



## ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2018

### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Cambodia Collaborative Management for Watershed and Ecosystem Service Protection and Rehabilitation in the Cardamom Mountains, Upper Prek Thnot River Basin (CoWES)

01 Jan 2018 – 31 Dec 2018



*Project Management and Implementation Meeting at Aroal District*

*Agriculture Technique Training to Selected Model Famers in KDY commune*

**Project ID:** 00090509

**Duration:** July 2017- July 2020

**Total Budget:** US\$1,490,917.00

**Implementing Partners/Responsible parties:** Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF)

**Country Programme Outcome:** By 2018, people living in Cambodia, in particular youth, women and vulnerable groups, are enabled to actively participate in and benefit equitably, from growth and development that is sustainable and does not compromise the well-being or natural or cultural resources of the future generation.

## Table of Content

Table of Content .....	2
I. Executive Summary .....	3
II. Implementation Progress .....	4
III. Project Implementation Challenges .....	9
a. Updated project risks and actions (See Annex 2 for detail) .....	9
b. Updated project issues and actions .....	10
IV. The First Project Board Meeting .....	10
V. Financial Status and Utilization .....	11
Annex 1: Workplan for Q4, 2018 .....	14
Annex 2: Updated project risks .....	15

## I. Executive Summary

**Five targets had set for CoWES Project implementation in year 2018** as i) situation analysis conducted and micro-watershed resource assessment was completely implemented at three target communes (Krang Devay, Trapeang Chor and Tasal), a report developed for each commune (in Khmer language) ii) commune and community action plans developed as setting plan at target communes, the concept of watershed management, improvement of land productivity and natural resource management was comprehensively discussed and agreed by three target communes in aligning with annual and development plan, iii) understanding of local authorities and communities on sustainable land management (SLM), soil water conservation and agroforestry were implemented as plan (this is 3-year continued activity): training courses, exposure visits, technical advices and on-job trainings provided by MB, DARLM, PDAFF, MAFF and consultants (24 trainings and workshops conducted in 2018 with total 842 participants, 24.94% of females attended in these events), 22 technical field assessments and consultations made at target communes/communities, iv) support service plan/CLIP to address the assessment's results developed and to address the assessment's result (reached target): a temporary agreement was signed during the annual district integration workshop (DIW) and v) strategy for CF and CPA expansion disused and supported by local administrations and relevant stakeholders was completely implemented: management plan for CF were updated and endorsed by Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, management plan for Reaksmei Samaki CPA is under development (Step 6.3) and Tang Bampong is re-starting process with development of statute and internal rule.

**Other achievements were also made in year 2018 such as:**

- The impact assessment was conducted by the local authority with supported from MB field staffs and DARLM staffs to 7 companies (agribusinesses), a list of economic land concession (ELC) and potential impacts from agribusiness's practices identified.
- Monitoring indicator system for the watershed developed by M&E national consultant, especially for upper part of watershed with other initiative monitoring/communication channels such as social media (Facebook), Telegram and networking between and among 4 upper communes initiated and facilitated by MB
- Support small scale of water supply for agriculture pilot activity is starting in Krang Devay, some people are living in a part of Dok Por village will use this supplied water with affordable fees. A pond was dig inside community forestry for agroforest demonstration.
- National Action Plan to combat Land Degradation (NAP: 2018-2027) was officially signed by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on March 14, 2018 and Prime Minister on April 2, 2018. 1000 copies of NAP were printed and delivered into key stakeholders, especially sub-national administrations in Kampong Speu Province.
- First project board meeting was successfully organized on January 25, 2018 in order to approve the proposed changes of project's document, reviewed and approved result-framework, implementation strategy, multi-year work plan and 2018 annual work plan and budget (AWPB).
- Under management and coordination of DALRM, three national consultants were recruited in order to provide inputs on agroecosystem, micro-watershed and GIS. The training was deliveries by consultants to LA and communities in December 2018.
- Economic valuation on Preak Thnoat conducted by national and international consultant, the roadmap for Preak Tnoat Watershed developed for future uses by sub-national committee for watershed management when when it formally established.
- Internal spot check for both financial management and field/ground activity check were conducted by UNDP CO and PWC audit company in September and November.

With achievements above, a few planned activities are pending, especially the recruitment of four national consultants (agroforestry, agriculture livelihood, landscape-based agriculture extension and forestry livelihood) due to the external/uncontrol issues such election of national assembly and three-time floods at project-target areas.

Conclusion: all setting target were achieved as plan even financial delivery is low compared to annual budget plan, for more detail please find in implementation progress.

## II. Implementation Progress

1. Narratives: In 2018, the project has significantly made progresses/results against plan as below:

### COMPONENT 1: ON FARM SOIL CONSERVATION AND GROFORESTRY PRACTICES IMPROVED



Situation analysis was completed as plan (reached target): Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) was used as tool to assess the changes and trend of watershed's functions and natural resources then based on findings, the proposed solutions made for an intervention. This analysis was involved with local authorities (target communes), district administrations, provincial administration, provincial department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (Kampong Speu), Provincial Department of Environment (Kampong Speu) with technical supports from department agricultural land resource management (DARLM). The separate reports for each target commune developed. A digital micro-watershed assessment made by DARLM through App-computer analysis and the consultancy's report on micro-watershed study also developed by national consultant. Desk reviews and serial consultations made between NGO's partner (Mlup Baitong—MB) and DARLM to discuss about socio-economic, geographical and biological situations at project target areas. GIS digitization and computerization used for the study/analysis in this activity such as landscapes, forests and water resources.

Commune and community action plans developed at target communes (reached target): the concept of watershed management, improvement of land productivity and natural resource management (especially the forest protection under CoWES project intervention was comprehensively discussed and agreed in principle to include in annual plan and development plan of the target communes.

