expectations regarding private sector engagement in the NTFPs value chains and environmentally friendly livelihoods development activities, however the currently planned activities may not be able to reach those expectations given the small-scale size of the priority areas identified by the project team in the situation assessment stage.
- Many of the planned M&E assessments including METT, satisfaction, job creation etc. have been carried out by the PIU through the M&E team, but a third-party view/assessment may be required to ensure transparency and more independent feedback on reality on the ground.

#### IV. Financial status and utilization

**Table 1: Contribution Overview**

Donor Name	Contributions		Outstanding contribution
	Committed	Received	
MOE-WB-00084	1,154,896.00	493,106.50	661,789.50
UNDP-00012	318,032.38	118,532.38	199,500.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,472,928.38</b>	<b>611,638.88</b>	<b>861,289.50</b>

**Table 2: Additional UNDP co-financing**

Donor Name	Contributions		Outstanding contribution
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	418,316.29	247,726.05	170,590.24

**Table 3: Cumulative Expenditure by Outputs for year 2022 (as of 30 June 2022)**

Outputs	Budget 2022	Expenditure 30 June 2022	Balance	Delivery
<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).	419,117.74	131,732.34	287,385.40	31%
<b>Output 2:</b> Technical input and advice and other required support for the design of sustainable financing mechanisms	117,070.28	28,756.10	90,314.18	23%
<b>Output 3:</b> Technical input and advice and other required support for effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of project activities	64,373.40	32,910.05	31,463.36	51%
<b>Project Management</b>	46,000.00	14,388.69	31,611.31	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>646,561.42</b>	<b>205,787.17</b>	<b>440,774.24</b>	<b>32%</b>

#### V. Annexes

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