



Food and Agriculture
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Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project

GCP/RAS/11107/GFF

Project Document

This document is intended to be used solely for the purpose of FAO projects disclosure

July 2024





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



PROJECT DOCUMENT

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will provide technical assistance for the following Project:

Project Title:	Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project	
Project Symbol:	IUCN: P04594	FAO: GCP/RAS/11107/GFF

Upon signature of this project document by the duly authorized representatives of both parties, the project will be implemented in accordance with the background, rationale and management arrangements described herein.

On behalf of:	On behalf of:
The International Union for Conservation of Nature	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Date:	Date:

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ACRONYMS

Acronym	Description
ACB	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMAF	ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
AMS	ASEAN Member States
APAP	Asia Protected Area Partnership
APFC	Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASL	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes IP
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
AWG	ASEAN Working Group
AWP/B	Annual work-plan and budget
AWPs/B	Annual Work Plans and Budgets
AYBP	ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Program
BCAMP	Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Management in ASEAN
BFP	Biodiversity Finance Plan
BH	Budget Holder
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BLF	Biodiverse Landscapes Fund
BMU	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)
BT FEC	Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Conservation and Environment Protection Agency
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CFA	Conservation Finance Alliance
CI	Core Indicator
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CPF	Country Programming Framework
CPIC	Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation
CSO	Civil society organization
CTFs	Conservation Trust Funds
CU	Coordination Unit
DOF	Department of Forestry
EPF	Lao Environmental Protection Fund
ERPA	Emission Reductions Payment Agreement
ERPAs	Emission Reductions Payment Agreements
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FERM	Framework for Ecosystem Restoration
FFP	Forest Foundation Philippines
FLO	Funding Liaison Officer
FOLUR	Forest Land Use Restoration
FPE	Foundation for the Philippine Environment
FPF	Forest Protection Fund
FPIC	Free and Prior Informed Consent
FPMIS	Field Program Management Information System
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
GEB	Global Environmental Benefit
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
GTO	FAO GEF Technical Officer
GYBN	Global Youth Biodiversity Network
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres; 0.01 square kilometre)
HQ	Headquarters
IA	Implementing Agencies
ICRAF	International Center for Research in Agroforestry
IM CFB	Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome
I-M CFB IP	Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KEHATI	Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation
KFW	German Development Bank
KM	Knowledge Management
K-M GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LA	Laos
Lao PDR	Papua New Guinea
LCP	Lao Country Project
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBF	Myanmar Biodiversity Fund
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
METT4	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool 4
MTR	Midterm review
NAP	National Adaptation Plan, National Action Program
NAPA	National Action Plan for Adaptation

NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC	National Communications
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NCTF	National Conservation Trust Fund
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution (under UNFCCC)
NE	Northeast
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NPD	National Project Director
NTE	Not-To-Exceed date (actual end date of the project)
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation
OECMs	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
OED	Office of Evaluation
OFF	Operational Focal Point
OPIM	Operational Partnership Implementation Modality
PA	Protected Area
PAC	Protected Area Committee
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PF	Primary Forest
PFES	Payments for Forest Environmental Services
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PMC	Project Management Cost
PMU	Project Management Unit
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPA	Program Priority Area
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PPR	Project Progress Report
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTF	Project Task Force
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEPAL	System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
tCO ₂ eq	Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
TCP	Thai Country Project
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TFF	Trust Fund for Forests
TH	Thailand
TNA	Technology Needs Assessment
ToC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of reference
UK	United Kingdom
UKAID	United Kingdom's international development agency
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
US	United States
VEF	Vietnam Environment Protection Fund
VNFF	Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund
WHS	World Heritage Site
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature / World Wildlife Fund

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project		
Parent Program (if IP):	Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program		
Region:	Asia-Pacific	GEF Project ID:	11107
Country(ies):	Regional	Type of Project	Full sized project (choose project type)
Lead Agency:	IUCN, FAO		
IUCN Project ID	P04594	FAO Project Symbol:	744433
Project Executing Entity(s) and Type:	IUCN	GEF AGENCY	
	FAO	GEF AGENCY	
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity, Climate change mitigation, Land degradation	Type of Trust Fund:	GEF T <small>ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.</small>
Implementation start (Expected EOD):	Oct 1 st , 2024	Implementation end (Expected NTE)	Sep 30 th , 2030
Project duration:	72 months		
Project Budget:	6,377,981	Co-financing:	46,798,171
Total Project Budget (including co-financing)	53,176,152		
Project Tags:	<input type="checkbox"/> CBIT <input type="checkbox"/> NGI <input type="checkbox"/> SGP <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation		
Project Sector (CCM only)	(select)		
Rio Markers			
- Climate Change Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> No Contribution (0) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Objective (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Principal Objective (2)		
- Climate Change Adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Contribution (0) <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Objective (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Principal Objective (2)		
- Biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> No Contribution (0) <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Objective (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal Objective (2)		
- Land Degradation	<input type="checkbox"/> No Contribution (0) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Objective (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Principal Objective (2)		

Environmental and Social Risk Classification:	low risk <input type="checkbox"/> moderate risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> high risk <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Marker	GM 0 <input type="checkbox"/> GM 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to FAOs Strategic Framework: (Indicate as appropriate) ¹	a. Program Priority Area(s) (PPA/s): Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture, (Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources, Inclusive rural transformation) b. SDG target(s): 15, 13, 2 c. Country Outcome(s): n/a d. Country Programming Framework(s) Output(s): n/a Regional Initiative/Priority Area: n/a

Justification for higher PMC

Given that project management efforts are disproportionately high for a regional coordination project, we propose a PMC of 5.7%

¹ [Excel list of PPAs and SDGs targets used in FPMIS module](#)

Project Summary

Despite baseline efforts, 60% of Indo-Malaya's original vegetation has been lost until 2020, and the remaining primary forests are under significant pressure. The Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program (I-M CFB IP) - Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project (RCP)F provides the programmatic approach framework for maximizing transformational impact by three country projects in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Papua New Guinea, and Thailand to jointly achieve the IP objective: *to contribute to maintaining the integrity of globally important primary forests of Indo-Malaya for maximizing multiple global environment benefits related to carbon and biodiversity*. This will be achieved through five interlinked components that are mirrored across the RCP and all three country projects. Several of the components also contain provisions to engage countries across the biome that do not have country projects under the IP. These components utilise the four GEF-8 levers of transformation to (1) create enabling policy, improved tenure security and governance environment at multiple scales for primary forest conservation; (2) place an increased area of primary forests in Protected Areas under effective and inclusive conservation management; (3) place an increased area of primary forests outside PAs and buffer landscapes under improved practices for enhanced Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' (INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES) resilience; (4) secure sustainable financing for primary forest conservation; and (5) strengthen primary forest coordination, communication, access to knowledge, capacities and policy support across scales. The IP will thus lead to global environment benefits in terms of (i) globally significant biodiversity conserved, (ii) components of globally significant biodiversity sustainably used with equitable sharing of benefits, (iii) conservation and enhanced carbon stocks in agriculture, forest, and other land use, and (iv) improved provision of ecosystem goods & services.

The achievement of the RCP's project objective ***“To maximize transformational impact of country projects and regional engagement for the safeguarding of globally important primary forests across Indo-Malaya and PNG”*** is essential to elevate the efforts of country projects to the regional scale. The RCP will contribute to all components described above, but investments will concentrate on Component 5. Under each component, the RCP will deliver outputs that have a regional focus, as well as outputs continuously defined throughout project implementation based on demand by country projects. Aside from supporting country projects, the RCP will engage other countries across the I-M CFB, including for shaping a regional policy agenda on primary forests, improving reporting and monitoring of primary forests, transboundary protected area management, and others. The RCP will be linked to country projects through programmatic institutions and processes (e.g. Program Steering Committee, Annual Conference), thematic working groups related to the technical foci of Components 1 to 4, as well as coordination mechanisms related to the cross-cutting issues of knowledge management, monitoring, communications, capacity development and safeguards. The RCP will also coordinate actions with the other Critical Forest Biome Ips in the Amazon, Guinean Forests, Mesoamerica, and the Congo basin, as well as with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat.

The RCP will be directly executed by two GEF Agencies, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), who will be supported by several regional partners, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective and indicator targets:	To maximize transformational impact of country projects and regional engagement for the safeguarding of globally important primary forests across Indo-Malaya and PNG				
Project Components (and type)	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
				GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
1: Enabling environment for inclusive conservation and sustainable management of primary forest landscapes (TA)	1. Enabling regional policy and governance environment catalyses primary forest conservation	1.1: Long-term vision, strategy and action plan for Indo-Malayan primary forests agreed at multiple levels 1.2: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to the enabling environment on primary forests delivered	GEFTF	574,103	4,199,152
2. Protected Areas (TA)	Outcome 2: Improved transboundary Protected Area collaboration, knowledge management, technical support, and capacity building support the effective and inclusive conservation and management of Protected Area harbouring primary forests, including for the benefit of women and Indigenous Peoples	2.1: Collaboration for management of transboundary protected area landscapes containing protected areas facilitated and supported 2.2: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to Protected Areas delivered	GEFTF	436,665	5,936,476
3. Primary forests outside PAs incl. buffer zones (TA)	3: Better information and technical support contribute to improved management of primary forests outside PAs and/or buffer landscapes for enhanced gender-responsive resilience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities	3.1: National OECM identification and recognition processes in primary forest landscapes supported 3.2: Stakeholder partnerships and collaborative agendas for minimizing regional primary forest loss footprints of agriculture, forest, and mineral commodities established 3.3: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to primary forests outside PAs as well as in buffer zones delivered	GEFTF	925,297	35,284,859
4. Innovative finance, investment and scale-up (TA)	4: Sustainable financing catalysed for improved primary forest conservation and management	4.1: Stock-taking on innovative options for sustainable financing of primary forests conducted 4.2: Indo-Malayan Primary Forest Investment Forum established 4.3: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services delivered	GEFTF	727,358	512,500
5. Programmatic coordination, knowledge management and capacity development (TA)	5: Primary forest coordination, access to knowledge, capacities, and policy support strengthened across scales	5.1: Comprehensive multidisciplinary diagnostic assessment on the Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome delivered 5.2 Gender, and Indigenous People-responsive multistakeholder linkages for the I-M CFB IP established and strengthened at multiple levels	GEFTF	3,193,718	437,534

		<p>5.3: Reporting on the extent and distribution of primary forests improved</p> <p>5.4: Integrated knowledge and learning hub on Indo-Malayan primary forests operationalized</p> <p>5.5: Technical support on cross-cutting elements, gender-responsive capacity building and South-South exchange delivered</p> <p>5.6: Communication and advocacy strategy on Indo-Malayan primary forests implemented and effectively reaches target audiences</p>			
M&E		5.7: Effective results-based adaptive management supported by participatory monitoring and evaluation system at project	GEFTF	177,907	0
Subtotal				6,035,048	46,370,521
Project Management Cost (PMC) - (if this is an MTF project, please report separate PMC lines for each TF). If amount requested is above limits, a pop-up menu should open for the Agency to provide an explanation			GEFTF	342,933	427,650
Total Project Cost				6,377,981	46,798,171

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Global Environmental Problem

The Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome² (I-M CFB) harbours one of Earth’s last major tropical primary forest areas that stretches across much of the Indo-Malaya and Wallacea as well as parts of the Australasia biogeographic realms. Though no authoritative mapping exists, the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) identifies 193 million hectares as contiguous natural primary forest³ of the cumulative natural forest cover of approximately 234 million hectares across the region. The biodiversity of these forests is extraordinary and includes more than 5,000 threatened and more than 1,000 critically endangered species. The ecosystem services generated by these forests are critical at multiple scales. Globally, they include carbon sequestration and the regulation of atmospheric circulation, while regionally they form the livelihoods base of more than 560 million people.

However, these forests are under sustained threat: more than 60% of the Indo-Malayan realm’s original natural vegetation has already been lost until 2020, and much of the rest is under significant pressure. Between 2000 and 2020, the primary forest cover of seven countries within the region declined by 21.2 million hectares or 11.2% of their combined total.⁴ Persistent hot spots of deforestation occur e.g., across northeast (NE) Myanmar, northern and southern Lao PDR, most of Cambodia, the central highlands of Viet Nam, southern Thailand, parts of Peninsular Malaysia, lowland Sumatra, parts of Kalimantan and Sulawesi, as well as in other parts of the region. Owing to high biodiversity that is at substantial threat, the I-M CFB is part of the Indo-Burma, Sundaland, and Wallacea global biodiversity hotspots.⁵

TABLE 1: KEY PRIMARY FOREST DATA ON THE INDO-MALAYA CRITICAL FOREST BIOME

Country	Humid primary forests 2023 ⁴				FLI Index ⁶
	million ha	million ha inside PA	% loss 2001-2023	% loss 2001-2023 inside PA	
Bhutan	2.48	1.05	0.53	0.32	8.85
Cambodia	2.84	2.60	33.37	18.66	6.31
Indonesia	83.10	16.25	19.56	3.77	6.6
Lao PDR	7.18	2.63	14.13	6.45	5.59
Malaysia	12.87	3.30	18.63	3.55	5.01
Myanmar	13.16	2.76	5.34	2.04	7.18
Papua New Guinea	31.01	0.99	2.99	1.70	8.84
Philippines	4.86	1.71	3.19	3.20	5.91
Thailand	5.74	4.37	2.55	1.39	6.0
Viet Nam	5.72	1.96	11.59	5.47	5.35
Total	169.96	37.62	11.19	4.66	

For data visualisation see also Google Earth Engine at <https://charmenmorales.users.earthengine.app/view/cfbip>

² Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome: according to GEF Secretariat definition to consist of Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam

³ “Naturally regenerated forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed” FAO 2020. <https://www.fao.org/3/i8661en/i8661en.pdf>

⁴ Laumonier Y, Azzu N, Adzan G, Narulita S, Khikmah F, Meybeck A, Pingault N and Gitz V. 2022. Asia-Pacific roadmap for primary forest conservation. Working Paper. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia. CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees, and Agroforestry (FTA). <https://doi.org/10.17528/cifor/008540>

⁵ Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund 2020. Indo-Burma Global Biodiversity Hotspot. https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/ep_indoburma_2020_update_final-sm_0.pdf

⁶ National Forest Landscape Integrity Index: Low integrity = 0 – 6; Medium integrity = 6 – 9.6; High integrity = > 9.6

Systems description

Forest areas are close to exclusively reserved under government ownership, apart from Papua New Guinea (PNG), where the same is true for community ownership (**Figure 1**). National Protected Area (PA) systems conserve 31% of primary forests of the I-M CFB, with high variation between national figures (**Table 1**). The disproportionately low loss of primary forests inside PAs indicates the effectiveness of PAs in conserving primary forests. Several relevant areas are not yet adequately covered by national PA systems (e.g., Borneo, Northern Sumatra, New Guinea), which apart from that of Thailand rarely ensure domestic and transboundary connectivity.