Prepared and organized first project board meeting: the first project board meeting was successfully organized on January 25, 2018 in order to approve the proposed changes of project's document, reviewed and approved result-framework, implementation strategy, multi-year work plan and 2018 annual work plan and budget (AWPB).

Support service plan/CLIP to address the assessment's results developed and to address the assessment's result (reached target): community livelihood improvement plan (CLIP) developed at three target communes in the purpose to mainstream CoWES project actions/concept into commune plans. Based on CLIP, a temporary agreement between target communes and NGO partner (MB, on behalf of CoWES Project) was signed during the annual district integration workshop (DIW), it is a government system working with Cambodian sub-national administrations.

Agroecosystem analysis report and power point presentation developed by national consultant (under DARLM management and coordination). The consultant's report has introduced concept of sustainable land management (SLM) for Preak Tnoat watershed and target communes. A land-cover crops/flora were introduced to upper part of Preak Tnoat watershed in the purpose to improve quality of land (nitrogen, carbon and phosphate) and to maintain the ground water table plus minimized uses of pesticide and chemical fertilizer. The recommended species does not only improve land's quality, but it can also feed animals (cattle) and protect soil erosion. These species are *Stylosanthes Quianensis*, *Centrocema Pascuorum*, *Sorghum Bicolor*, *Crotalaria Juncea*, *Brachiaria Ruziziensis*, *Pennisetum Purpureum*. Under DARLM's facilitation and coordination, the agroecosystem concept was delivered/trained to communities and local authorities in December 2018.

Micro watershed planning developed by national consultant under management and coordination of DARLM. A technical report consisted of characteristics and importance of hydrology, water catchment,

natural resources (forests) and soil erosion. The recommendations for watershed protection and management made by consultant such as watershed-scope identification (micro, medium or large), waters resource management (on and underground water), identification and involvement of stakeholders, a comprehensive plan for watershed management and data collection, analysis and management. The substantial context of micro-watershed planning and management were introduced to communities and local authorities through training organized in December 2018.

Understanding of local authorities and communities on sustainable land management (SLM), soil water conservation and agroforestry (implemented as plan, however this is 3-year continued activity)”: trainings, exposure visits, technical advices and on-job trainings provided by MB, DARLM, PDAFF, MAFF and consultants (GIS, Micro-watershed and agroecosystem) to local authorities and communities during 2018. The farming sites was selected/identified in combining both technical expertise (DARLM, PDAFF) and local knowledges (local authorities and communities) in term of an interactions of forest, water and soil (Dok Por, Longim and Tang Bampong).

Facilitate community learning of agroforestry innovations through demonstration and other sustainable extension methods has been conducted at target communes. The pond is digging at low elevation through combination of computerized identification by DARLM and local knowledge (LA and community participation). This pond will use as water’s resources for farming inside of community forestry (Damrey Chark Thlok). This innovation is expecting to provide short term benefit to CF members due to CF is long term benefit. Similarly, to Damrey Chark Thlok CF, other two community protected areas (Trapeang Chor and Tang Bampong) will also discuss and identify for agroforestry piloting. Awareness raising on the protection of natural resources and watershed management have regularly conducting by MAFF, MB, DALRM, PDAFF and support community with the small scale of water supplies for agriculture and farming (in a concept of soil water conservation—SWC) started through participatory assessment, planning and implementing with communities and local authorities. Training on agriculture technique- vegetable planting in bags, making compost fertilizer, a natural pesticide making, chicken raising, making livestock feed was provided to 74 (25F) local authorities and model farmers at target communes and after training 60 (18F) participants visited the Takeo province to learn practical experiences. While they completed training and studied tour, most of them started planting vegetables, making compost fertilizer, natural pesticide at their farmland.

The impact assessment was conducted by the local authority with supported from MB field staffs and DARLM to 7 companies (agribusinesses) named Veng sokleng, Thong Sokheng, Great field, and Yellow field, Kim sour, CPL-Maiysak plantation, in Tasal commune and Slak Sannan, Sovann Vuth in Kraing Deyvay commune. The assessment found out the negative and positive impacts to the community people in target areas. As a result, all of them have positive such as provided chance to get labor job, road renovation/development, planting trees and negative impacts are water pollution, health impact to human and animals, soil erosion, clear cover land close to the river bank. However, those companies promised with the local authority to plan tree, bamboo along the riverbank to reduce/protect soil erosion and water pollution. Even the local authority had a chance to meet some companies/ELCs but still could not do assessment at huge/big companies, especially sugar cane company.

Stimulation of participatory local authorities (Local Administrations) has been implementing inn order to boost target communes and districts as well as province in promoting watershed monitoring and management. Both communes and districts agreed to include watershed conservation as well as forest projection into their investment plan and commune development plan. Districts agreed in principle to include watershed and nature/forest into plan next mandate (2019 after DM/K council election).

