



SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2016

GENERATING, ACCESSING AND USING INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS



Photos: First and Second Board Meetings

01 January – 31 December 2016

Project ID & Title:	00092117
Award ID:	00083830
Duration:	3 Years
Total Budget:	US\$ 2,280,117.00
Implementing Partner:	GSSD/Ministry of Environment

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I. Executive Summary

All planned activities for 2016 were carried out, aiming at realization of the project outputs as stated in the Project Document. The significant achievements are as follows:

- * Two start-up consultants were recruited and as a result, inception workshop and report were conducted and produced, respectively;
- * The first and second board meetings were held to view and approve the project implementation and work plans;
- * Four trainings/workshops were conducted with an objective to build the capacity of the concerned individuals on biodiversity and land degradation;
- * Series of meetings were held between project management teams, the focal points and UNDP representatives to jointly implement the project;
- * Technical project consultants were recruited to help the focal points in conduction of their respective assignments; and
- * COP of UNFCCC and COP of UNCBD were attended;

Although such achievements were reached, there were some challenges facing in the project implementation.

II. Implementation Progress

Progress Towards Project Outputs

Most of the activities carried out within the first 3 quarters, 2016 were the project preparation for project operation. These activities include but are not limited to recruitment of PMU support staff members, local and international start-up consultants, facilitation and coordination of their assignments with the focal points of each Rio convention, discussions and feedback of the draft inception report, conduction of inception workshops, development and finalization of the Inception Report, and recruitment of the technical project consultant, namely Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Expert and Capacity Development Advisor (CDA).

In addition, the project got involved with and/or funded activities under the requests made by the focal points with an aim to disseminate the concepts, convention texts, related protocols, and COP-related experience for the concerned stakeholders, especially the youths. Such workshops/training sessions are “Youth and Biodiversity”, and “Training Workshops on Implementation of the UNCCD and UN-CBD.” Moreover, the project financially contributed to the organizations of International Day of Biodiversity held in May and World UNCCD Day held in June to promote the involvement and participation of the local people in the UN-CBD- and UNCCD-related activities for biodiversity, natural resources and land degradation combating, part of the international efforts and commitment for environment.

During this report writing, the national project director attended the international meetings and COPs of UN-CBD and UNFCCC to share the activities of Cambodia relevant to the UN-CBD and UNFCCC as well as to confirm obligations of Cambodia to this international convention.

Within the last quarter of 2016 and after the MEA Expert was with the project and based on the Annual Work Plan 2016, each focal point and his team were assigned with “**Conducting an inventory of existing information/ information management systems of relevance to the three Rio Conventions in Cambodia.**” The consultant under the coordination from PMU was working with focal points of each Rio convention. It was expected that the consultation meeting with the relevant people on the deliberable 1 was scheduled in Quarter 1, 2017.

During the project implementation, some challenges such as time constraint of some focal points, limited ability of focal points to carry out assigned work, limited expertise for the project implementation, time-consuming of CDA recruitment were facing.

Progress Towards Outputs

Outcome 1: Improved access and generation of information related to the three Rio Conventions

Output 1.1: An efficient and effective information management system covering the three Rio Conventions			
<i>Output Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline (month/year) 2015</i>	<i>Target (End of Project)</i>	<i>Current status (December 2016)</i>
A system and a data architecture to harmonize key environmental information systems	Existing systems and data architectures are not communicating efficiently and do not provide good availability to environmental knowledge	Environmental information systems are harmonized using internationally recognized standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MEA Expert was recruited and job offered; - Meetings with focal points for the assignments conducted; - Relevant information and data of the 3 Rio Conventions collected and stored; - Report of the inventory of existing information/information management system drafted and distributed for comments; - Consultation meeting scheduled
<p>The vacancy of the MEA expert was advertised in Quarter 4 of 2017 and his initial contract was offered for the period of 50 days covering from November 2015 to May 2016. Several assignment meetings were held between the expert and representatives of the focal points of each Rio Convention. As part of the assignments, some data and information were collected and stored by representative of the focal points and shared with the expert. The report based on the outputs from the representatives of the focal point was drafted and shared for comments and feedback. In addition, the consultation meeting to discuss, comment and confirm the outputs of the consultant is scheduled to be conducted in the quarter 1, 2017.</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>exceeds plan</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>in line with plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>below plan</i>	

Output 1.2: A common clearinghouse mechanism for the three Rio Conventions.