Government forests are generally managed along institutional divides with one or more government organizations responsible for managing different functional/tenurial denominations of forest areas (e.g. conservation/production/protection, etc. forests) in each country. Integrated (forest) landscape management mechanisms have been legally codified in most, but not operationalized in any of the countries, though valuable project-scale baseline initiatives exist throughout.

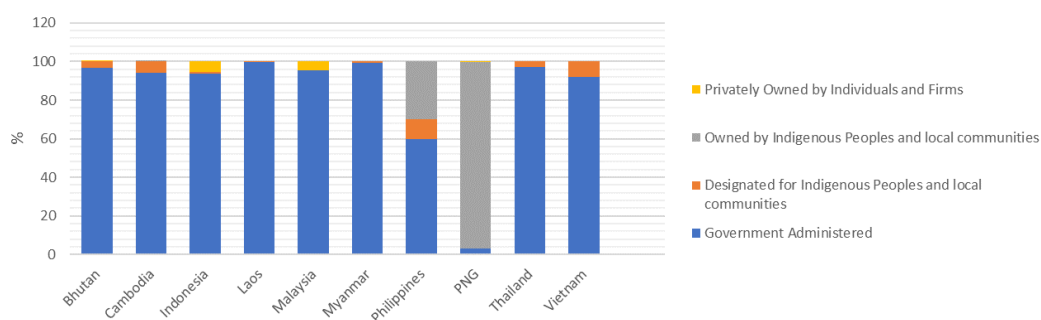


FIGURE 1: FOREST LAND TENURE ACROSS INDO-MALAYA CFB IP COUNTRIES

Primary forests across the I-M CFB IP overlap to a substantial extent with the settlement areas of the region’s at least 30 fig million Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who depend on and safeguard these forests. Progress on engaging Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities into primary forest conservation and management has been made through (i) national community forestry programs, (ii) land use planning and land allocation programs, (iii) the recognition and prioritization of Indigenous Peoples and Local Community contributions to biodiversity conservation in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and (iv) national processes emerging out of the Nagoya Protocol.

Drivers of change

The proximate drivers of primary forest loss across the I-M CFB include (i) commercial agriculture; (ii) illegal and legal, but unsustainable logging; (iii) anthropogenic fire, (iv) mining and extractive industries; (v) infrastructure, including hydropower and rural infrastructure development; and (vi) subsistence agriculture. In addition, (vii) climate change drives forest loss and degradation primarily indirectly through forest fires, changes in species distributions, spread of invasive species, and disease outbreaks. The ultimate drivers of forest loss and degradation include economic, technological, institutional, and socio-cultural factors, including demographics and migration, as well as armed conflicts.

The single biggest proximate cause of primary forest loss throughout the region is (i) agriculture, primarily through commercial commodities including (a) oil palm (responsible for 29% of forest loss alone, mainly concentrated on Indonesia and Malaysia), (b) rubber, and (c) cassava. Much of the small-holder cropland expansion is indirectly linked to the interests and investments of larger agri-businesses as well. (ii) Logging drives forest loss in case followed by land use change mainly for agriculture commodities of (d) timber and pulpwood in most countries, but primarily in PNG, where (iv) mining and extractive industries also predominate. The development of (v) infrastructure negatively affects primary forests throughout the

region, including large-scale hydropower development in the Mekong basin, highway megaprojects in Borneo and New Guinea,⁷ and railway expansion in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. vi) Small-holder agriculture relies on shifting cultivation in many parts of the region and is not a key driver of deforestation per se, however is perceived to be an important cause of (iii) forest fires of predominantly anthropogenic origin.⁸ (vii) Climate change exacerbates the pressure for agriculture commodities, drives forest fires, and leads to shifts in forest ecological structures and functions, along with changes in disturbance regimes and species compositions.⁹

Baseline and future narratives

Apart from national systematic baseline efforts, key regional baseline investments include the ADB-GEF project "Natural Capital Fund (NCF): Investing in Nature-Positive Agri-Food Enterprises in Asia and the Pacific"; the USAID Lowering Emissions from Asia's Forests (LEAF); the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF); the EU-ACB Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Management in ASEAN (BCAMP) Project, the Heart of Borneo Initiative – a transboundary cooperation between Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia to conserve the Heart of Borneo, and numerous relevant projects supported by German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and German Development Bank (KfW). Primary forest conservation and sustainable use as a regional objective remains unaddressed in a systematic manner in the baseline, leaving the following barriers that prevent resolving the global environmental problem:

- i. Lack of shared Primary Forest (PF) agenda & coherent PF policies across I-M CFB: No regional policy agenda on primary forests is in place and national policies do not identify primary forest conservation as an explicit priority, though forest conservation and sustainable use priorities are frequently explicitly stated, including targets related to forest cover (LA, TH), biodiversity conservation, and Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) emission reduction, bans on logging primary forests (TH), or exporting timber (LA). These are reinforced through national participation in relevant processes (High Ambition Coalition, Glasgow Declaration) and targets (e.g. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (K-M GBF), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), (National Adaptation Plans) NAPs) linked to multilateral environmental agreements. Policy implementation and law enforcement are inconsistent and perverse incentives and other loopholes facilitating forest loss exist, such as Special Agriculture Business Leases in PNG or guaranteed maize premiums in Thailand.
- ii. Weak multi-stakeholder participatory governance and largely unrecognized Indigenous Peoples and Local Community forest tenure: Integrated landscape management is not institutionalized, and land use plans are generally prepared on pilot scales. Apart from PNG, the formal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' customary forest tenure rights is weak in a global comparison, mostly restricted to the recognition of hybrids of customary and formal land titling. As most Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities across the region are patriarchal and follow patrilineal inheritance, women's land rights, as well as political and economic participation related to forests has remained inadequate. Community forestry is legally fully or partially enabled in all countries, yet apart from PNG, a negligible fraction of forests (generally <5%) is designated for management and/or utilization by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
- iii. Limited effectiveness of PAs in conserving PF across I-M CFB: Several key regions are not yet adequately covered by national PA systems¹⁰ (e.g., the Eastern Himalayan Range, Borneo, parts of

⁷ both in PNG, as well as the Trans-Papua Highway in the western part of New Guinea, Indonesia

⁸ Laumonier et al. 2022.

⁹ Laumonier et al. 2022.

¹⁰ Gaviria et al. 2022. Structural Connectivity of Asia's Protected Areas Network: Identifying the Potential of Transboundary Conservation and Cost-Effective Zones. ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information 11(7) doi: [10.3390/ijgi11070408](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijgi11070408)

Northern Sumatra and of New Guinea in Indonesia, part of New Guinea in PNG) and connectivity, particularly transboundary connectivity is only partially ensured. Information gaps on coverage and connectivity exist, and the management effectiveness of national PA systems is highly variable.¹¹ The participation of stakeholders, particularly Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in PA management remains inadequate.¹²

- iv. Inadequate mainstreaming of PF conservation and lack of sustainable livelihoods in productive landscapes: Biodiversity conservation efforts outside the PA networks remain largely unrecognized though they play a critical role in safeguarding primary forests. Restoration does not prioritize the connectivity of primary forest landscapes. Tenure conflicts between Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on the one hand and national or sub-national governments and large private sector companies on the other hand are prevalent throughout the biome,¹³ and biodiversity-friendly livelihoods & income options are limited. Commodity-driven primary forest loss fluctuates and is largely driven by markets outside the region (e.g. global for palm oil, China for rubber, regional for cassava).
- v. Lack of suitable environment for investment and inadequate financing for primary forests: Long-term financing for primary forest conservation mainly relies on public funds and is far from secured. Investment into forest conservation is characterized by large ticket sizes, long investment periods and low return on investment, which is generally outside the scope of the private sector. In addition, investors don't have much appetite for forest conservation as an asset class, especially when there is no clear legislation on carbon (carbon is the revenue stream to make the business case). Most investment is fast growing plantations as they provide a business case.
- vi. Limited knowledge and information on PF & barriers to accessing it: Information on primary forests is available from multiple sources that apply different methodologies, partial geographic coverage, and incomplete technical focus to present holistic and consistent data as a basis for regional decision-making. Distinct monitoring, and explicit reporting on primary forests has been initiated, but is plagued by a lack of consistent interpretation of definitions across the biome, as well as lack of willingness to share data.
- vii. Lack of multi-level linkages & coordination: ASEAN working groups on forest management and other initiatives (e.g. Asia Protected Area Partnership) have not explicitly discussed primary forest issues. It is necessary to promote dialogue on primary forests in the regional agenda, and to enhance coordination efforts to strengthen transboundary collaboration.

Different baseline scenarios can reasonably be projected without GEF intervention, though generalizations are challenging due to gaps in comparable baseline data across the region, the vast geographic extent and the resulting biophysical, socio-economic, and political differences within the biome, non-existence and uncertainties in projections, and interactive effects:

- Scenario A – full sustainability transition leading to rapid transgression of the forest transition curve in all countries and the effective conservation of primary forests though of slightly altered structure and dynamics. This scenario is marked by fully enabling policy frameworks, deforestation-free production, livelihoods, and investments, expanded and effective PA

¹¹ Graham et al. 2021. Southeast Asian protected areas are effective in conserving forest cover and forest carbon stocks compared to unprotected areas. *Sci. Rep.* 11: 23760 doi: [10.1038/s41598-021-03188-w](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-03188-w)

¹² Parr 2013. Multi-level Co-management of Government-designated protected areas – opportunities to learn from models from mainland Southeast Asia. *Parks* 19(2): 59-74.

¹³ Yasmi et al. 2013. Community-outsider conflicts over forests: Perspectives from Southeast Asia. *Forest Policy and Economics* 33: 21-27. doi: [10.1016/j.forpol.2012.05.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2012.05.001)

networks connecting across borders, and no conflicts resulting from extreme impacts of global change. Primary forest conservation will gain traction as a regional policy priority.

- Scenario B – moderate sustainability transition that varies across the region, with primary forests largely conserved in countries of lower primary forest cover and suffering from unabated loss at gradually decreasing rate in others. PA management effectiveness and connectivity will vary, financing will largely rely on public funds, integrated forest landscape governance approaches will remain sporadic. Conflicts linked to climate change impacts may adversely affect primary forests. No regional agenda for primary forest conservation will be established.
- Scenario C – slow sustainability transition leading to the widespread loss of primary forests in most countries, apart from remote areas. PAs effectiveness will decline, and fragmentation will increase. Adaptation cannot buffer impacts and climate change will disrupt social-ecological systems in more vulnerable countries with negative impacts on primary forests. Primary forest conservation will be of very low priority.

Scenario B appears most plausible, projecting further loss and degradation of primary forests. This calls for transformative change at the regional scale to be delivered through sustained programmatic action maximizing the impact of national initiatives. This is to be achieved by addressing shared drivers of primary forest loss by supporting national efforts to remove barriers and developing responses to common management challenges. Efforts are required for regional coordination, exchange of knowledge, delivery of tools and technical support to establish primary forest conservation as a regional policy priority, catalyse best practices of area-based conservation, integrated forest landscape governance and management, deforestation-free production in buffer landscapes, sustainable financing, and consistent information and reporting on primary forests.

Project justification

The above justifies the CFB IP objective *“to contribute to maintaining the integrity of globally important primary forests of Indo-Malaya for maximizing multiple global environment benefits related to carbon and biodiversity”*. This will be achieved by the country projects of the three participating countries Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Thailand and be reinforced and elevated to the regional scale by the I-M CFB Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project with the objective *“To maximize transformational impact of country child projects and regional engagement for the safeguarding of globally important primary forests across Indo-Malaya and PNG”*, which presents a clear opportunity for GEF-8 funding to build systematically on the baseline, producing transformational change by removing barriers in target systems to achieve multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). The project will establish the regional programmatic approach that will upscale national and fragmented regional efforts, provide technical guidance, exchange of knowledge, best practices, capacity building, outreach, and linkages, and joint action on primary forests for child project countries and others across the I-M CFB.

The project will build on the baseline specifically by (i) enhancing institutionalized regional action and harmonized policies on primary forests (ii) supporting PA effectiveness in conserving primary forests, (iii) supporting Other Effective Area-Based Conservation (OECM) recognition, deforestation-free commodity flows, and forest-positive livelihoods and enterprises, (iv) catalysing alternative financing pathways for primary forest conservation, and responsible agriculture investments, and (v) making available capacities and knowledge on primary forests, along with standardized assessment and reporting. The design incorporates experiences and lessons learned from previous GEF and other initiatives across the region and is synergistic with on-going ones.

The engagement of multiple stakeholders is essential to ensure success of: (i) three country projects of the I-M CFB IP to maximize the benefits of the programmatic approach; (ii) those listed under (i) plus relevant government organizations across seven other eligible countries under the I-M CFB IP for creation of a regional policy agenda on primary forest conservation, transboundary collaboration, fully enabling policy and investment environments and enhanced policy coherence at national levels, and upscaling best practices emerging out of the IP; (iii) International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), international organisations, specialized technical and research organizations focusing on primary forests, as well as umbrella organizations of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women, and youth for demonstrating best practices, building capacities and enhanced outreach at national levels securing stakeholders’ buy-in into the IP; (iv) private sector for providing sustained financing to primary forest conservation based on economically feasible investments; and (v) four other CFB IPs across the world, and other related IPs for maximizing synergies for primary forest at the global scale.

Purposeful application of the GEF-8 transformation levers will ensure lasting results in view of the future scenario envisaged above. Institutionalizing key aspects of the programmatic approach, including stakeholder fora and knowledge management and decision support tools, embedding primary forests in regional policies and relevant reporting will ensure long term sustainability of results.

B. SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION (THEORY OF CHANGE)

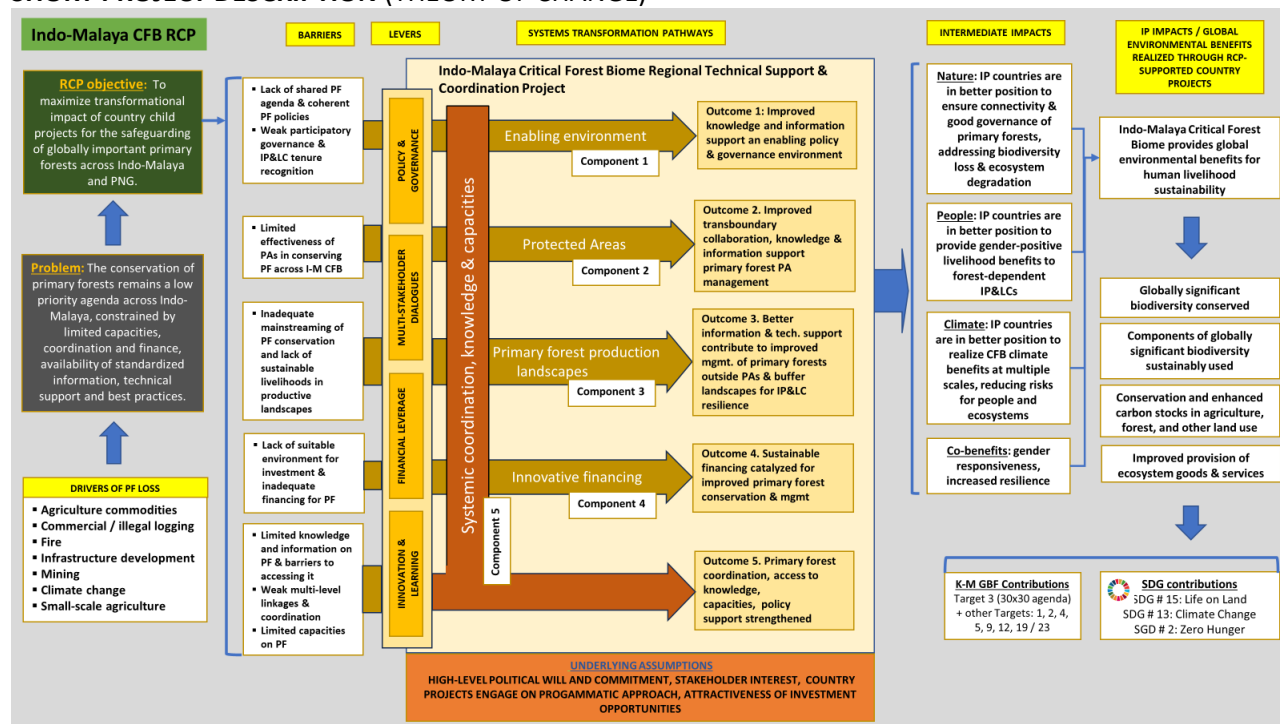


FIGURE 2: THEORY OF CHANGE GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION

Based on the description of the Global Environmental Problem, the associated drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, related barriers, and their root causes, a Theory of Change (ToC) was developed to help identify and clarify the key actions necessary to successfully address this situation, focusing on levers of change that will lead to the achievement of five inter-linked and inter-dependent outcomes that in turn will deliver defined intermediate impacts and transformation of systems in order to achieve the IP Program objective: “to contribute to maintaining the integrity of globally important primary forests of Indo-Malaya for maximizing multiple global environment benefits related to carbon and biodiversity” Figure 2.

Implementation of the IP will be achieved through the implementation of three country child projects and the Regional Coordination and Technical support Child Project (RCP), working together in an integrated approach to address the systemic challenges identified. Many of these challenges are common across the child project countries, thereby justifying the need for a regional program approach, and leading to the development of the RCP Objective “To maximize transformational impact of country projects and regional engagement for the safeguarding of globally important primary forests across Indo-Malaya and PNG” (Figure 2). The RCP along with the country child projects largely mirrors the IP’s results structure. This is particularly convergent in Component 5, which focuses amongst others on knowledge sharing, learning and synthesis of experiences. Upscaling from local to national level will be the task of country child projects, whereas upscaling learning and knowledge to the regional level is the task of the RCP. This will be guided through a biome-wide vision, strategy and action plan on primary forests that will drive both regional and country level agendas. Knowledge emerging from country child projects will be collected, stored, synthesized, and disseminated across the biome and beyond largely through standardized processes and structures established through the RCP.

Some outputs which are specific to a single country will be delivered only through country projects, and some such as biome-wide diagnostic studies only through the RCP. Many outputs will be delivered by the country and regional projects working together. In this way the RCP adds value to the country projects, ensuring that the whole of the IP achievements will be more than the sum of its parts by leveraging country successes to bring added attention and support to the entire biome and encouraging uptake of good practices on a wider scale.

The IP ToC outlines key causal pathways arising from the outputs of the program, and the assumptions underlying these causal connections. It addresses specific IP requirements by i) providing the overarching regional logic into which child projects will be embedded, and ii) integrating elements and causal pathways of the programmatic approach for effective coordination and upscaling of project level interventions. The RCP ToC and the child projects ToCs combine to make up the overall IP ToC. The RCP ToC is presented diagrammatically in Figure 1.

In the RCP ToC, 8 key barriers to maintaining the integrity of globally important primary forests of Indo-Malaya were identified and grouped into 5 categories (see Figure 1 for complete list):

- § Barriers relating to policy and planning
- § Barriers relating to protected and conserved areas, including OECMs
- § Barriers relating to agriculture and forestry in productive landscapes
- § Barriers related to financing
- § Barriers related to knowledge management, capacity-building, and collaboration

In response to these barriers, 17 key outputs were identified consistently applying all four system transformation levers of the GEF-8: governance and policies, financial leverage, multi-stakeholder dialogues and innovation and learning. The transformation levers also helped to thematically cluster program outputs into 5 inter-linked and inter-dependent components. In particular, the outputs and outcome of Component 1 apply the levers of governance and policies, as well as multi-stakeholder dialogues and are thus important in setting the enabling conditions to improve the likelihood of success of components 2, 3 and 4. The outputs and outcomes of components 2 and 3 will operate in an integrated manner at the level of the same target landscapes, delivering together the land-use transformation on the ground. The outputs and outcome of component 4 primarily hinge on the transformation levers of financial leverage and are critical to provide the financing to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes of components 2 and 3 over the longer term. In addition, the outputs and outcome of component 5 will apply multi-stakeholder dialogues and innovation and learning as levers to ensure the required knowledge and

capacity is available not only to achieve outcomes of components 2 and 3, but also to sustain them over the longer-term and to achieve programmatic outcomes by effectively linking and upscaling project level investments. Component 5 will also ensure that lessons learned from previous initiatives of GEF and other development partners (refer to Section C) are synthesized and shared together with good practices resulting from the implementation of the IP are shared between different landscapes both within and between countries to support their widespread adoption for greater impact and long-term sustainability, while also raising the profile of the I-M CFB, and its constituent primary forests amongst donors, investors and the public nationally, regionally and globally. The added value of the programmatic approach will be realized through several investments in each component. Many are embedded into Component 5, related to program coordination, dedicated partnerships, knowledge management, communication and monitoring, ensuring continued engagement and support for the objectives of the IP at landscape, national, and regional scales, beyond its implementation lifetime.

Program Components

Component 1 Enabling environment: The key barriers that will be addressed through this component, include weak multi-stakeholder governance (including often unrecognized Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities land tenure), as well as overlooked rights of women who may have formal recognition but which in practice they may not be able to exercise; and lack of a shared PF vision, agenda, and coherent policies - with policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks often marked by inconsistency, incompleteness, or inadequate implementation. The project's Gender Analysis and Action Plans helps identify opportunities for the project to empower women by mainstreaming a gender perspective at the policy level at a regional scale, with support also potentially to the country level projects in terms of good practice.

The component will address the lack of a shared vision to provide the basis for cooperation on primary forests at regional, national, and subnational levels. Barriers will be addressed through scaling up project investments to the program level by creating a programmatic stakeholder coordination mechanism.

Based primarily on the findings of the diagnostic study, emerging regional priorities, and discussions and deliberations of the Program Steering Committee (PSC) areas of common needs will be defined by countries, and priorities agreed for RCP support.

This will achieve the RCP Outcome that: Enabling Regional Policy and Governance Environment Catalyses Primary Forest Conservation. This together with the related outcomes of the child projects, will contribute to the overall IP Outcome that *enabling policy, improved tenure security, and governance environment is created at multiple scales for primary forest conservation*.

Component 2: Protected Areas: Protected Areas play a pivotal role in safeguarding extensive benefits derived from primary forests, encompassing climate-related and other ecosystem services that extend beyond the realms of carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. The key barrier that will be addressed through this component is that PAs do not currently effectively protect primary forests across the I-M CFB. This may include multiple aspects relating to ineffective multi-stakeholder governance, unrecognized land and resource tenure of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as well as women, limited effectiveness of PA Management; limited proportion of primary forests found within the PA estate; as well as policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks marked by inconsistency, incompleteness, or inadequate implementation.

Outputs include facilitation of and support for improved cooperation on management of transboundary landscapes with protected areas; as well as a set of activities responding to the demands identified by the

country projects which may encompass many aspects related to PAs such as capacity-building, organizational development, and support for institutionalization of Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and alignment with global PA standards to enable improved PA governance and management; and promotion of gender mainstreaming and collaborative management approaches with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, for enhanced governance of Protected Areas. In addition, countries will be encouraged to include explicit and measurable gender empowerment related objectives in transboundary initiatives.

These investments will result in the RCP Outcome: Improved knowledge and information support conservation of primary forest in protected areas. This, together with the related outcomes of the country child projects will contribute to the overall IP Outcome of: *Increased area of primary forests in Protected Areas under effective and inclusive conservation and management*.

Component 3 Primary forests outside Protected Areas, including buffer zones

Primary forests play a pivotal role in providing invaluable ecosystem services that extend well beyond the confines of Protected Areas, encompassing Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs), connecting spaces, and buffer zones. The key barrier to be addressed through this component is the inadequate mainstreaming of primary forest conservation in productive landscapes. This includes aspects related to the limited availability of biodiversity-friendly livelihood and income options; the footprints of agriculture and forest commodities on primary forests; and that restoration efforts do not adequately address connectivity.

Component 3 seeks a harmonious balance between conservation and development, nurturing value chains for positive local economic impact while safeguarding primary forest ecological integrity for future generations. Component 3 is geared towards empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, with a special emphasis on the inclusion and empowerment of women and youth, while fostering collaboration with the private sector and other stakeholders to actively involve these groups and champion investments in sustainable value chains that enhance the positive impact on forests, prioritizing the augmentation of local values and local economic impact.

Outputs include support for recognition of OECMs in primary forest; developing partnerships to minimize the primary forest footprint of agriculture and forest commodities; and a set of activities responding to needs identified by the country projects which may include community enterprise development that supports forest conservation, restoration of forest corridor. These will lead to the RCP Outcome: Better information and technical support contribute to improved management of primary forests outside of PAs and buffer landscapes, for Indigenous Peoples and Local Community resilience. This together with related outcomes of the country child projects will contribute to the overall IP Outcome of *Increased area of primary forests outside PAs and buffer landscapes under improved practices for enhanced gender-responsive Indigenous People and Local Community resilience and primary forest benefits*.

Component 4 Innovative Financing, Investment and Scaling-up will address the need to leverage financing for the conservation and sustainable use of primary forests across the Indo Malaya Biome, reducing the financing gap for protected areas and for primary forests outside of PAs; and scaling-up investment in forest protection and management, sustainable agriculture, and commodity value chains. This will involve influencing and mobilizing much greater investment as well as supporting innovative financing modalities such as green bonds, expanded and accelerated use of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), biodiversity credits/offsets, fintech opportunities and primary forest conservation trust funds, among other mechanisms. As some aspects of this financing may have differential impacts on women and/or may not be equally accessible to women, the gender specificity will be taken in account in the identification and application of promising options.

The key barriers that will be addressed in Component 4 include lack of favourable investment environments, as well as inadequate financing for primary forests which results from the lack of an investible pipeline – there are funds available, but they cannot find assets to invest in. Outputs delivered by the RCP will include a series of stocktaking assessments and studies on the current financing situation and potential future possibilities; the establishment and running of a primary forest investment forum; and a set of activities responding to the needs identified by the country projects. These could include the identification of policy and regulatory changes that would enhance investibility of primary forests, development of primary forest investment plans; full ecosystem service valuations of primary forests; and feasibility studies of specific financing opportunities including Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), biodiversity credits, carbon financing, debt for nature swaps and green bonds. In each case there will be a focus on improving access to innovative financing schemes particularly for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and women. These outputs will lead to the RCP Outcome: Sustainable financing for primary forest conservation identified and supported. Together with the related outcomes from the country child projects, this will contribute to achieving the IP Outcome: *Sustainable financing for primary forest conservation secured*.

Component 5: Programmatic Coordination, Knowledge Management and Capacity development will provide the program coordination, synthesis and dissemination of best practice, communication, and technical support required to ensure that targeted investments on the enabling environment, protected and productive landscapes and sustainable financing have the greatest potential to add value, leading to systemic impact at the biome level. The aspect of gender will be mainstreamed into the activities of Component 5 and the effectiveness of these mainstreaming efforts will also be monitored internally.

Component 5 will address the barriers of weak multi-level linkages for the conservation of critical forest biomes, and limited access to information, capacities, and awareness of best practices for primary forest management.

The component will deliver a biome-wide diagnostic assessment, providing a holistic understanding of the range of benefits primary forests provide at global-regional and national/local scale; and identifying strategic entry points for the project to address specific drivers of primary forest loss by promoting appropriate responses to enable primary forest conservation across the biome. The diagnostic assessment will be made available to both country project countries, and non-country project countries, along with tools and capacities for a more consistent assessment and reporting on primary forests across the region.

Barriers will be addressed by establishing linkages to existing and emerging initiatives, platforms, coalitions, and reporting systems at national, regional, and global levels, through targeted technical support and capacity building, efficient program-level knowledge management, targeted communication and awareness raising, as well as through program-level monitoring and evaluation systems.

Specific outputs will include a biome-wide diagnostic assessment, providing strategic entry points for addressing complex drivers of deforestation and forest degradation at the level of the Indo-Malaya biome; developing linkages to other IPs, other global and regional initiatives and platforms, etc; improved reporting on primary forests; developing and operationalizing an integrated Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Knowledge and Learning Hub; technical support, gender-responsive capacity-building and south-south exchanges; and development of a communication and advocacy strategy.