## **COMPONENT 2: Community Forest Areas restored and sustainably managed**

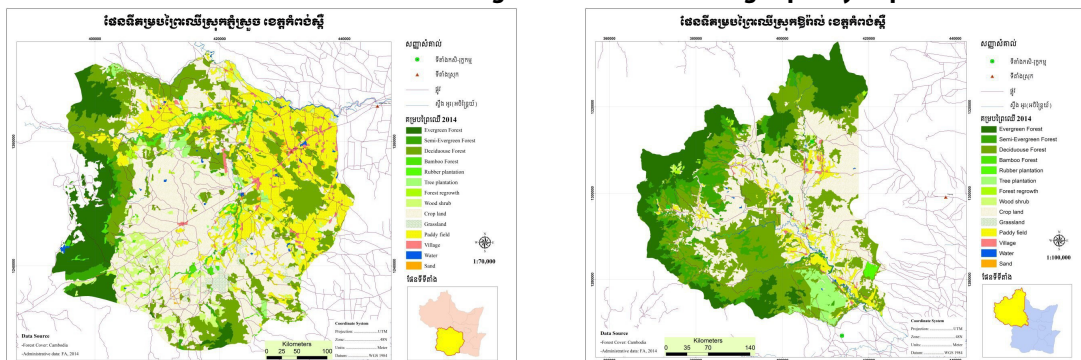


Rapid assessment on current status and trend of community forestry (CF) and community protected areas (CPA) conducted at target districts or communes (implemented): a forestry community (Damrey Chak Tlork, Krang Devay, Phnom Sruoch District) and two community protected areas (Reaksmey Samaki in Trapeang Chor Commune and Tang Bampong in Tasal Commune, Oaral District) were selected for the forest conservation. Rapid assessment made for these areas through both reviewing of legal documents (registration, ministerial recognition, current status of land tenure) and field observations (zoning and boundary check to these communities). Even, the rapid assessment was completed, but further/deepening study is required to ensure that the CF or CPA land are legalized with communities, agribusiness, private or state property (For example: Tasal CPA was CPA, but there is not land for community). A training course on community organization management delivered to Tang Bampong and Reaksmey Samaki Community Protected Areas for skill's improvement of planning, coordination, budgeting etc.

Strategy for CF and CPA expansion disused and supported by local administrations and relevant stakeholders **(completely implemented)**: a community forestry and 2 community protect areas were identified for forest restoration (natural regeneration) with complementary demonstrated livelihood through introduction of agricultural technologies. A digitization of forest-cover maps developed by GIS national consultant for each target commune, it is the useful maps using for forest monitoring and expansion at their respective communes. The management plan for Damrey Chark Thlork, CF was updated and endorsed by PDAFF, management plan for Reaksmey Samaki CPA is under legal progress (reach a step of 6.3) and Tang Bampong CPA is re-starting for a new formulation of community due to the transferred authority/management's function from MAFF to Ministry of Environment (MoE) was made in 2016.

Under DARLM management, national consultant on local forest governance was selected. The selection committee discussed and decided for contract offering to an experienced official. The consultancy is starting from late December 2018 and expecting to finalize in first quarter 2019.

### COMPONENT 3: Watershed Management and monitoring capacity improved



Economic valuation on Preak Thnoat conducted by national and international consultant, the roadmap for Preak Tnoat Watershed developed for future uses by sub-national committee for watershed management

when when it formally established. The inception report was submitted and finalized based on inputs from implementing partner, project team and UNDP CO. The debriefing workshop organized on September 4, 2018, at Phnom Penh Hotel to review the preliminary findings and brainstorm for development of watershed management roadmap. 26 participants (6 females) from different technical departments under MAFF, Ministry of Environment, Kampong Speu Provincial Agricultural Department, Royal University of Agriculture, NGO's partner, UNDP, international consultant (from Africa working for REDD Project) attended and provided recommendations and inputs to both consultants for report writing and development of roadmap/strategy. As the results, the final report was finalized with clear roadmap strategy and recommendations.

Development of the project result-framework, outputs, implementation strategy, indicators etc. were timely consumed to accommodate the comments and inputs from different stakeholders including MAFF, UNDP, GEF Regional Office in Bangkok, Local Authorities and other stakeholders. The modification of project document is very important in order to update social, environmental, economic and political development in Cambodia, particularly at project area/sites, Phnom Sruoch and Oral District, Kampong Speu Province. Additionally, development of multi-year budget and activity plans is strongly required inputs, consensus and agreement from project board's members. Two-year activity and budget plan (2018-2019) was developed and approved by Reginal Technical Advisor (RTA)/GEF Bangkok Office, UNDP and MAFF.

Technical meeting and annual reflection workshop were conducted on 14-15 Nov 2018 with 64 (9F) participants from relevance stakeholders at national, subnational, local authorities, and community people which facilitated by CoWES team and focal point -MB, PDAFF, and DARLM in order to reflect on the progresses, challenges, technologies, and lesson learned regarding CoWES project implementation in 2018 and to propose the solutions and prioritized actions for 2019. The result of Preak Tnoat Watershed Economic Valuation was also shared and collected feedback/comments for further improvement.

Water supply for agriculture pilot activity is starting in Krang Devay, some people are living in a part of Dok Por village will use this supplied water with affordable fees (consensus agreement made). Through the discussion, people agreed to provide their contribution for this water-supply initiative. A pond was dig in Damrey Chark Thlork in order to demonstrate agroforestry.

With regards to an implementation of knowledge Management and communication strategy, an agreement was made between MAFF and video producer through official signed with project manager. The video scrip developed and field activities recorded such as mushroom and crop's growing, pond digging and interviewing with key stakeholders regarding their participation and commitment for the project implementation.

Household survey at target communes (pilot-farming areas) conducted. The baseline survey questionnaires related to poverty, income generation, loan, benefit from community forestry etc. The date and information collected and analyzed to be used as baseline and track for project progresses.

Development of integrated information management system (participatory monitoring evaluation) was conducted by national consultant under MB management and coordination (as original plan was international position, but PB has not endorsed for an international position). This activity was engaged with a national consultant to develop for M&E tools and manual in order to use by communities and local authorities. M&E Training was conducted on 26-29 Nov 2018 to relevance stakeholders at sub-national level including local authorities and communities in December. The result from the training is participants understand well on the project concepts and project cycle especially CoWES project. They are clear on CoWES project log frame and will monitor the project implementation at commune and community levels.