A developed clearinghouse mechanism in place at MOE and covering all environmental areas related to the Rio Conventions.	Limited mechanisms in place to access, share and exchange environmental information.	Facilitated access to relevant data, reports, research, plans and documents available on the implementation of the Rio	<p>- <i>Materials from COPs of UNCBD and UNFCCC collected and stored for the website; and</i></p> <p>- <i>General relevant website designs from various countries were visited and collected and shared with some of the focal points. However, these need to be further modified</i></p>
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<input type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>exceeds</i> plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>in line with</i> plan	<input type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>below</i> plan
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Output 1.3: Generation of information related to the Rio Conventions enhanced qualitatively and quantitatively, coherent and better coordinated

Multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary, multiple-authored articles published in scientific journals, conference proceedings and reports	Few publications, mostly focusing on individual conventions	Increased number of high-quality publications of relevance to 2 or the 3 Rio Conventions and produced efficiently through multiple-authored efforts	<p>- <i>Annual reports of the Project Implementation; and</i></p> <p>- <i>Inception report to be used as a guide for the project implementation</i></p>
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Output 1.4: Existing stakeholder platforms strengthened and better coordinated in order to facilitate access and exchange of information, and increase stakeholder networking and engagement in Convention related dialogues and processes

An operational inter-sectorial coordination mechanism that builds on existing coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current engagement is sector-based and mostly focusing on climate change • Few sector-based coordination mechanisms exist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A platform to exchange environmental information related to the implementation of the Rio Conventions. 	<p>- <i>International Day of Biodiversity conducted;</i></p> <p>- <i>World Day of Land Degradation organized; and</i></p> <p>- <i>Workshops on (1) Youth and Biodiversity; (2) UNCCD Practices</i></p>
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instruments	but none to coordinate across the three Rio Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase of 50% of stakeholders' engagement in related dialogues • An operational inter-sectorial coordination mechanism in place to coordinate the implementation of MEAs in Cambodia. 	<i>and Implementation; and (3) UNCBD Practice and Implementation held</i>
<p>Information about biodiversity and natural resources and land degradation and the benefits of sustainable land management was generated and distributed to the public people and school children by means of UN-CBD and UNFCCC-related speeches, story-telling, radio and TV broadcasts, posters, banners, and t-shirts and hats. Such international Days are just parts of the Cambodia's obligations for the conventions and they are held annually.</p> <p>In addition to these world events, three workshops were held to disseminate contents of UN-CBD and UNCCD and their implementation/practices of the in Cambodia. Such workshops were held with an aim to build and familiarize the participants, especially the youths who would possibly join the COPs and their related meetings in the future.</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>exceeds</i> plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>in line with</i> plan <input type="checkbox"/> delivery <i>below</i> plan			

Outcome 2: Improved use of information and knowledge related to the Rio Conventions

Output 2.1: Enhanced capacity in using tools for decision- and policy-making			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Models to implement environmental economic valuation, impact assessments and scenarios and projections in Cambodia - Use of environmental economic valuation, impact assessments and scenarios and projections in environmental decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental economic valuation, impact assessments and scenarios and projections as policy instruments are not used widely in Cambodia - Environmental economic valuation, impact assessments and scenarios and projections are not used widely in decision-making in Cambodia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strategy on how to implement environmental economic valuation, impact assessments and scenarios and projections as policy instruments in Cambodia - 3-4 policies, programmes or plans are developed using environmental economic valuation, impact assessments and scenarios and projections, 	