And these will lead to the achievement of the RCP Outcome: Primary Forest coordination, access to knowledge, capacities and policy support strengthened. This together with the related outcomes from country child projects will contribute to the achievement of the IP Outcome: *Primary Forest coordination, access to knowledge, capacities and policy support strengthened across scales and communication strategy implemented*.

The five outcomes taken together will naturally result in three positive intermediate effects of the RCP, and together with the intermediate effects of the country child projects, these RCP intermediate effects will contribute to the overall IP intermediate effects as shown below:

Intermediate Effects	Nature	People	Climate
Intermediate Effects of RCP	IP countries are in a better position to ensure forests are ecologically connected and effectively governed, and that their loss and ecosystem degradation is curtailed or reversed	IP countries are in a better position to provide gender-positive livelihood benefits to forest dependent Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	IP countries are in a better position to ensure critical forest biome climate and other benefits are realized at multiple scales and to reduce risks for people and ecosystems
Intermediate Effects of overall IP	primary forests are connected and effectively governed, their loss and ecosystem degradation are curtailed or reversed	stakeholders, incl. forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and women integrate to build a sustainable forest economy, gaining meaningful livelihoods, benefits, and health security	critical forest biome carbon and other benefits enhanced, stabilizing climate at multiple scales and reducing risks for people and ecosystems

But this will only happen if the scale of the project interventions is large enough compared to the scale at which the drivers of degradation and destruction are presently operating. This requires amongst other things that the policy reforms and coherence generated are wide-ranging enough, the increase in PA and OECM area to be significant; positive changes in buffer landscapes to occur across entire target landscapes (not just pilot target areas); and sustainable financing to be increased by a scale of magnitude. Otherwise, the program will only deliver localized benefits easily offset by more pervasive drivers, and/or destruction of forest will simply be displaced from areas where the program is active, to other areas.

Finally, the intermediate effects of the RCP and the country child projects will contribute to ensuring that the Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome provides global environmental benefits, including i) globally significant biodiversity conserved, ii) components of globally significant biodiversity sustainably used with equitable sharing of benefits, iii) conservation and enhanced carbon stocks in agriculture, forest, and other land use, and iv) improved provision of ecosystem goods & services.

Ultimately Global Environmental Benefits will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, particularly targets under SDG 13 Life on Land, SDG 15 Climate change, and distinct partial contributions to SDG 2 Zero Hunger. At the same time, the IP will provide a direct contribution to the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) targets. (As shown in Appendix 2b of the PFD).

B1. Summary of Institutional arrangements and coordination with other initiatives and projects

Indo Malaya Critical Forest Biome IP Co-Leading Arrangement

Leadership of the overall Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program and the Regional Coordination project will be a joint endeavour by IUCN and FAO who will jointly be the GEF Implementing Agencies (IA) for the Project. IUCN is the designated lead, and will ensure overall programmatic

coordination, coherence, and accountability to GEF Secretariat. The two agencies will implement the program in line with the Programmatic Approach modality of the GEF Project Cycle Policy and Guidelines. The shared roles of the two co-lead agencies are further outlined in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEAD AGENCIES

Technical Assistance	
Based on demand/needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -TA will be provided by IUCN and/or FAO based on the comparative advantage of each agency, and in each case to address common priority needs identified through diagnostic studies and PSC discussions -Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
Program Coordination and Oversight	
Program Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Joint design of IP/I-M governance mechanisms that (i) ensure coordination within the program to ensure coherence and consistency, and (ii) connect the program externally to other relevant initiatives -Joint establishment of and participation in governance mechanisms: chairing Regional Program Steering Committee (RPSC) on alternating basis. -A small IUCN-FAO interagency task force will be established to ensure efficient and effective decision-making between the two GEF agencies. -IUCN&FAO will be members of the PSCs of all three country projects
Program Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Joint PMU for RCP, with IUCN and FAO coordinators, technical staff from both agencies, according to specialties and staff for administrative and operational matters -Joint overall program coordination -Overall coordination and regular communication with Country CPs ensuring coherence and country ownership of the IP/I-M to achieve the IP's results -Regular engagement of and communication with all partners to ensure overall program impact and avoid creating silos among the different components of the IP -Shared contracting of executing partners for deliverables and roles based on lead responsibilities over individual outputs
Program Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensuring overall program integration, facilitating learning and exchange between countries and access to innovations, tools, and good practices -Innovation, Technical Support and Knowledge Management on related to the Hubs for which each co-lead is respectively responsible
Project and Program Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of IUCN, FAO and GEF.
Project Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the agreed rules and procedures; and financial reporting to the GEF Trustee. -Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation, and the Project Closure Report on project progress. This includes collating relevant information from the country projects While the development of reports and quality assurance will likely be a shared task between the two agencies, ultimately IUCN has the final responsibility to ensure due diligence and compliance with GEF reporting requirements and submit the report.

The Programme Steering Committee (PSC) will be the main governing body of the IP and of the RCP project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets, draft Project Implementation Report prior to submission to GEF Agency representatives of IUCN and FAO as well as quarterly progress updates and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners. The PSC will meet virtually on a quarterly basis, and will meet face to face once per year, back-to-back with the I-

M CFB Annual Conference, which will be hosted by country project countries on a rotational basis. The half-annual PSC meetings will be the main basis for agreeing on the demand driven knowledge management, capacity-building and technical support activities to be designed and delivered by the RCP and selected partners in each subsequent project period.

The PSC will be comprised of representatives from IUCN and FAO as the joint Implementing Agencies (IAs) of the RCP; FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as the IAs for the country projects; Department of Forestry (DoF) in Lao Peoples’ Democratic Republic (PDR), the Conservation and Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) in Thailand as the Executing Agencies (EAs) of the Country Projects, and the ASEAN Secretariat as a delivery partner. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project and (v) bring in new partnerships and collaboration, including with the private sector and explore potential cofinancing.

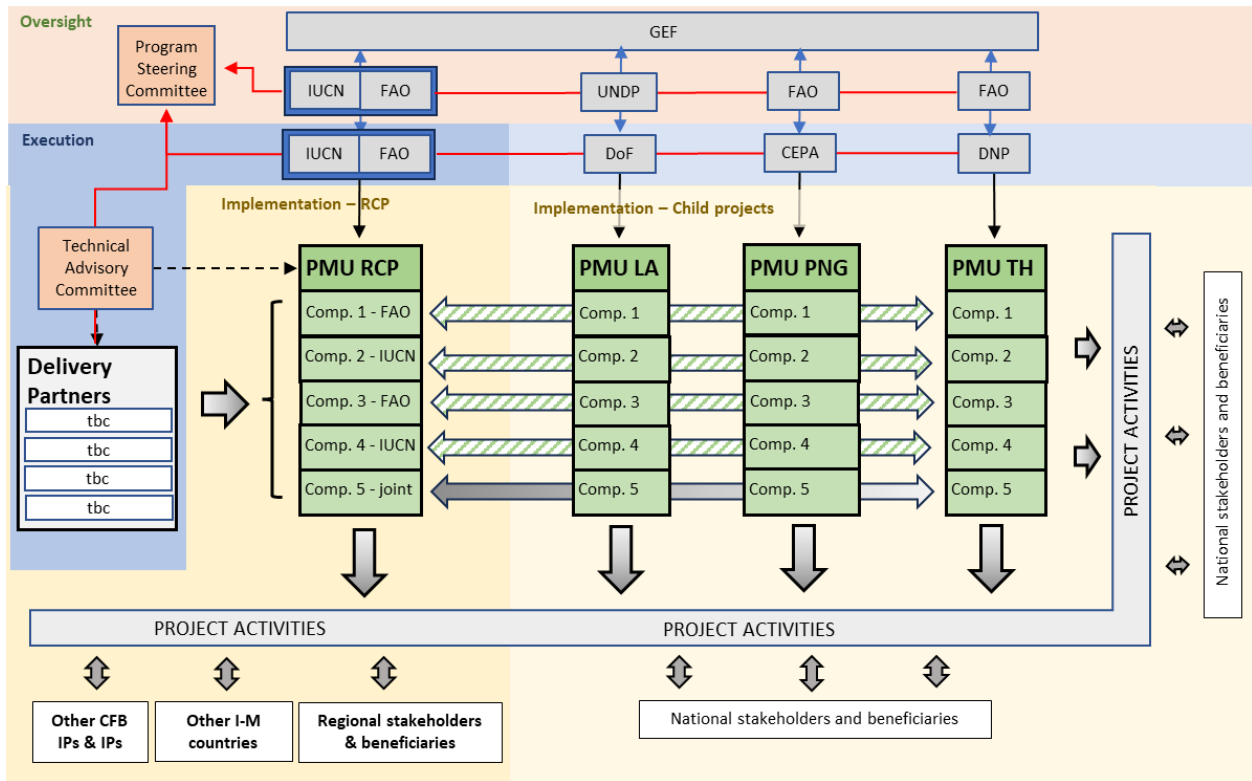


FIGURE 3: CFB IP ORGANOGRAM

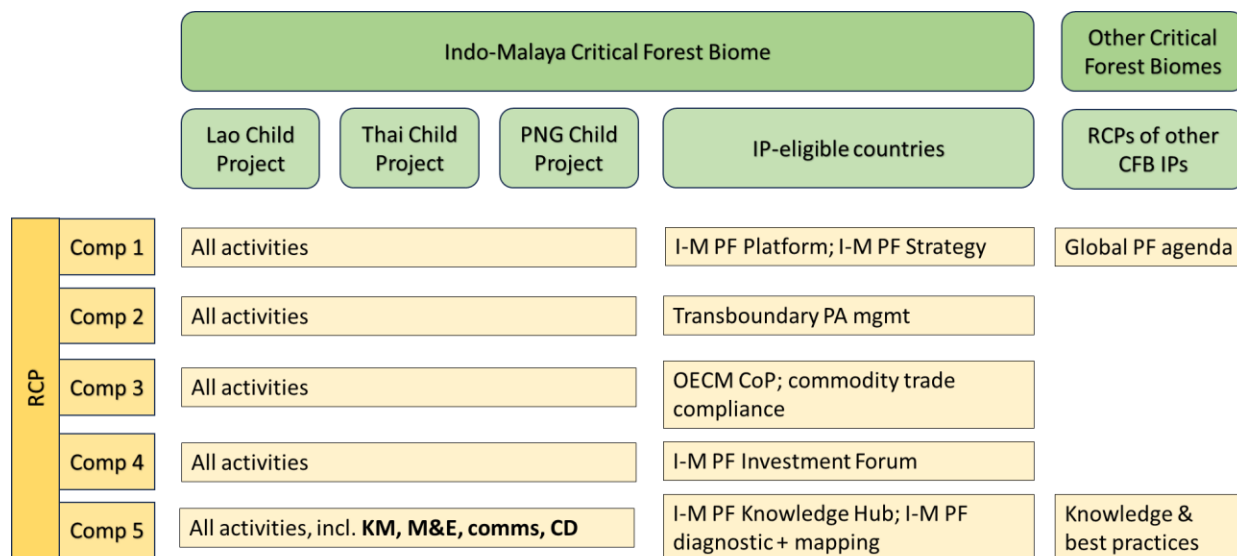


FIGURE 4: CFB IP COORDINATION FUNCTIONS

In addition to the PSC there will be a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This will be composed of key partners including AFoCO, CIFOR-ICRAF, International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), World-Wide Fund for Nature / World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and others yet to be identified. The TAC will advise on key technical and thematic issues. In the same way as the PSC the TAC will meet virtually on a quarterly basis. The TAC will also meet face to face annually at the I-M CFB Annual Conference.

Thematic working groups will also be formed around specific issues between members of the RCP team and the country project teams – for example the RCP Safeguards specialist will form a working group with the country safeguards specialists to share and exchange information and experience on specific safeguard issues, and similarly with the Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation, and with sustainable financing and investment. Each specific working group established in this way will also link with one or more members of the TAC as appropriate. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of PSC, TAC, and thematic working groups will be proposed by FAO and IUCN, and agreed during the 1st meeting of the Program Steering Committee, in the 1st quarter of Project Year 1 (PY1).

Will the GEF Implementing Agency play an execution role on this project?

Yes No

If so, please describe that role here and the justification:

The IP consists of the RCP and three country projects. The RCP plays multiple roles including program coordination; facilitating linkages to other relevant platforms and coalitions; providing technical support to country projects; conducting overall program monitoring; and knowledge management; as well as communications and awareness raising. The regional project and the three country projects together will deliver the program objective through five different components focusing on– enabling environment for inclusive conservation and sustainable management; protected areas; primary forests outside PAs and buffer zones; innovative finance, investment and scaling-up; and partnerships, knowledge sharing and capacity building.

IUCN and FAO are together executing the regional project as shown in Figure 3, with oversight provided by GEF and by a Program Steering Committee which will be constituted by the members described above.

The Steering Committee will meet virtually quarterly, and in-person annually to review progress and challenges in implementation and provide advice and direction for subsequent implementation. to review progress and challenges in implementation and provide advice and direction for subsequent implementation.

For implementation at the regional level, an RCP Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established, hosted by IUCN Asia Regional Office, maintaining close direct lines with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP). The RCP PMU will double as the Program Management Unit of the entire I-M CFB IP and will establish communication channels with regional bodies including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN – including the ASEAN Secretariat and various working groups), Asia Protected Area Partnership (APAP) and the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), seeking their inputs and advice, and sharing with them IP progress and achievements. The RCP PMU will also benefit from advice provided by a technical advisory committee with expert members in various fields such as PA management, gender mainstreaming, land-use planning, community enterprise development, etc. The RCP PMU will be staffed with full-time positions for a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), and a Knowledge Management & Capacity Building Specialist, a half-time position for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist, as well as part-time positions for Admin & Finance Specialist responsible for the IUCN-routed part of the budget, and an Operation & Finance Specialist responsible for the FAO-routed part of the budget.

For implementation in each of the three countries – Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea and Thailand, a Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established under the Executing Agency, responsible for the overall management of the project in-country. Direct links will be established between the three country PMUs and the RCP PMU to ensure overall program management, including reporting, monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The RCP PMU together with regional partners will ensure the appropriate involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries in regional level activities, while the PMUs of each country will ensure appropriate involvement of stakeholders and beneficiaries in country activities. The RCP PMU through the ASEAN Secretariat will also engage into project implementation countries of the I-M CFB that do not have active country projects. In addition, the RCP PMU will also entertain linkages to the GEF-11495 “Strengthening Conservation of Primary Forests through Partnership Enhancement and Coordination of Support” project, particularly related to its Component 1 on global recognition and support to primary forests and Component 2 on information sharing on primary forests.

Cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects

The ASEAN Secretariat is an important partner, and it will be important for the RCP to coordinate with the ASEAN bodies relevant to the project. Effective engagement will provide the project with an avenue to promote wider application of the project approaches, wider adoption of the project outputs, and greater sustainability of impacts beyond the lifetime of the project. ASEAN deals with forest policy and strategy through the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) assisted by the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) consisting of member state’s forest ministries, departments, or agencies responsible for forest issues.

Other key regional stakeholders provisionally include the Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), both with strong national programs in participating countries as well as a presence on the ground in many of the target landscapes; the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), which has supported civil society organizations across the biome for over a decade; CIFOR-ICRAF (Centre for International Forestry Research – International Agroforestry Centre), which provides important research and analysis supporting evidence-based approaches of the IP, and RECOFTC (Centre for People

and Forests) which supports Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities management of forests both inside and outside of PAs in many countries within the biome.

The RCP will coordinate closely with UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), especially regarding experience in Thailand and Lao PDR; ADB-GEF Nature Capital Fund, as well as the Conservation Finance Alliance. The RCP will engage with the Global EU-REDD project especially regarding experience in Lao PDR, and the Global Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank regarding experience in Lao PDR, PNG, and Thailand. Other regional linkages may include the APFC, APAP, and relevant Indigenous Peoples and Local Community networks and organisations. Key private sector actors will be engaged through the Investment Forum, and through work on sustainable value chains for commodities with a high primary forest footprint, such as cassava and rubber. The approach to working with the private sector will mainly be through engagement with different apex bodies and platforms, such as the sustainable rubber platform. In addition, the RCP will also coordinate with relevant GEF projects, including GEF-10916 “National Planning for an Inclusive and Effective Conservation Approach to Reaching Global Biodiversity Framework Target3” to support GBF target 3 planning under this IP and to avoid duplication, GEF-10920 “Policy Coherence for Global Environmental Benefits” for increasing policy coherence for nature and climate, GEF-11036 “Technical Support for the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support project” for coordinated action on the KM-GBF.

In addition, several partners provide substantial co-financing to the RCP (for details refer to Annex H). The actual delivery of co-financing by partners at both the regional and country levels will be summarized and synthesized at the IP level through the RCP monitoring system.

Countries which are not participating directly in the IP may develop their own projects which are closely related to the IP. These could be considered as “associated projects” which could participate in the sharing of experience, good practices and lessons learned with the IP, and may participate in certain events hosted by the RCP, normally at their own expense.

Wherever possible, IUCN and FAO will develop cost-sharing arrangements (such as for part-time staff positions) with different relevant projects in their respective portfolios.

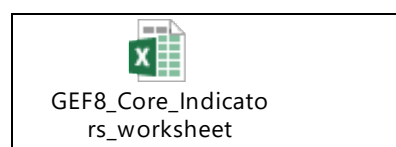
B.2 Core Indicators

Project Core Indicators		Expected at CEO Endorsement
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	0
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	0
3	Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare)	0
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare)	0
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (hectare)	0
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO ₂ e)	0
7	Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count)	0
8	Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton)	0

9	Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)	0
10	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	0
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)	600 (300 females)

The Regional Coordination and Technical Support Project (RCP) focuses on catalysing regional impact by reinforcing the national scale impacts of country projects. Therefore, the RCP does not have its own GEF Core Indicator Contributions, apart from the direct beneficiaries of the RCP.

These direct beneficiaries reflected in GEF Core Indicator 11 include those policy makers, technical staff of government organizations, representatives of regional umbrella organizations of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, youth, private sector, and other stakeholders who participate in RCP-organized capacity building events, directly benefit from technical support provided by the RCP, or are members of institutions shaped and capacitated by the RCP.



B.3 Risk Management

Risk management is a coordinated set of activities to direct and control an organization about risk. It comprises a structured, methodical approach to identifying and managing risks for the achievement of objectives. The project risk log will support monitoring risks and risk mitigation actions throughout implementation. It focuses on both external risks to the project and on the identified environmental and social standards (ESS) from the project. Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) specific risks are elaborated in further detail in Annex I.

RISK CATEGORIES	RATINGS	ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES
CONTEXT		
Climate	High	<p><i>The project climate risks are high both, with and without project modulation. Details of key risk elements include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Hazard: rising average, min., and max. temperatures; increase in spatial and interannual variability in precipitation (including increased severity of El-Nino events); increase in extreme events (droughts, storms, landslides, floods, fires); increase in sea levels.</i> ▪ <i>Exposure: high exposure of forests and biodiversity to wildfires, pest and disease outbreaks, extreme winds and precipitation, flash flooding and related landslides causing soil erosion and nutrient loss, compounded with anthropogenic drivers of land use change, agriculture development, commercial logging, and deforestation. High exposure of livelihoods to flooding and storms.</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Vulnerability: risks due to multi-dimensional poverty, food insecurity, epidemics, employment in the primary sector, and disproportionate climate impacts on ethnic minorities.</i> ▪ <i>Adaptive capacity: Adaptive capacities among countries are highly variable across the region, through relevant policies, information, and warning systems, etc. exist in most. However, weaknesses in communities' economic means to adapt, the existence of robust disaster response mechanism and communication compromise adaptive capacities.</i> <p><i>Key mitigation built into project design include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support countries project in promoting inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples throughout all stages of the project. This will help to maintain consent , to enhance the level of trust and minimizes risks (such as harm to Indigenous Peoples territories, disputes over natural resources, or damage to the reputation of the implementing organization).</i> ▪ <i>Support country projects in integrating risk management into landscape management, including hazard impact mitigation (prevention strategies), risk governance (collaboration between institutions on the emergency response), disaster resilience investment (structural and non-structural measures to promote climate resilient communities) and strengthen preparedness.</i> ▪ <i>Support country projects in exploring technologies that can be used to effectively deliver climate and weather information to livelihoods dependent on forests.</i> ▪ <i>Capacity building activities to mainstream climate change considerations.</i> ▪ <i>Biome-wide analytical assessment to focus on climate risk assessment and consider mitigative actions in recommendations and follow-up through project activities.</i>
<p>Environment and Social</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p><i>Environmental and Social factors (excluding Climate related, already addressed above) which might put the RCP's (and Program's) intended outcomes at risk include but are not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ongoing loss and degradation of primary forests due to an inability of the program (with its partners) to manage the drivers identified in the Program's Theory of Change, which are major challenges. This of course is an environmental outcome but has mainly social drivers.</i> ▪ <i>Unanticipated conflict or conflicts which should have been foreseen but which are somehow overlooked (due to lack of familiarity with local realities, unwillingness to make explicit controversial topics). Conflict of actual or perceived changes in access to forest resources, even without the creation of new PAs.</i> ▪ <i>The project having underestimated the persistent effects of corruption, nepotism, the power of national and/or international business interests; this is more difficult politically for the project/program to mitigate when they originate in other ASEAN countries (but also beyond, such as China); and/or overestimated its own ability to influence such dynamics or even its awareness of them.</i> ▪ <i>Overlooking the specific needs of women, which vary by context and by the type of activity planned by the project</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The time, expense, and complexity of obtaining genuine Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), especially where there is primarily customary land ownership (as in PNG); this could excessively delay the project or even prevent it from operating in some locations.</i> ▪ <i>Potential tensions between Government institutions and IPs/ethnic minorities if there is a low level of trust. This would be difficult for the project/program to overcome as the projects will be associated with Government in the minds of local forest users.</i> <p><i>Mitigating actions or factors include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Program Theory of Change reflects an awareness on the part of the Program designers (with cascading effects to the design of the Regional and country level projects) of these complexities and some mitigation has already been built into the design.</i> ▪ <i>The project and program will be taking an ‘adaptive management’ approach, allowing for flexibility to perhaps drop some outcomes which prove to be unlikely to be achieved and shift to more promising objectives and/or to change the modalities of project delivery.</i> ▪ <i>The Regional project will be heavily involved with the key regional institution, ASEAN, and its working groups and will support the implementation of its guidelines (e.g. ASEAN Guidelines on Recognition of Customary tenure in Forested Landscapes; ASEAN C and I for SFM) and hence will be working from a position of some insight and at least a sense of belonging to the member states.</i> ▪ <i>Support countries project in promoting inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples throughout all stages of the project. This will help to maintain consent, to enhance the level of trust and minimizes risks (such as harm to Indigenous Peoples territories, disputes over natural resources, or damage to the reputation of the implementing organization).</i>
Political and Governance	Moderate	<p><i>The effectiveness of the RCP in establishing a regional policy agenda on primary forest conservation across all I-M CFB countries, and in supporting country projects in transformational change towards primary forest conservation at national levels, may be affected by unfavourable political and governance conditions. The key risk relates to the reluctance of policy actors to commit to real transformation and continuing with business as usual. The RCP will apply processes that do not operate at isolated levels (e.g. policy makers only), but instead cut across all levels down to the landscapes, involving a broad range of stakeholders and a diversity of actors in change making processes. The RCP will support country projects to strengthen governance and increase transparency. The RCP as an independent service-provider will be in a better position as compared to country projects to resist politically motivated pressure.</i></p> <p><i>The mitigating measures include working in close collaboration with ASEAN, which has high political leverage among its member countries and countries of the wider region. Facilitation by ASEAN will ensure that long-term political commitment to agreed objectives can be secured.</i></p>

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	<p>The effectiveness of the I-M CFB IP and the RCP depends on their integration into a baseline of existing institutions and policies at regional and national levels. This may be affected by variations between countries and sectors.</p> <p>Mitigating measures are built into (1) the holistic diagnostic assessment, applying a common analysis methodology to even out country-specific differences, (2) the regional process of developing a shared vision, strategy, and action plan for primary forest conservation for the region, (3) engagement with multiple stakeholders and sectors, including commodity platforms, as well as regional institutions such as ASEAN.</p>
Technological	Moderate	<p>The risks related to the technical design of the project are moderate. Intensive stakeholder consultations took place throughout the PPG phase, which led to the design of project components specific to the level of most outputs but not to others. The prioritization of demand-driven outputs as well as of sufficient room for adaptive management led to a flexible, but partially unspecific results framework, leaving room open for interpretation in terms of the definition of tasks, and the allocation of responsibilities and budgets.</p> <p>Mitigating measures include project governance and decision-making mechanisms that ensure transparent prioritization of emerging country and regional needs to be addressed by the RCP at tight periodicity.</p>
Financial and Business Model	Low	<p>The financial and business model risk of the project is low. The project will initiate an Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Investment Forum, which will be a match-making platform between project developers and investors. Any financial and business model risks related to investments that are brokered through this platform are born by the implementers and not the RCP.</p>
EXECUTION		
Capacity for Implementation	Low	<p>Risks for institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability are minimal. The Project is co-executed by two GEF Agencies with sufficient capacities for implementation and to ensure sustainability. Risks related to the capacities available to absorb and utilize the support provided by the RCP relate to country projects.</p> <p>Minimal residual risks are mitigated by securing the support of specialized technical organizations as partners and by working through established institutions and processes to ensure sustainability. In addition, support provided to country projects will be needs-driven and defined in consultation with national project teams, considering the capacity of in-country institutions to absorb and sustain the models proposed.</p>
Fiduciary	Low	<p>The RCP is in direct execution of two GEF Agencies, IUCN, and FAO. Standard financial management and procurement procedures of both organizations will apply, bearing minimal fiduciary risks.</p>
Stakeholder	Moderate	<p>The risks related to stakeholder engagement are substantial and mainly related to (1) the buy-in of country projects into the RCP, (2) the participation of countries without country projects in the I-M CFB, and (3) the engagement of regional stakeholders.</p> <p>Mitigating actions include demand-driven outputs under each of the RCP's components to be filled based on country project priorities, RCP governance system ensuring country projects are in key decision-making positions, annual general and additional specific team building and exchange events,</p>

		<i>processes and instruments that allow the engagement of non-participating countries of the region in a modular manner, and partnerships with regional stakeholders for RCP implementation.</i>
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	<i>The overall risk rating of the project, synthesised from the thematic risk categories above is moderate.</i>

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The I-M CFB IP is fully aligned with the GEF-8 Programming Directions (GEF/R.08/29/Rev.01), regional, and national priorities as described in detail in the PFD. The alignment of country projects is further specified in the respective child project documents, whereas a summary is provided below for the RCP:

GEF-8 Strategy alignment

The RCP’s goal “To maximize transformational impact of country child projects for the safeguarding of globally important primary forests across Indo-Malaya” is fully aligned with all four goals of the GEF-8 Theory of Change, particularly “Natural capital, nature-based solutions and ecosystem services underpin transformation of target systems” as well as “Incentives and improved policy promote innovations and behaviour change for sustainability and resilience in target systems” (GEF/R.08/28, pp. 15).

The IP goal and RCP goals will be achieved through five key outcomes (enabling policy, regulatory, and governance environment; Protected Areas; sustainable production forest landscapes; sustainable financing; partnerships, knowledge, and capacity building) that are broadly aligned with the four levers for systems transformation described in the GEF-8 strategy (governance and policies, financial leverage, innovation and learning, and multi-stakeholder dialogues).

Additionally, the IP and the RCP address cross-cutting themes identified in the GEF-8 Theory of Change, including nature-based solutions, gender responsive approaches, resilience, private sector engagement, behaviour change, and environmental security. NbS will be addressed through restoration mainly relying on forest dynamics and ecosystem-based adaptation as part of land use planning. Strengthening the rights, participation, and benefit reaping of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, as well as women and members of other disadvantaged groups is mainstreamed throughout the IP, including through robust safeguard systems. Private sector engagement is mainly included through Components 3 and 4.

Integrated Program alignment

The RCP is fully in line with the CFB IP objective “to invest in the conservation and effective governance of critical forest biomes that sustain the health of the planet and flow of vital ecosystem services that underpin human well-being”, particularly by maximizing transformational change resulting from investments by country projects into achieving this overarching objective. The RCP is linked to other CFB IPs globally to facilitate impact at the global scale.

The IP’s outcomes focus on, and integrate, all key interventions outlined in the GEF-8 Programming Directions, including PA expansion, strengthened management of PAs, OECMs, integrated land use planning, conservation-friendly livelihoods, financial and other incentives for forest conservation, multi-scale and multi-stakeholder governance and law enforcement, improved land tenure rights, promotion of regional cooperation, improved resource mobilization. The IP also focuses on global and regional interventions, including biome connectivity, capacity building and regional cooperation, and global enabling environment on forests.