Conduct GIS mapping and remote sensing was successfully conducted as plan. The GIS report indicated that 66% of soil at 3 target communes is poor, 26% (medium) and only 6% (fertilized soil), with good forest condition). There are many sources of data used for this study and analysis such as soil types, river system, geology, soil fertility, land uses, ELC, forest cover, protected areas, land degradation etc. Technical recommendations made by national consultant to manage watershed and improve land productivity including SLM technology, SWC application and introduction of land-cover crops (grasses protect soil erosion). The agricultural land and forest maps produced, printed and handed to 3 target communes for future uses. The consultant has also trained communities and local authorities about geography, water system and landscape in December.

Recruitment of M&E officer and National Coordinator was completed, and both placed on their positions (M&E Officer started her assignment on May 24 and National Coordinator started to work on May 1)

National Action Plan to combat Land Degradation (NAP: 2018-2027) was officially signed by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on March 14, 2018 and Prime Minister on April 2, 2018. 1000 copies of NAP were printed and delivered into key stakeholders, especially sub-national administrations in Kampong Speu Province and NAP was also un-officially translated from Khmer into English under CoWES financial support. A sub-national committee for watershed management is under formulated process. On November 07, 2018 an official letter signed by minister for agriculture, forestry and fisheries sending to relevant provincial governors to nominate the representatives of sub-national administrations, provincial departments, private sectors etc. joining in this committee.

Under support of project, MAFF staff participated in Conference of Parties (CoP), UNCCD, India from 24-27 April 2018. This conference is a global forum to bring all state members to learn and share the challenges and progresses relating to land degradation and decertification such as land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon. 41 state's members included Cambodia attend in this conference.

Under DARLM management, national consultant on watershed governance was selected. The selection committee discussed and decided for contract offering to an experienced official. This assignment is starting from late December 2018 and expecting to finalize in first quarter 2019.

Preparation for midterm review was started in quarter 4, 2018. The term of reference for individual consultant developed and recruitment is under progress such as long and shortlist, technical and financial evaluation etc. The MTR assignment is expecting to start in January 2019.

### **Operation and management activities**

Along with planned activities, other activities were implemented such as Project Implementation Review (PIR) developed and submitted (on-line) to GEF regional office in Bangkok on July 2, 2018, the spot check to ensure transparent and effective financial utilization conducted by an auditing firm (Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Cambodia Ltd--**pwc**) hired by UNDP from 17-21 September 2018. 2 medium and 2 low risks found that a cheque signed by one of two authorized signatories and dated May 2018 was not released to payee in that month, the project did not withhold tax on consultancy services (medium risk), actual expense of certain budget-line items are greater than 10% without written approval from UNDP and no stamp (PAID) on supporting documents. These issues were taken actions by project management within 2 months after the spot-check finding.

Field monitoring by UNDP Country Office was conducted in October and early November. M&E result found that the project had produced significant achievements at target areas even financial delivery was low than plan. However, the M&E mission team made some recommendations as follow

- UNDP CO will engage a professional firm/company to conduct a HACT micro assessment within CoWES Project Level (not as an institution).
- Follow up IP/MAFF to re-appoint a new CoWES NPD soonest possible, preferably before the next project board meeting.
- Request for PB approval on no having MTR.
- The project to review the different options for cash transfer including direct payment to responsible parties if it could help speed up project implementation.
- Technical support provided to PDAFF for recruited national consultant (under PDAFF) including recruitment's process, development of term of reference, contract's offering etc. It is to mitigate the risk due to PDAFF is a lack of policy and procedures in place for the recruitment

Memorandum of Agreement (MoAs) between i) MAFF and Local NGO (Mlup Baitong) was officially signed on April 1, 2018, ii) MAFF and DALRM was officially signed on May 9, 2018 and iii) MoA between MAFF and Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF) signed on September 04, 2018. The main purpose of MoA is a partnership building as response to collaborative stakeholders for watershed management.

A vehicle and required office equipment (2 office desk, 3 chairs, 2 laptops, safe box, 2 filing cabinets etc.) were procured.



Project and UNDP staffs participated in project management training for UNDP-GEF projects in Asia and the Pacific from 26-28 March 2018 at Bangkok, Thailand to learn and share good practices, achievements and challenges between among countries implementing GEF fund project.

Connection with relevant stakeholders (both governmental institutions, university and NGOs) through the meetings, discussion and consultations to expand relationship and knowledge around agroforestry, community forestry and environmental related subjects. With this network, selected technologies and best practices on agriculture listed to apply for small landholder farming at project target areas.

## 2. PROGRESS TOWARDS PROJECT OUTPUTS

Output Indicators	Baseline (Jan 2018)	2018 Targets (December)	Status
<b>Output 1.1:</b> SLM priorities mainstreamed into local authority area plans in collaboration with MAFF and partners			
<p><b>Indicators 1.1.1:</b> # Communes with plans, budgets and working groups reflecting landscape (land and water) based SLM strategies agreed with District, MAFF and key partners</p>	(0)	<p>Setting target output was (0), but</p> <p><b><u>There are significant achieved as below:</u></b> (3 Communes): Watershed management, forest protection, SLM demonstration were included in 3 target communes (Tasal, Trapang Chor and Krang Deyway).</p> <p>(2 Districts) are committed to mainstream CoWES project activities in their plan next political mandate (2019 sub-national council election)</p>	<p>Target 1: the situation analysis was completely conducted at all three target communes in Tasal, Trapang Chor and Krang Deyway. The analysis reports developed in Khmer version.</p> <p>Target 2: Commune and community action plans developed at target communes. The project concepts and activities were participatory discussed with target communes and agreed to include in their annual plans as well as commune development plan. The district councils at two target districts are committed to mainstream CoWES project activities in their plan next political mandate (2019 sub-national council election).</p> <p>Target 3: Under facilitation of MB, commune livelihood improvement plan (CLIP) was developed based on result of situation analysis (for target commune). Temporary agreement made during annual integration workshop as a legal system working with Cambodian sub-national administrations.</p>
- delivery exceeds plan (slightly above)		- delivery in line with the plan	- delivery below plan