		respectively	
Output 2.2: Institutional and individual capacities to implement the three Rio Conventions in a more coordinated and synergistic manner strengthened using the new reporting guide, and the environmental knowledge as well as the improved information mechanisms being set in place under outcome 1			
Number of individuals and institutions using the new CHM and participating in the implementation of the other Rio Conventions when they belong institutionally one of the three conventions	Individuals and institutions focusing or limiting their activities to one of the three conventions	Individuals and institutions taking part in 2 or the 3 Rio Conventions	<i>- Attendance of UNFCCC COP</i> <i>- Attendance of UNCBD COP;</i> <i>- Training Sessions on UNCCD/UNCBD Practices and Implementation</i>
Output 2.3: Capacity of existing institutions and individuals to advance Cambodian national interests on biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation and drought matters and their interlinkages in regional and global networks and forums strengthened.			
Negotiation capacity of Cambodia at COP meetings and in other regional or global forums	Limited COP negotiations skills and knowledge	Negotiations at 2-3 COP meetings and in other regional or global forums with position papers for Cambodia	<i>- Preparation and Presentation of COP documents</i>
<p>It is expected that all the activities under this outcome 2 would be carried out by Capacity Building Advisor (CDA) in cooperation with MEA and focal points of each Rio convention. As the CDA was not with the team during the report writing period, the planned activities were not fully carried out.</p> <p>However, certain activities were undertaken as part of contribution to outcome 1. They include capacity building of individuals and officials of relevance to UN-CBD and UNFCCC via the 3 workshops mentioned in outcome 1 and material preparation for the UN-CBD and UNFCCC COPs in Cancun, Mexico and Marrakech, Morocco, respectively.</p>			

Capacity Development

Although CDA was not successfully recruited in 2016, some capacity development sessions were conducted for the target people through the workshops conducted by the Project Management Unit and concerned focal points, especially the young generations from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It is expected that some of these people would have the opportunities to be further trained and attend the COP-related meetings and COPs of UNCBD and UNCCD.

Gender

Efforts and commitments were made to mainstream gender in project management, focal points and capacity building sessions. While among 6 PMU staff members, there were 4 females in charge of administration, financial management, assistance (secretary) and cleaner, two of the three focal points are ladies.

In addition, at least 30% of female participants in the about mentioned workshops held in 2016.

Lessons Learned

In 2016, there was good cooperation between the PMU staff members and UNDP representatives in terms of finance management, project management and work plans. It is hoped such good cooperation will continue.

III. Implementation Challenges

In the second board meeting of the project, the work plans were approved by the board members but they were not effectively carried out due lengthy process of the MEA expert and CDA. While MEA expert could only joined the team in November 2016, CDA was expected to be with the team in Quarter 1, 2017. Vacancy advertisement of CDA was re-advertised. It was hard to find the suitable, qualified candidate for the required position. Therefore, any work plans to be carried out by the technical consultants to support and cooperate with focal points were delayed accordingly.

Action taken: Double efforts need to be made by the focal points and technical consultants within the next quarters 1 and 2 in 2017, specially the assignments under CDA.

In addition, there were time constraints of some of the focal points in project implementation. Some of them were so engaged in their routing work and limited time, therefore, was spent for the project engagement.

Action taken: Alternative representatives of the focal points would be possible to carry out the assignments with the technical project consultants. This mechanism needs to be agreed and promoted by the core focal points of each Rio convention.

As the project context is new to the focal points, it is time-consuming for them to understand and perform their assignments required.

Action taken: More time is needed to carry out required work based on the approved work plans. The capacity of the responsible people needs to be built for the assignments and guided by the technical consultants.

IV. Financial status and utilization

Outcome 1: Improved access and generation of information related to the three Rio Conventions

Expected outputs	Budget spent by each expected output
Output 1.1: An efficient and effective information management system covering the three Rio Conventions.	USD 21,010.83
Output 1.2: A common clearinghouse mechanism for the three Rio Conventions.	USD 21,315.17
Output 1.3: Generation of information related to the Rio Conventions enhanced qualitatively and quantitatively, coherent and better coordinated for complementarity, synergy and efficiency	USD 19,117.48
Output 1.4: Existing stakeholder platforms strengthened and better coordinated in order to facilitate access and exchange of information, and increase stakeholder networking and engagement in Convention related dialogues and processes.	USD 21,749.38
UNDP Expenditure/Assurance Costs	USD 1,983.17

Outcome 2: Improved use of information and knowledge related to the Rio Conventions

Output 2.1: Enhanced capacity in using tools for decision- and policy-making	USD 22,067.94
Output 2.2: Institutional and individual capacities to implement the three Rio Conventions in a more coordinated and synergistic manner strengthened using the new reporting guide, and the environmental knowledge as well as the improved information mechanisms being set in place under outcome 1	USD 20,705.18
Output 2.3: Capacity of existing institutions and individuals to advance Cambodian national interests on biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation and drought matters and their	USD 21,403.77

interlinkages in regional and global networks and forums strengthened.	
Output 2.4: A coherent and coordinated reporting process for the three Rio Conventions.	USD 9,042.88
UNDP Expenditure/Assurance Costs	USD 4,370.34