GEF Focal area and MEA alignment

The RCP and all country projects of the CFB IP focus on the GEF Focal Areas biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change. Though international waters and to a lesser extent chemicals and waste are reflected as targeted Focal Areas the CFB IP further contributes to, these are not explicitly targeted by any of the projects under the I-M CFB IP.

In the form of catalysing country-level investments into countering loss and degradation of primary forests towards regional impact, the RCP invests into Nature and Systems Transformation, as informed by MEA Guidance (CBD: Post 2020 GBF, COP14/30 decisions on primary forests, UNFCCC: Paris Agreement, Katowice Forest for Climate Declaration, REDD+ framework, net zero decarbonization by 2050, UNCCD: LDN, including response hierarchy of avoiding, protecting and reversing land degradation), Global Commitments (UNFF UN Strategic Plan for Forests, including six Global Forest Goals, High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People), the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG # 15: Life on Land, SDG # 13: Climate Change, SDG # 2: Zero Hunger), and Levers for Raising Ambition (e.g. Bonn Challenge, New York Declaration on Forests).

Biodiversity

The IP will result in major biodiversity benefits, including reductions in the rates of loss and degradation of globally primary moist tropical forest ecosystems; enhancement of the habitat and connectivity value of the ecosystems and their surrounding production landscapes; as well as enhanced biodiversity. The IP outcomes contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Goals and Targets as follows:

- Component 1 contributes to Targets 14, 18, 22
- Component 2 contributes to Goal A and Targets 3, 8, 23
- Component 3 contributes to Goal B and Targets 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 23
- Component 4 contributes to Goal D and Target 19
- Component 5 contributes to Goal D and Targets 20, 21, 23

The RCP and the IP will contribute directly to GEF-8 *BD Objectives*:

- *BD Objective 1: To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems*
 - Financial Sustainability, Effective Management, and Ecosystem Coverage of Protected Area Systems (Component 2)
 - Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (Component 3)
 - Biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors (Component 3)
- *BD Objective 3: to increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity.*

Land degradation:

The RCP and the IP will primarily contribute to the LD focal area under Component 3, specifically GEF-8 *LD Objective 1: Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM) and 2: Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration.*

Climate change

The RCP and the IP will specifically contribute to *CC Objective 1.4: Promote Nature-based Solutions.*

Alignment with regional priorities

The RCP is well aligned to address regional priorities, including those arising from the policy priorities of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, the work of the ASEAN Cooperation on Forestry, including the ASEAN Working Group on Forest Management and other relevant body such as ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, the IUCN Asia Protected Area Partnership, and the Thailand - Cambodia Transboundary Protected Area MoU.

The RCP also fully responds to the national priorities of the three participating countries (e.g. the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) voluntary national contribution) and is additionally responsive to the needs of further countries across the biome potentially interested in the IP (e.g. UNFF VNC of Indonesia).¹⁴ Common across countries, the IP will support compliance with national obligations arising from MEAs (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CITES) as well as e.g. the UN Food Systems Dialogue.¹⁵

¹⁴ <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/vnccs/index.html>

¹⁵ <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/member-state-dialogue/dialogues-and-pathways/en>

Alignment TO IUCN and FAO Strategic framework, SDGs, and COUNTRY Programming Framework

To deliver on their mission toward a just world that values and conserves nature, IUCN's work in Asia builds on their niche as the world's authority on biodiversity conservation, environmental governance, and nature-based solutions. IUCN in Asia is involved in over 100 projects, including initiatives in large ecosystems extending beyond shared borders of two or more countries. The regional portfolio covers 5 program areas and 3 strategic themes. The I-M CFB RCP contributes to IUCN's Forest program area which includes promoting rights-based governance approaches for indigenous peoples and local communities; effective management of forest protected areas; as well as promoting forest landscape restoration. The RCP will also further IUCN engagement with businesses, which includes dialogue, providing independent expert advice on impacts of operations, improving corporate environmental performance, and implementing joint conservation and development related projects in Asia. (COMMENT: Please also refer to the alignment with the Nature 2030 Framework)

FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 revolves around the "Four Betters" defining FAO's strategic thrust in alignment with the SDGs. The RCP and the IP contribute directly to 3. "Better Environment", particularly to the protection, restoration, and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. The RCP and the IP represent a direct contribution to the Program Priority Area "Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture". Indirectly, the RCP and IP contribute to 1 "Better production", particularly the Program Priority Area "Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources", and 4 "Better life", particularly the Program Priority Area "Inclusive rural transformation". The RCP and the IP apply all four of FAO's cross-cutting/cross-sectional "accelerators", which include (i) technology, (ii) innovation, (iii) data, and (iv) complements (governance, human capital, and institutions) to accelerate impact while minimizing trade-offs.

Lessons learned from past projects

Lessons learnt from past projects, particularly the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes IP (ASL), and IPs co-executed by two GEF Agencies (e.g. Forest Land Use Restoration (FOLUR)), past GEF-IPs and thematically matching projects in countries of the region¹⁶ provide important lessons concerning:

- i. Focus:
 - a. Service orientation towards country projects.
 - b. Focus on knowledge management and the generation of scalable knowledge products / tools that can be used by country projects.
 - c. RCP solutions need to be provided to cross borders and are included in the RCP as transboundary landscape conservation approaches.
 - d. Coordinated mechanisms and common vision are essential to create a sense of regional cohesion, which is reflected in Component 1 of the RCP.
- ii. Structure and cross-cutting elements of IP coordination:
 - a. Multiple-scale governance frameworks balancing external and internal coordination.
 - b. Space for adaptive management and demand-based outputs reflected in RCP results framework
 - c. Knowledge management, monitoring, communication, capacity development, and safeguards were key elements cutting across IP coordination projects and their country projects, which is also replicated in the RCP design.

¹⁶ Amazon Sustainable Landscapes: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/amazon-sustainable-landscapes-program/publications>, GEF-5510, GEF-3940, Learning from GEF-6 IAP: <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications/integrated-programming-global-environment-facility-learning-gef-6-iap>

- d. Shared monitoring and common indicators across projects of the IP to track GEF transformation levers
 - e. Shared monitoring across IP projects and a joint knowledge platform providing distinct spaces for country projects.
 - f. Technical working groups/communities of practice largely based on Components allowing focused technical exchange from the landscape to the regional levels.
- iii. **Budgeting:** The costs of regional events need to be borne by the RCP, whereas country projects need to budget for participation in events organized by the RCP (unless these are mandatory, e.g. PSC meetings, etc.).
- iv. **Implementation arrangements:** Important lessons were incorporated into PSC composition, decision-making processes, partnerships, and PMU staffing. Similarly, lessons on mechanisms for exchange of knowledge and information among projects were drawn into consideration.
- v. **Technical focus:** Technical lessons from relevant GEF, as well as KfW, GIZ, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany (BMU), ADB, United Kingdom's international development agency (UKAID),¹⁷ EU,¹⁸ France¹⁹-funded projects.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes No (If –and only if– NO is selected, a pop-up field should open for the Agency to provide an explanation)

- 1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes No

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;
- improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or
- generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

- 2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes No tbd

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-biodiversity-research-programme-opens-for-applications>

¹⁸ SWM-Asia Programme

¹⁹ <https://www.ffem.fr/en/carte-des-projets/multi-stakeholder-partnership-sustainable-management-protected-areas-indo-burma>

Yes No

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes No

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes No

Co-financier; Yes No

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes No

Executor or co-executor; Yes No

Other (Please explain) Yes No

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes No

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B “project description”?

Yes No

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

E.1 Knowledge management and Communication

Knowledge management

The Indo-Malaya IP’s Knowledge Management (KM) strategy is based on the 2023 GEF Knowledge and Learning strategy, which commits to improve and enhance knowledge and learning across GEF IPs, for better conservation of primary forests and visibility of Intact Forest Landscapes in the climate and biodiversity agenda. A regional KM strategy links national KM strategies and presents how regional coordination and country-level KM strategies connect with the IP’s goal and objectives (Fig 1). The regional coordination team will ensure that KM processes and activities are led by country teams; therefore, a KM specialist team to support knowledge and learning will be established at regional and national levels. A centrepiece for KM in the IP is the Indo-Malaya Integrated Knowledge and Learning Hub, a platform that will compile information, best practice, and lessons learned gleaned from results of the IP’s Components, especially Component 5 focused on knowledge management, capacity development and communications. The hub may feature access to geospatial tools, a clearing house mechanismⁱ, AI-enhanced search functions, and a user-friendly dashboard. Knowledge exchange events and meetings between country and regional stakeholders will be promoted in the hub to enable relevant communities of practice. The hub will link national, regional, and global forestry portals, such as the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology,ⁱⁱ FAO Earth Map,ⁱⁱⁱ and the FAO FRA^{iv}. The Knowledge and Learning Hub will apply a collaborative KM process^v among national and regional stakeholders to create interoperability across previous GEF IP platforms. Moreover, knowledge products in the hub will refer to results of previous GEF projects, especially those that influence strategic policy and investment decisions for primary forest management. A regional organization will host the hub, ideally capable of partnership arrangements that legitimize digital collaboration with and among countries outside the Indo-Malaya region.^{vi} Country KM

Better conservation of primary forests providing information and visibility of Intact Forest Landscapes in the climate and biodiversity agendas.

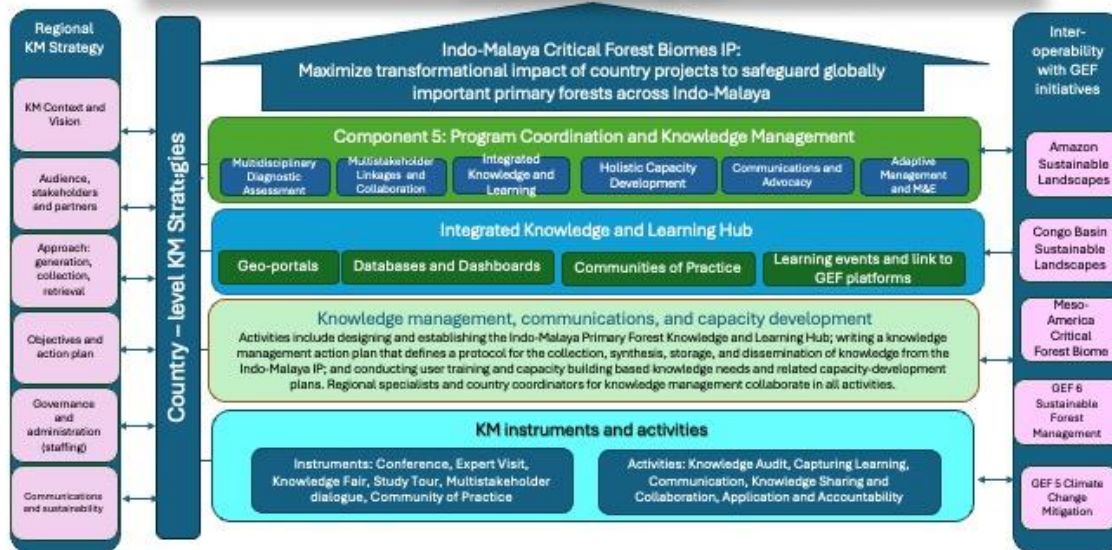


FIGURE 5: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE I-M CFB IP

specialists will be engaged to ensure that national perspectives are included in knowledge sharing events, ideally held annually.

Communications

A communication strategy will promote the visibility and global importance of Indo-Malaya primary forests to all target audiences. Communications will emphasize the ecological and social links to the Amazon, Congo, and Meso-America Critical Forest Biomes. Based on a multi-stakeholder assessment, activities will target influential constituents involved in forest protection, sustainable forest use, and finance. The budget will consider staffing and depend on the overall IP’s activity work plan.

E.2 Socio-economic Benefits and Decent Rural Employment²⁰

The main socio-economic benefits of the project will be derived from (i) engaging with key actors in relation to developing smallholder- inclusive sustainable commodity value chains especially for key agricultural commodities with large primary forest impact footprints. This will provide economic benefits to actors along the value chain, while also reducing impacts on the forest; and (ii) by improving the policy environment/investment climate for investors to support inclusive value chains and (iii) supporting development of new financial instruments which channel more funds for forest conservation. including carbon financing, payment for ecosystem service schemes, impact investing, biodiversity credits, green bonds, and other options. These will in turn provide direct economic benefits to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities inhabiting primary forest areas and involved in these activities, while again reducing pressures on and threats to the forest ecosystems.