<b>Output 1.2:</b> Suitable SLM practices for small landholders demonstrated.			
<p><b>Indicators:</b> 1.2.1. Percentage of men and women in adopting SLM practices/technologies (including agroecology friendly practices) in the pilot communes.</p>	(0)	<p>Setting target output was (0), but</p> <p>Progress have made in 2018: 37 voluntary households accepted for SLM practice/technologies.</p> <p>3 sites were selected for SLM and SWC demonstration i) Dok Por Village (Krang Devay Commune), ii) Longim (Trapeang Chor</p>	<p>Target 4: understanding local authorities and communities on SLM, SWC and agroforestry.</p> <p>24 trainings and workshops organized in year 2018 (842 participants including 24.94%) attended these events, please a list of trainings and workshops.</p>

1.2.2. No. Communes with SLM oriented extension support system for men and women farmers in place	(0)	Commune) and Tang Bampong (Tasal Commune).	22 field assessments and technical advices provided by MAFF, DALRM, MB, consultants to local communities and local authorities.
- delivery exceeds plan		- <b>delivery in line with plan</b>	- delivery below plan

**Output 1.3:** Suitable land use practices demonstrated among medium to large scale agribusiness entities

<b>Indicators:</b> 1.3.1. No. of Agreements with key Agribusiness on relevant practices executed and under implementation.	(0)	It was a target in 2019 and 2020  An agreement made between Krang Devay Commune and Thmor Map Mining Firm to treat polluted water before releasing into river/natural water system.	List of ELCs made at 3 target communes. Positive and negative impacts from agribusiness's activities is preliminary identified.
- delivery exceeds plan		- <b>delivery in line with the plan</b>	- delivery below plan

**Output 2.1:** Prioritized actions to accelerate CF implementation, reflected in local authority and MAFF programs of action

<b>Indicators:</b> 2.1.1. No of the collaborative, local authority -base plans to address CF implementation issues (including law enforcement) and livelihood opportunities.  2.1.2. Indicator: % of CF with enhanced plans under implementation, in pilot communes.	(0)  (0)	1 CF and 2 CPAs were identified as forest conservation sites.  Management Plan for Damrey Chark Thlor Forestry Community was updated and endorsed by PDAFF (completed plan=100%)  Reaksmey Samaki CPA: management plan is under development (reached step 6,3=70%).  Tang Bampong CPA is re-starting formulation (development of statute and internal rule=10%)	Target 5: <i>Reviewing of documents and ground check conducted at 1 CF and 2 CPA such as verified boundary and zoning through an involvement of communities, LAs, wildlife officer and MB staffs.</i>
- delivery exceeds plan		- <b>delivery in line with the plan</b>	- delivery below plan

**Output 2.2:** Suitable restoration strategies and livelihood enterprises demonstrated

<b>Indicators:</b> 2.2.1. No. and type of Forest restoration strategies in place  2.2.2. No of men and women benefitting from forest-based livelihoods and agroecology friendly farming practices)	N/A (TBI by MB or M&E Officer)  N/A TBI by MB or M&E Officer)	It was a target in 2019 and 2020	Temporary agreement to use community-based forest management strategy in allowing natural/original species regenerating in these areas.  Public awareness was regularly disseminating to local authorities and people for protecting natural resources.
- delivery exceeds plan		- <b>delivery in line with the plan</b>	- delivery below plan

<b>Output 3.1:</b> Capacity of key stakeholders to develop and start a program of action for watershed management in place			
<b>Indicators:</b>		It was a target in 2019 and 2020	List of Cambodian watershed developed base on literature review.
3.1.1. No. of stakeholder-based sectors trained to on collaborative watershed management.	(0)	24 trainings and workshops delivered to relevant stakeholders, especially the local authorities and communities.	A formal letter sent to relevant provincial governors asking for nomination of relevant stakeholders joining in sub-national committee for watershed management (the letter was signed by MAFF minister on 7 November 2018).
3.1.2. Collaborative watershed-wide Program of action and interim coordination mechanism in place.	(0)	NAP was approved by government, 1000 copies of NAP published and disseminated to stakeholders, especially the sub-national administrations in Kampong Speu Province.	
- delivery exceeds plan		- delivery in line with the plan	- delivery below plan

<b>Output 3.2:</b> Participatory monitoring and assessment to support agreed upon program of action is in place			
<b>Indicator:</b>		It was a target in 2019 and 2020	M&E Training was conducted on 26-29 Nov 2018 to relevance stakeholders at sub-national level including local authorities at districts and communes with the total participants 28(3F). It was also provided to the selected communities people in 3 target areas with the total 26 (2F) participants on 12-14 Dec 2018. At the end the participants understand the project plan and know how to monitor the project especially can complete the quarterly monitoring form was set.
3.2.1. No of agreements executed at different local levels with stakeholder groups who can help monitor agreed upon indicator	NA (TBI by MB or M&E Officer)		
- delivery exceeds plan		- delivery in line with the plan	- delivery below plan

<b>Project operation and management</b>	Operation and management activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The progress implementation report developed and submitted online to GEF in Bangkok on July 2017.</li> <li>- September 17-21, 2018 Spot Check to determine whether the funds transferred to IPs were used for their intended purposes and in accordance with the work plan and to assess the accuracy of the financial records for cash transfers to IPs, the status of the programme and whether there have been any significant changes to applicable internal controls.</li> <li>- Oct-Nov 2018 Project field monitoring and evaluation was conducted by UNDP management analysis team</li> </ul>
-----------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

			and the result is good and had a few actions points to follow up and take action.
- delivery exceeds plan	- delivery in line with the plan		- delivery below plan

### 3. POGRESS TOWARDS PROJECT OUTCOME

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Jan 2018)	Target (2020)	Current status
<b>Objective:</b> To restore and maintain forest cover and watershed stability functions while providing for sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem services in the Upper Prek Thnot Watershed			
<b>Indicators</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity to implement the strategic objectives of NAP as measured by the Capacity Development Scorecard. (MAFF and Local Authority, LA)</li> <li>Areas brought under productive land management in the project target areas</li> <li>% of targeted households (gender dis-aggregated data) in the project target areas benefitting from diversified livelihoods</li> </ul>	MAFF (14) LA (13)	LA-41 LA 28	Too early for an assessment, it will assess/evaluate by the end of project (July 2020).
	0	150 has	NAP was approved by Prime Minister in April 2018. A letter signed by minister (MAFF) sent to provincial governor for an establishment of sub-national committee for watershed management.
	0	15%	44 households (smallholders), 27 females=61.36% are volunteers in pilot's farming.
<b>Component/Outcome 1:</b> On-farm soil conservation and agroforestry practices improved			
<b>Indicators:</b>			<b>No progress made in this year</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% increase in average gross and net income per household in forest area of Oral and Phnom Sruoch districts</li> <li>Land productivity for key commodity</li> <li>Labor productivity</li> <li># of PPP case study developed as model for applying good practices in watershed management</li> </ul>	1.1: (0) 1.2: (2t/ha)- Rice Production per ha per year (Dist. Profile 2017)—M&E and MB will work more in 2018. 1.3: (250\$): net income per person per year— district profile 2017- M&E and MB will work more in 2018 1.4: (0)	10%  2.2t/ha (rice)-- M&E and MB will work more detail in 2018  300\$/person/year-- M&E and MB will work more detail in 2018  (1)	
<b>Component / Outcome 2:</b> Community forest areas restored and sustainably managed			
<b>Indicators:</b>			<b>No progress made in this year</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% increase in forest and vegetation cover of commune forest in locally prioritized micro watersheds based on land use management plan, strengthened law enforcement, conservation and land use</li> <li>% increase in average gross net income per participating households (20% of baseline</li> </ul>	2.1: (0)	(10%)	Plan was setting to protect forest resources at 1 CF and 2 CPAs.  Damrey Chark Thlok: 1452 ha Reasmey Samaki: 404 ha Tang Bampton: 2222 ha
	2.2: (0)	(20%)	

among CF in pilot communes).			
<b>Component /Outcome 3:</b> Watershed management and monitoring capacity improved			
<b>Indicators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A collaborative program of action to enforce regulations and establish provincial level administrative mechanisms for Prek Tnoat watershed <i>management</i> is in place and functional</li> <li># of measurement parameters for management of soil, water, land and forests, defined and included in a functional M&amp; E system that <i>supports agreed upon watershed management strategies</i></li> </ul>	(0)  (0)	(1)  (10)	<b>No progress made in this quarter</b>  Roadmap for watershed management developed by international consultant based on finding of Preak Thnoat Watershed Economic Valuation Study. It is an important to use by sub-national committee for watershed management when its formally/officially established.  NAP was approved by government to guide for national programs relating land improvement productivity and watershed management

#### 4. Gender Mainstreaming and Women’s Empowerment

The gender action plan (GAP) was developed during the inception phase to respond the needs and priorities of women within the community, and particularly those of poor and vulnerable women. This Project Gender Action Plan (GAP) combines measures to ensure that women have equal opportunity as men, to participate and to benefit from project activities.

The Project GAP adopts three-pronged approaches that aims to ensure the meaningful participation of women and girls, rather than only representation: (1) raising the awareness of the overall community of the differential gender aspects on sustainable land management and community forestry; (2) ensuring inclusivity and facilitating participation of all types of participants in the different aspects of project implementation; and, (3) specific livelihoods support inclusive to all beneficiaries particularly the affected women.

The gender’s aspect was mainstreamed to all activities under project’s intervention (all 3 components) with a clear percentage/quantity of female beneficiaries and participants in project activities or capacity-development opportunities.

27 female participants (61.36%) as representatives of 44 smallholders have voluntarily participated in farm’s demonstration. There were 842 participants attended in different trainings and workshops organized by project and 24.94% was females.

#### 5. Capacity development

24 (trainings and workshops) organized and 22 field assessments conducted by MAFF, DALRM, MB and PDAFF. 842 participants (24.94% of females) trained on different skills and theories regarding agricultural technologies. The selected participants have also visited agricultural/farm model in Takeo Province and participated in management courses of community forestry (CF) and community protected areas (CPA) in Batampang Province.

On-job trainings related to home-garden farm, mushroom growing, making composed fertilizer, making natural pesticide and other technologies conducted by MB, DALRM, MAFF and PDAFF.

The project management (power point slides) and M&E tools (matrix tables) developed by national consultant was also trained to local authorities and communities at target communes and districts in order to use for monitoring related activities to project's implementation and upper part of watershed.

## **6. Environment and social safeguard**

During the start-up phase, a series of consultations with national ministries, local authorities, communities and local people were used as inputs for an improvement of implementation strategy such as livelihood, forest's restoration, functional watershed protection and sustainable land management. The situation analysis at target communes, participatory planning with local authorities and communities and setting of technical support mechanism by MAFF/DARLM are avoiding the negative impact to social and environment at project's areas. The monitoring and evaluation is an additional tool to prevent social and environmental implications cause by project intervention or implementation. If there are any issues related to environment and social safeguard, its will bring to discuss and get technical guidance/advices from project board meeting annually.