²⁰ Specific guidance on how FAO can promote the Four Pillars of Decent Work in rural areas is provided in the [Quick reference for addressing decent rural employment](#) (as well as in the full corresponding [Guidance document](#)). For more information on FAO’s work on decent rural employment and related guidance materials please consult the FAO thematic website at: <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/en/>.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Total GEF Financing
IUCN	GEF TF	Indo Malaya	Multifocal Area	BD IP Global Platforms	2,570,512	231,346	2,801,858
FAO	GEF TF	Indo Malaya	Multifocal Area	BD IP Global Platforms	2,372,780	213,550	2,586,330
IUCN	GEF TF	Regional	Land Degradation	LD IP Global Platforms	386,214	34,760	420,974
FAO	GEF TF	Regional	Land Degradation	LD IP Global Platforms	356,505	32,085	388,590
IUCN	GEF TF	Regional	Climate Change	CC IP Global Platforms	359,825	32,385	392,210
FAO	GEF TF	Regional	Climate Change	CC IP Global Platforms	332,145	29,893	362,038
Total GEF Resources					6,377,981	574,019	6,952,000

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG	Agency Fee	Total PPG Funding
IUCN	GEF TF	Regional	Biodiversity	BD IP Global Platforms	79,000	7,110	86,110
FAO	GEF TF	Regional	Biodiversity	BD IP Global Platforms	79,000	7,110	86,110
IUCN	GEF TF	Regional	Land Degradation	LD IP Global Platforms	9,000	810	9,810
FAO	GEF TF	Regional	Land Degradation	LD IP Global Platforms	9,000	810	9,810
IUCN	GEF TF	Regional	Climate Change	CC IP Global Platforms	12,000	1,080	13,080
FAO	GEF TF	Regional	Climate Change	CC IP Global Platforms	12,000	1,080	13,080
Total PPG Amount					200,000	18,000	218,000

Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation

GFEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Source of Funds	Total
IUCN	GEF TF		BD	(select as applicable)	2,570,512
FAO	GEF TF		BD		2,372,780
IUCN	GEF TF		LD		386,214
FAO	GEF TF		LD		356,505
IUCN	GEF TF		CC		359,825
FAO	GEF TF		CC		332,145
Total GEF Resources					6,377,981

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
CFB Indo-Malay IP	GEF TF	7,017,000	12,252,558
Total Project Cost		7,017,000	12,252,558

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	P04404 IUCN Partnership for the Green List - funded by Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (ongoing until Dec 2030, considered for Nov 2024 - Sep 2030)	Grant	Investment mobilized	201,469
GEF Agency	P03771 Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience in the Coral Triangle (SOMACORE) - funded by German BMUV (projected to start in Jul 2024 until May 2027, considered for Oct 2024 - May 2027)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,862,182
GEF Agency	P04749 Global Initiative for Revitalization of Forests: International Model Forest Network - funded by Natural Resources Canada (ongoing until Mar 2026, considered for Oct 2024 - Mar 2026)	Grant	Investment mobilized	551,880
GEF Agency	P04410 Biodiverse Landscapes Fund (BLF) - PCA Management and Eco-tourism - funded by UK DEFRA and led by FFI (ongoing until Dec 2029, considered for Oct 2024 - Dec 2029)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,872,825
GEF Agency	Recurrent expenditure in the form of workstation fees (contribution from IUCN as GEF Agency toward Project Management Cost during the project implementation)	Grant	Recurrent expenditure	151,650
GEF Agency	FAO - Korea Forest Service: Assuring the Future of Forests with Integrated Risk Management (AFFIRM) Mechanism (2023-2027, considered for 2024/10-2027)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,157,152
GEF Agency	FAO - European Union: Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, Asia allocation under Phase II for work on SWM and One Health (from 2023-2029, considered for 2024/10-29)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,542,000

GEF Agency	FAO – UN-REDD with funding from UK: Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests Aim4Forests (2023-2028), considered for the period 2024/10-2028	Grant	Investment mobilized	350,000
GEF Agency	FAO - UN-REDD Technical Assistance & ASEAN Social forestry initiative: FAO component (2023-2026), considered for period 2024/10-2025	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,025,000
GEF Agency	FAO - EC: Improving and disseminating global information on forest status, management and use (2022-2025).	Grant	Investment mobilized	42,000
GEF Agency	Cofinancing towards Project Management Costs	Grant	Recurrent expenditure	276,000
Donor Agency	ITTO: Promotion of sustainable domestic consumption of wood products in Thailand (2024.10-2025.01)	Grant	Investment mobilised	170,000
Donor Agency	ITTO: Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics (2024.10-2026.08)	Grant	Investment mobilised	899,449
Donor Agency	RECOFTC: USDA Forest Service, International Programs, Community-based fire management project (2024.10-2027.09)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	120,000
Donor Agency	RECOFTC: Embassy of Sweden, Explore program (2024.10-2027.09)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	500,000
Donor Agency	RECOFTC: Canadian Forest Service, IMFN Climate – Regional Model Forest Network Asia (2024.10-2026.03)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	73,030
Donor Agency	RECOFTC: USAID/NASA SERVIR project (2024.10-2027.06)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	45,534
Donor Agency	ICRAF: Sustainable Landscapes for Climate- and Economic- Resilient Livelihoods in Indonesia (Land4Lives) – funded by Global Affairs Canada (2025-2026)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	4,900,000

Donor Agency	ICRAF: Land and Seascape Solutions for Indonesia (LASSO/SOLUSI) – Funded by GIZ (2025-2028)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	3,260,000
Donor Agency	CIFOR: Forestry, Climate Change, and Biodiversity nexus in Managalas – Funded by the European Commission (2025-2027)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	11,760,000
Donor Agency	CIFOR: Western Pacific Sustainable Peatland Management (SAGU) Project – Funded by Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (2025-2028)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	13,038,000
Total Co-financing				40,158,165

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

IUCN: Investments mobilised are mostly in the form of non-recurrent expenditures such as field activities, capacity building activities, specialised technical assistance, and subgrants.

FAO: Projects that are initiatives independent of regular expenditure by any of the GEF Agencies or donor organizations are reflected as investment mobilised.

Status of Utilization of Project preparation Grant at Prodoc submission stage:

IUCN

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
PPG International Consultants	59,200	41,244.06	3,250.00
PPG Travel	10,000	5,464.53	0
PPG Training Meeting and Material	30,800	9,707.09	0
Total	100,000	56,415.68	3,250.00

FAO

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Salaries professional	5,000	5,360	0
Consultants	68,900	72,682	11,808
Travel	12,000	4,256	0
Training	14,100	227	0
GoE	0	350	0
Total	100,000	82,875	11,808

ANNEX B: BASELINE SCENARIO AND THE PROBLEM TO ADDRESS

B.1. Baseline situation of Primary Forest

The current situation of primary forest in the I-M CFB is well described in Section A of the main project document. Some of the direct drivers of deforestation are common throughout the I-M CFB, whereas others are unique to one country or several. Common direct drivers have been identified as^[1]:

- Conversion of forest to agriculture and forest plantations;
- Shifting cultivation for commercial or subsistence purposes;
- Legal and illegal logging and
- Human induced and natural fire combined with drought.

Between 2000-2018 small-scale farming agricultural expansion accounted for 59 percent of forest conversion and large-scale agriculture drove 41%^[2]. Commercial agriculture has become a major direct driver in countries in close geographic proximity to each other (Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand^[3]) and with close trade relations^[4]. Thailand and Vietnam are major importing, processing and export hubs^[5] for products that exert deforestation pressure on Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar and even Indonesia and Malaysia^[6]. Trends in the region have shown countries impacted by the boom and bust of various crops, driven by global price fluctuations, and changing demand. These include perennial tree crops – palm oil, rubber, wood products and coffee – and annual crops such as cassava, sugarcane, and maize.

In Laos the main **direct drivers** of forest deforestation and/or degradation, including primary forests is smallholder farming (commercial and subsistence) that has been trending upward followed by large scale agriculture investments, tree plantations and transport infrastructure; mining and hydropower related deforestation has stabilized. Small scale timber extraction and charcoal and fuelwood have a lower impact but are increasing and large-scale timber extraction continues to decrease^[7]. Shifting cultivation has affected 33 percent of the total area of Laos from 1991-2020 as compared to all other forms of forest disturbance which affected 38 percent of the country. The greatest period of forest conversions occurred from 2016–2020 and 89 percent of the carbon emissions stemming from shifting cultivation from 2000–2020 came from clearing primary forest^[8].

The main **indirect drivers** are related to insufficient and weak law enforcement efforts, international and regional market demand for agriculture products and changing food consumption patterns and generally weak land governance administration. The recent surge in deforestation is the direct result of the steep upshot in the areas under cassava which is in high demand from Thailand, China, and Vietnam.

In Thailand the main current **direct driver** of primary forests degradation is low level illegal logging in protected areas for high-value species and fires^[9]. Other direct drivers of deforestation have been identified as land conversion for agriculture and tourism. ^[10] In the Indo-Malay Biome Thailand is unique in that it has lost large areas of its primary forest but has been able to slow this trend and since 2014 the forest area has remained relatively stable above 30 percent of the total land area. ^[11] The **indirect drivers** of deforestation have been largely reduced as part of Thailand's advanced and diversified economy, successful rural development and urban migration, comprehensive forestry legislation, large domestic plantation timber supply^[12] (rubberwood, teak and eucalyptus), an increased use of force to deal with forest encroachment in mountain areas and protected areas and clear protected area demarcation.

However, localized poverty, consumer demand and ongoing infrastructure development and road construction into forested areas are indirect drivers that contribute to the persistence of low-level agricultural expansion, notably for palm oil and tea^[13] and small-scale illegal logging^[14].

In Papua New Guinea the main direct drivers of deforestation are commercial and small-scale logging and agriculture. Of the total forested area (77.8% of the country with three quarters of that being primary forest) of PNG, 11.9% is disturbed by large scale logging and 0.2% is disturbed by small scale logging using portable sawmills and small-scale temporary gardening 7.9%. As for deforestation and conversion to other land uses, from 2000 to 2015 the majority (87%) was converted to cropland. Cropland is divided into subsistence shifting cultivation (63%) and Oil Palm plantation (30%). Both logging and land clearance for agricultural projects is done largely in natural forest areas. Large oil palm plantations are mainly owned and operated by companies for commercial scale for international markets. A main **indirect driver** of deforestation in PNG is poor land governance. Numerous independent studies have documented serious governance and corruption challenges and limitations in law enforcement. Solutions put forward by the government of PNG to address the drivers of deforestation and degradation of primary forests are strengthened land-use and development planning, strengthened environmental management, better enforcement, and protection, enhanced economic productivity, and sustainable livelihoods. Although logging is acknowledged and is the most significant source of emissions, the issue of illegality still presents challenges.^[15]

Baseline situation of agriculture commodity expansion

One of the most comprehensive studies assessing commodity crop development, forest loss and landscape carbon stocks in Southeast Asia was undertaken by *Tennessee, et al*, 2021^[ix]. This forest and land use assessment identified areas which were primary forest in 2000 and forest loss in 2015. Box 1 further describes some of the main findings of this report. Some of the limitations of the study should be highlighted. Given a 15-year timeframe we can expect that some of the areas have experienced multiple land use dynamics. A prevalent trend is that forests have been heavily degraded by other drivers such as timber extraction, swidden agriculture, small scale agriculture and wood fuel extraction. Once the forests are degraded then it offers opportunity for conversion, to higher valued crops. It should also be noted that PNG was not included in this study so further information on PNG is provided below.

Box 1: Key findings from the study

This study found that almost 1.5 billion MT of carbon has been lost from landscapes due to the conversion of forested lands to agriculture in Southeast Asia. Traded “boom crop” commodities have led to large scale conversion of primary and secondary forest into agricultural lands. While lowland population expansion and illegal and legal logging have also contributed to deforestation, commodity-crop expansion was by far the single largest driver of deforestation over the 2000-2015 period. Rubber has experienced substantial expansion in virtually all countries in the region. Large areas of oil palm plantations have also been established in countries with appropriate climate, particularly Indonesia. Pulpwood (*Acacia* and *Eucalyptus*) plantations were also common. In all countries, commodity crop exports had increased substantially between 2000 and 2015, and the growth in any export was roughly equivalent to the amount of land that had been converted from forest to that crop. The study also found that herbaceous and cereal crops appeared to be very common, and in over half the countries studied were the dominant crop type on previously forested lands. It was concluded that when policymakers are looking for ways to minimize

deforestation across Southeast Asia, the focus should be broadened to include a wider array of commodity crops.

Based on the above-mentioned report, a rapid assessment of commodity supply chains in the region and an examination of key landscapes in the GEF Child projects in Lao PDR, Thailand, and PNG identified three key commodities: cassava, rubber, and wood plantations. For each of these commodities we summarize the baseline situation as well as approaches and potential partners to address deforestation, impacting primary forests in key landscapes of the I-M CFB.

Commodity focus on the I-M CFBB

Rubber. The climatic conditions favoured by rubber trees make Southeast Asian countries the dominant producers of rubber. Thailand (3.3 mt), Indonesia (1.7mt), and Vietnam (1.4 mt) are the world's largest exporters of natural rubber, accounting for 51% of the global export (Malaysian Rubber Council 2023^[x]), while there has been substantial expansion in virtually all countries in the region. There is growing demand from rubber end users for deforestation-free and sustainable supply (tire companies). However, certification remains minimal across the region. It is necessary to work closer with industry bodies, such as the Tire Industry Project^[41] and the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber who are seeking transformation in the sector. There is also a need to engage local companies and smallholders who ultimately produce the rubber. In the Mekong, companies such as Bridgestone, Dak Lak Rubber, Yulex, Lien Anh Rubber are seeking investment to expand their operations to meet certification standards, engaging smallholder farmers.

Cassava. Over the last decade cassava has transitioned from being a primarily domestic consumed crop to an important export commodity, primarily driven by diverse demands from China, and also Thailand and Vietnam for animal feed, ethanol feedstock, and cassava starch for a variety of consumer goods. Cross-border trade of fresh roots occurs within the Greater Mekong region, with roots sourced from Cambodia and Lao PDR feeding starch and chip processing in Thailand and Cambodia. Thailand and Vietnam also import processed dried chips from its neighbouring countries largely for re-export to China. Production and trade in cassava is expected to grow as the product has multiple end uses/industries. Currently, there is little regional effort to coordinate the industry and its impacts. Experience working with producers and processors has demonstrated positive results for farmers and business in terms of economic and environmental sustainability^[2]. Potential activities for the project include engagement with and support to Cassava Associations in key countries, such as Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, to engage members on sustainable and deforestation free, production practices. With the Mekong as a key hotspot, it is recommended to establish a regional cassava forum, bringing businesses along the supply chain to look at common solutions.

Wood Products. China's large and fast-growing wood market has been driving the global wood demand over the past decade and will continue to drive future demand in the sector for all wood types. There are a growing number of progressive wood processing companies and financiers promoting inclusive and certified production, for example New Forests^[3], and funds such as Mobilizing Finance for Forests^[4]. It is recommended to work with companies and financiers to provide funding to scale up inclusive and sustainable business models. However, the biggest threat to the primary forests of the I-M forests remains the less scrupulous companies who seek to source from areas with laxer environmental and social regulations. Two countries which have a burgeoning wood products sector with a weaker regulated market are Lao PDR and PNG. It is recommended to engage and support private sector wood products/plantation bodies in Lao PDR, Indonesia (Papua) and PNG to work with them to ensure the highest standards and ultimately to attract progressive companies and investors.

B.2 Legal and policy frameworks and enabling environments

Countries lack comprehensive policy frameworks and action pathways to fill gaps required to enable and support primary forest conservation and sustainable use; to improve recognition of tenure of Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities; to support empowerment of women; to facilitate integrated landscape management approaches; to effectively manage protected areas; and to facilitate novel means of sustainable financing. While the specific policy gaps may differ from country to country, all countries of the I-M CFB have some gaps in the suite of necessary policies. Even when good policies and laws exist, there are gaps in law enforcement at the field and judicial levels that require a strong political commitment to overcome. *Judicial* action, often the weakest and most difficult aspect of *forest law enforcement to change*, needs to be able to respond to forest crimes based on an understanding of forest related legislation and independently without interference. The relevance of integrated landscape scale approaches and primary forest conservation and sustainable utilization needs attention. Forest governance planning systems in the Indo-Malaya Biome are in various states of fragmentation but there have also been efforts to address governance more holistically. When integrated landscape approaches have been included in government policy, it is almost always at the national policy level but without any implementing sub-legislation for further guidance on implementation. The diversity of cultures and peoples, geography, political systems, and ecosystems found in the vast area making up the CFB IP is reflected in the different countries' forest tenure systems. Various pieces of research have confirmed the positive relationship between forest conservation and forest administration by indigenous people and local communities.^{[16],[17],[18],[19]} However, in the I-M CFB, even though Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities reside in intact forest landscapes, they have formal rights over only a small portion of these areas or have few of their customary rights recognized. At a more general level, the land rights of women are usually weaker in practice than of men across the region. This can also be a factor in decision making which drives unsustainably forest management at the local level if cash income is prioritized and controlled by the male decision maker. These facts point to the valuable synergy between stronger tenure for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and conservation of primary forests and making the pursuit of their integration a priority. The forest tenure systems of the countries that comprise Indo-Malaya Biome consist of formal/statutory and informal/customary tenure.