MTR will be conducted by international consultant and it is expecting to review and provide useful recommendations/advices or social and environmental strengthening.

## **7. Lessons learned**

Knowledge strategy and knowledge mapping was developed during the inception phase to ensure the lesson learnt and best practice well recorded and documented during the project implementation. Going along with knowledge strategy, the communication and training plan was developed to support the visibility. There are 2 types of knowledge will be generated by CoWES project, a first one is local knowledge relating to local people who traditionally depends on the resources of watershed for their livelihood and second knowledge is science-based knowledge using research, planning and innovative technologies such as SLM, climate smart agriculture and interaction between farming and community forestry.

An agreement between MAFF and video-producing team was an officially made (December 2018) in order to develop about 10-minute video clip relating the CoWES project activities and progresses/achievements. Several trips to target communes conducted in order to record farming activities, forest management (by communities), agroforestry and interviewed with relevant stakeholders. The development of video clip is expecting to complete in first quarter of year 2019.

## **8. DONOR VISIBILITY**

A video clip regarding project-activity implementation and watershed management is under developing by video-producing group, it is expecting to complete the process in first quarter of year 2019.

The photos related project activities were recorded and filed as visual document and witnesses of project implementation.

Progresses and results of project implementation have collected and recorded in order to track on project's results and outputs.

GEF and UNDP logos on backdrop posted in events such as workshops and trainings as well as project papers and acknowledgement has been made to project's donors.

## **9. FIRST PROJECT BOARD MEETING**

The first project board (PB) meeting was organized on 25 January 2018 at Holiday Hotel, Kampong Speu provincial town in order to review and approve the proposed changes to project document, theory of changes, result framework, multi-year plan, 2018 annual work and budget plan and implantation strategy. The key highlights of project's board meeting are:

**Board decision #1:** There was an overall agreement to the proposed changes to project document, result framework, the 3 components of the project, 7 expected outputs, project implementation strategy, developed/modified indicators, work and budget plan for 2018-2019, consultancy service procurement, recruitment of full time staff for the project, service-contract with NGOs and sectoral departments and 3-year budget allocations.

**Action taken:** With decision and comments of project board, the inception report revised and finalized on February 28. The inception report was not only consolidated comments and inputs of project board, but also included comments from regional technical advisor, GEF office in Bangkok. MoAs made with MB on April 1, 2018, DARLM on May 9, 2018 and PDAFF on September 4, 2018.

**Board decision #2:** The new members PDAFF and RUA were decided for adding to the existing steering committee fold;

**Action taken:** PDAFF and RUA were added in a list of project board members, these two institutions were invited with existing PB members attending the technical meeting and annual reflection workshop in November 2018 in Kampong Speu Province.

**Board decision #3:** Agreed that the next steering committee meeting be held in a target district to provide opportunity for the committee members to meet with local community and view project activities on the ground;

**Action taken:** It was well noted, next board meeting will be organized at target districts, Phnom Sruoch or Tasal. On June 20, most of members in project board members attended in workshop on CoWES project management and implementation at Oral District. The concepts on watershed management (UNCCD) was disseminated by MAFF, Royal University of Agriculture, DALRM, PDAFF and MB to local authorities, communities and other stakeholders from Kampong Speu Province, Phnom Sruoch District, Oral District, Krang Devay, Tasal and Trapeang Chor Commune.

**Board decision #4:** Decided to allocate budget and detailed 3-year action plan for integration with development plans for the 3 project communes, and fund allocated to support the finalization of NAP;

**Action taken:** 1000 copies of NAP were published and disseminated to stakeholders during project management and implementation workshop on June 20, 2018 at Oral District (NAP is available in English language).

A small financial package was planned to support LAs for monitoring and community/citizen engagement in project activities. Participation of citizen's representatives in public forums or discussions in commune/district mandatory meetings is part of this budget.

A national project coordinator was recruited to assist and support for all NAP-related activities

**Board decision #5:** Decided on engaging more women taking into account equitable gender in project implementation for all the project activities, with project impact on woman participants and non-participants in the project to be studied;

**Action taken:** The gender action plan (GAP) developed and will use as roadmap to promote an equitable gender in CoWES project implementation. Women were encouraged to participate in all project activities such as attended meetings, field assessments, consultations, trainings, workshops and model-farm activities.

**Board decision #6:** Agreed in principle to extend the project end date to 2020 pending a review during the next steering committee meeting in 2019; and

**Action taken:** On-hold, this issue will discuss more detail next project board meeting.

**Board decision #7:** Agreed that no technical advisory committee was needed in the project implementation structure as proposed by consultant (start-up advisor) instead focal point at relevant sectoral agencies was endorsed

**Action taken:** Department of Agricultural Land Resource Management (DALRM) is a focal point in Component 1 and 3 and provincial department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (PDAFF) is focal point in component 2. MoA between MAFF and DALRM was officially signed on May 9, 2018 while with PDAFF.

### **III. Project Implementation Challenges**

There are some challenges identified during the consultation in the start-up phase such as the upcoming election of national assembly will slow down project implementation for year 2018, because most of political parties, especially local authorities are busy with electoral process even before and after election. Additional challenge, there are not many MAFF staffs are working and supporting to CoWES project due their workload with ministerial duties and functions. It would be best to engage young staffs from relevant departments under MAFF working as volunteers, so they would have opportunities to learn knowledge and gain skills during project's life such as sustainable land management (SLM), community forest and watershed management. Start with voluntary work then their skills will gradually build (both soft and technical/hard skills) along CoWES project implementation.



As result of ethnological study conducted in September 2017 found that land security/land encroachment is a critical issue at upper part of Preak Tnoat Watershed, most of land areas converted into mango plantation and ELC, so poor land governance effected to landscape and watershed management. Therefore, working with local authorities, especially commune and district levels are best strategy.

There was difficulty to meet and discuss with ELCs located at target districts during the inception phase, therefore active and strong support from MAFF's leadership is required for mobilization of ELC's participation/involvement in soil productivity and sustainable land management. However, through MoA, DALRM is a focal point to work with ELC for piloting SLM initiative.

The formulation of sub-national committee for watershed management may take long time than expected, so the assessment of capacity scorecard to this committee/MAFF may not implement as planned.

***a. Updated project risks and actions (Please find detail risks log)***

**Project Risk 1:** Limited technical implementation capacities, limited abilities in project contract management and finance.

**Actions are taken:** The operation manual and financial system were discussed and agreed between UNDP and MAFF (to apply for NCDD Manual). The project result framework was participatory discussed and revised during the inception phase (well discussed in the inception workshop) and then got approval from the project board on January 25, 2018. All project personnel such as National Project Advisor, M&E Officer, Project Assistant, National Project Coordinator, and Admin and Finance Officer are on board to coordinate, work and support daily operation and activity's implementation.

To promote the project-activity implementation, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between MAFF and Local NGO (MB) made for an effective facilitation and mobilization of LA and community participation. Additionally, MoAs with other departments (DARLM and PDAFF) also made in order to recruit and manage national consultants providing technical supports/advice and conduct field assessment at target communes. Additionally, spot check to ensure transparent and effective financial utilization conducted by the external firm on 17-21 September 2018

**Project Risk 2:** Election of National Assembly scheduled in July 2018, formulation of new government and flooded at project areas caused slow down project-activity implementation

**Actions are taken:** The project was continued the implementation of activities at target communes using NGO partner (MB) during the electoral period. The consultancy's work was also moving during the election's period.

**Project Risk 3:** Three-time floods were happened at project target area (between July-October). The floods and heavy rains made difficulty to access to the target sites by muddy road.

**Actions taken:** The project team have started immediately implementing activities right after the flood condition was better.

**b. Updated project issues and actions (Please find detail issues log)**

Insufficiency of MAFF staffs to execute project activities because they are busy with the department’s duties and functions as their mandate’s performance. Currently, there were a few project staffs and management (project manager and director) are coordinating, managing and implementing in this project. Therefore, under guidance of project board, project is building partnership with NGO (MB) and other 2 governmental institutions (Department of Agricultural Land Resource Management—DALRM is Component 1 and 3 focal points and Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries—PDAFF is Component 2 focal point) to push forward ground activities at target communes. Additionally, the encouragement and mobilization of support and participation from local administration and communities are strongly needed in the project’s activities.

With a new government formation, the CoWES project director is changing his position from MAFF secretary of state to a member of national assembly, therefore, designation of authority for an operation and an appointment of new project director is strongly required. For more detail, please find the issues log.

**IV. Financial Status and Utilization**

**Table 1: Contribution overview [June 2017 – June 2020]**

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS (US\$)			Total Received	CONTRIBUTION BALANCE
	Committed	Received			
		2017	2018		
GEF	\$ 1,100,917.00	\$ 169,950.00	\$ 395,877.30	\$ 565,827.30	\$ 535,089.70
UNDP (TRACT FUND)	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 59,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,250,917.00</b>	<b>\$ 183,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 472,877.30</b>	<b>\$ 656,827.30</b>	<b>\$ 594,089.70</b>

**Table 2: Quarterly expenditure by project activity [July – September 2018]**

Activity	Description	2018 QUARTER 2 (Jul-Sept)			
		BUDGET [JUL-SEPT]	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	Delivery %
	<b>Sub-total Component 1:</b>	<b>-\$74,897.96</b>	<b>-\$22,868.36</b>	<b>-\$52,029.60</b>	<b>31%</b>

<b>Sub-total Component 2:</b>		<b>-\$36,510.88</b>	<b>-\$27,128.21</b>	<b>-\$9,727.67</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Sub-total Component 3:</b>		<b>-\$52,440.00</b>	<b>-\$35,570.88</b>	<b>-\$16,869.12</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT COST</b>		<b>-\$9,198.00</b>	<b>-\$7,207.66</b>	<b>-\$1,990.34</b>	<b>78%</b>

**Table 3: Accumulative expenditure by project activity [Jan-Sept 2018]**

Activity	Description	2018			
		BUDGET [2018]	EXPENDITURE (JAN-SEPT)	BALANCE	Delivery %
<b>Sub-total Component 1:</b>		<b>\$121,374.05</b>	<b>-\$55,349.52</b>	<b>-\$66,024.53</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Sub-total Component 2:</b>		<b>-\$106,984.50</b>	<b>-\$65,141.94</b>	<b>-\$41,842.56</b>	<b>61%</b>

<b>Sub-total Component 3:</b>		-\$199,451.33	-\$53,535.51	-\$145,915.82	27%
<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT COST</b>		-\$45,067.42	-\$20,320.83	-\$24,746.59	45%
<b>TOTAL</b>		-\$472,877.30	-\$194,347.80	-\$278,529.50	41%

**Table 4: Accumulative expenditure by project activity [July 2017–September 2018]**

Activity	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (2017-2020)	ACCUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,250,917.00</b>	<b>-\$315,020.93</b>	<b>-\$935,896.07</b>	<b>25.18%</b>

**Annex 1: Workplan for Q4, 2018**

ACTIVITIES (Detail)	Responsible party	2018			Note
		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	

***Annex 1: Updated project risks and issues***

***Annex 2: List of trainings and workshops and field assessment***