B.3 Protected areas in the I-M CFB

PA structures must enable PA personnel to do their jobs with different units responsible for recognized areas of work. PA personnel must have the required knowledge, skills, and competencies to perform their functions effectively. One key to effective management is that management direction, strategies, and key activities are identified through Protected Area management plans. Management planning should ensure that resources available are used in the most effective way to address priority issues and opportunities. In Thailand, the law mandates that all protected areas produce management plans, while in Lao PDR, MAF Guidelines stipulate that PAs develop Collaborative Management Plans and provide guidance as to how communities should be involved in the process. Specific attention should be given to ensuring gender mainstreaming and climate-responsiveness in PA Management Planning. Additionally, management plans should focus on maximizing the monetary and non-monetary benefits of PAs for concerned Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including by strengthening their land tenure. Another key is tracking how well your management is doing and adjusting accordingly as needed. Use of METT is a requirement of GEF-supported protected areas. However, it is also important to ensure METT is institutionalized within PA authorities. METT has been institutionalized in Indonesia and the Philippines, but in other I-M CFB countries it has been used on a more ad hoc basis. Furthermore, it is important platforms are in place to

allow representation of different stakeholders (Including Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities, women, and other marginalized groups) in collaborative management of PAs. In Thailand, each protected area has its own Protected Area Committee (PAC) which plays an advisory role. In Lao PDR, Protected Area Steering Committees perform a similar role. However, these bodies at best play advisory or consultative roles, and their membership is not adequately representative of different stakeholder interests. A better example comes from the Philippines, where the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of each protected area has real decision-making power and legal authority as described in the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Law of 2018.

Collaboration on management of transboundary landscapes including protected areas: Many opportunities for collaboration on transboundary landscapes including protected areas exist in the I-M CFB. Two highlighted examples are between Lao PDR and Thailand; and Lao PDR and Viet Nam, but there are many others. **Between Lao PDR and Thailand:** A transboundary landscape exists between Phou Xieng Thong National Protected Area (PXT-NPA) in Lao PDR and Pa Them National Park (PT-NP) in Thailand. PXT-NPA is one of the pilot sites of the Lao Country Project (LCP) and PT-NP is part of one of the target forest complex sites in the Thai Country Project. (TCP). Politically it is relatively easy to move forwards with both landscapes as there is already interest shown by both governments. In this case, the two country projects could each include some element of the transboundary work in their respective projects with appropriate budget lines to support this. The RCP could play an additional supporting and facilitating role as needed. The RCP could support transboundary collaboration meetings between the countries for these sites, to develop joint roadmaps or action plans. Further implementation of these action plans could be supported in Laos through the LCP and in Thailand through the Thai Country Project (TCP) and possibly through co-financing by DNP. **Between Lao PDR and Viet Nam:** The LCP is planning to work in Xe Sap National PA (XS NPA) which is close to the Vietnamese border and has transboundary potential. Collaboration between the two countries has been ongoing for many years, involving Phong Nga Ke Bang (PNKB) a World Heritage Site (WHS) on the Vietnamese side, and Hin Nam No (HNN) on the Lao side, with GIZ projects working on both sides of the border and the area set to be nominated as a transboundary WHS. The new UK-funded Biodiverse Landscapes Fund (BLF) Project will work in Yod Nam Mo-Phou Sam Soun National Protected Area (PSS-YNM NPA) in Lao PDR and Pu Mat National Park in Viet Nam and will seek to foster transboundary collaboration in the landscape connecting these sites. There is strong momentum and political will to support transboundary collaboration between Lao PDR and Viet Nam which can be capitalized on. There is no Country Project in Viet Nam, however there is a large stand-alone WWF project in the Annamites. The RCP can help to facilitate coordination with the WWF project and support initial discussions.

B.4 Baseline situation of OECMs

OECMs are gaining importance in area-based conservation discussions, but their status in Asia remains relatively unknown. However, there is vast untapped potential as approximately 161 million hectares of land designated as Key Biodiversity Areas lack protection through PAs or OECMs in various parts of Asia (KBA Global Dataset, 2023). Given the significant presence of Indigenous peoples in Asia, creating OECMs under their governance could enhance their land rights and ownership. Countries of the I-M CFB are at very early stages of identifying OECMs. There are some examples of national dialogue processes that have already started in some countries, e.g. Thailand and Viet Nam:

- (i) Thailand: On 22nd June 2023, a national dialogue on OECMs was jointly hosted by ONEP, WWF, IUCN, and UNDP. Discussions covered the development of a structured procedure for identifying

potential OECMs and the importance of FPIC. In 2024 UNDP is assisting ONEP in developing a PIF for a GEF project on OECMs in Thailand.

- (ii) Viet Nam: A technical meeting reviewing the potential and way forward for OECM was organized on June 30, 2023, to introduce the concept of OECMs and Vietnamese translations of the technical guidelines and toolkit; explain how OECMs fit within Viet Nam’s commitment to 30x30; identify potential OECMs across a range of ecosystems; and prepare for a future national OECM consultation.

Other I-M CFB countries are not as advanced in their preparations, but the examples from Thailand and Viet Nam could provide good models for replication of similar approaches across the biome.

B.5 Baseline situation of sustainable financing

Over the last 20 years the number and total extent of, and government funding for, protected areas has increased all over the world, including in the I-M CFB. Spending on protected areas around the world has increased from \$6 billion to \$24 billion from 1999^[20] to 2020^[21]. Government funding is still far less than optimal – globally calculated as \$68 billion/year, and together with the additional budget necessary to increase global PA coverage of both terrestrial and marine PAs to 30% by 2030, the required global spending on PAs over the next 10 years is between \$103 billion - \$178 billion per year. The global PA network receives only approximately one-third of the funding needed for effective management (Waldron et al., 2020^[ii]).

Between 2015-2019, multi-lateral and bilateral government donors, Foundations and Funds, and others invested around \$700 million in biodiversity related projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Vietnam. However, of this total investment, only \$72 million (approximately 10%) was invested directly in PAs^[22]. A survey of more than 400 protected areas in Southeast Asia found funding gaps between 25 and 300 per cent (Castillo et al., 2015^[iii]).

Most PAs are reliant on a narrow financing base. Government budgets account for the bulk of PA funding with tourism revenues critical for many. What is needed is a diverse funding base consisting of complementary sources of funding, including a mix of long-term, dependable government budgets for operational management and salaries, combined with short-term funding efforts for specific projects, as well as innovative financing options, to augment budgets. This could include finance from carbon markets and/or other innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity. There has been a growth in conservation financing funding sources which could provide a critical source of future funding for PAs and their Buffer Zones. Countries of the I-M CFB are introducing a variety of conservation financing schemes, including conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, Green Bonds, PES, and REDD+ (see Box 1). Other types of financing that have not yet been extensively developed in the I-M CFB include biodiversity credits and blended financing approaches.

Box 1: Examples of successful conservation finance initiatives from countries of the I-M CFP

Payment for Ecological Services in Vietnam: PES started as a pilot in 2008 and has been institutionalized and expanded from 2010 onwards. By 2020 almost 1,200 contracts had been signed with service users, covering 6.8 million hectares of the forest estate. In the 10 years from 2011-2020 the scheme has generated a total income of around USD700 million (VN Forest, 2019).

Tourism payments in Thailand: National Parks in Thailand are increasingly financed by tourism revenues generated by the parks – which in Thailand amounted to an estimated USD80 million in 2017, before the

COVID-19 pandemic. There is considerable scope to increase this amount using more innovative payment structures.

REDD+: As of 2021, amongst the I-M CFB countries, Cambodia and Indonesia have already received payments from the voluntary carbon market totalling over USD 100 million. Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam have each completed all the Warsaw Framework requirements and are now eligible for performance-based payments. Other countries in the I-M CFB could also access performance-based carbon markets which could support primary forest conservation and sustainable use in the future.

Conservation Trust Funds: CTFs are a source of sustainable financing for long-term conservation of primary forests. By 2021, there were more than 108 CTFs around the world. Most of the I-M CFB countries except for Thailand have CTFs of one form or another. Funds have come from various sources, including endowments, debt of nature swaps, REDD+, corporate payments etc. These provide a possible blueprint for the project.

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) is a global platform managed by UNDP seeking to improve the management of biodiversity through an enhanced understanding and use of finance solutions. BIOFIN is currently operating in over 40 countries around the world, including 7 I-M CFB countries – of which Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam have progressed to the stage of identifying and implementing financial solutions, whereas Cambodia Lao PDR and Malaysia are still at the earlier stages of analysis. The BIOFIN methodology takes shape through three assessments that culminate in a Biodiversity Finance Plan (see Figure B.5.d.). Based on country assessment, several financing solutions for PA have been identified. These include:

- Islamic Green Bonds and Ecological Fiscal transfers in Indonesia
- Results-Based Budgeting for protected areas; expanding PES to marine areas; and putting in place entrance fees for marine areas in Viet Nam
- Biodiversity Impact Investing; realignment of local budgets; and conservation trust funds in Thailand
- Mainstreaming the PBSAP into the national development plan; localizing it into LGU planning and budgeting in the Philippines
- Setting/optimizing entrance/user and other fees for protected areas is something that can be continually updated and approved across the region in all AMS.

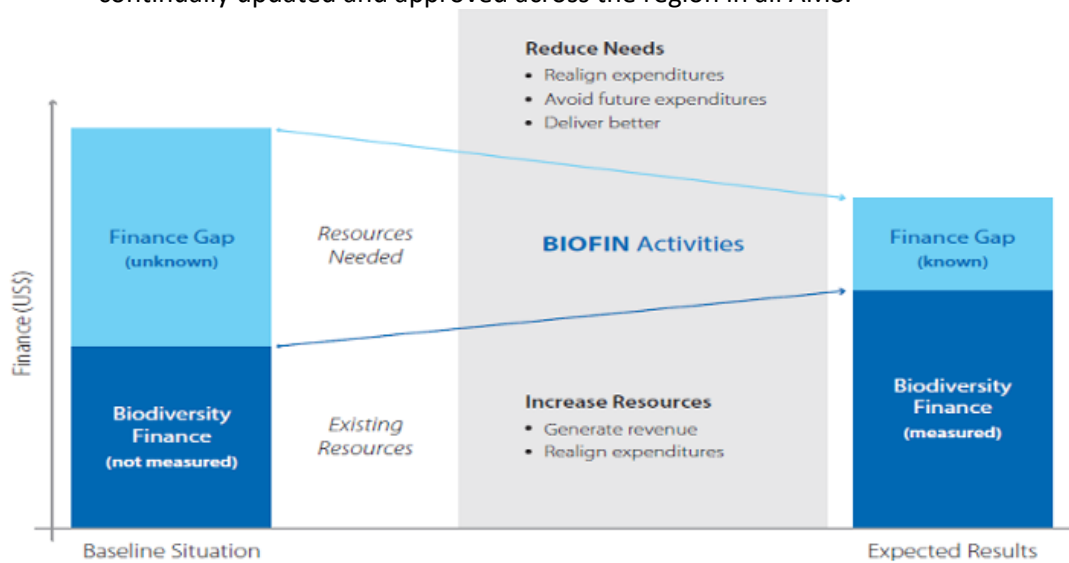


Figure B.5.d: The BIOFIN Approach (Source: www.biodiversityfinance.net)

There is no single country within the I-M CFB that has utilized the full range of funding options successfully, suggesting that there is still a remaining large potential to expand on and replicate successful conservation finance schemes across the biome. The RCP can support this through sharing of best practices and different models from Biofin and other initiatives. The RCP will also undertake further studies to identify further opportunities to tap and scale conservation finance.

- ^[1] [Tire Industry Project - World Business Council for Sustainable Development \(WBCSD\)](#). TIP serves as a global, voluntary, initiative, representing approximately 65 percent of the world's tire manufacturing capacity.
- ^[2] Examples include the work of SNV in Vietnam on the Cassava Value Chain.
- ^[3] New Forests manage the Tropical Asia Forest Fund 1 and Tropical Asia Forest Fund 2.
- ^[4] See <https://mff.fmo.nl/> for more information
- ^[ix] Tenneson, K., Patterson, M.S., Jadin, J., Rosenstock, T., Mulia, R., Kim, J., Quyen, N., Poortinga, A., Nguyen, M.P., Bogle, S., Dilger, J., Marlay, S., Nguyen, Q.T., Chishtie, F., and D. Saah. 2021. *Commodity-Driven Forest Loss: A Study of Southeast Asia*. Washington DC. 196pp. <https://servir.adpc.net/publications/commodity-driven-forest-loss-a-study-of-southeast-asia>
- ^[x] Malaysian Rubber Council (2023) World rubber production, consumption and trade. https://www.myrubbercouncil.com/industry/world_production.php. Accessed 10 March 2023
- ^[i] Waldron, A. Adams, V., Allan, J., Arnell, A., Asner, G., Atkinson, S., et al. (2020). 'Protecting 30% of the planet for nature: costs, benefits and economic implications'. Available at: https://www.conservation.cam.ac.uk/files/waldron_report_30_by_30_publish.pdf
- ^[iii] Castillo, G., Chan, S., Li, W., Li, Y., Fatah, H., Malivarn, S., Lee, K., Anda, A., Laencharoen, P., Pham, D. and Laplante, B. 2015. 'Fiscal gaps and financing of Southeast Asia's protected areas: a c
- ^[1] Shijuan Chen, et al., Review of drivers of forest degradation and deforestation in Southeast Asia, *Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment*, Volume 33, 2024, 101129, ISSN 2352-9385, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsase.2023.101129>.
- ^[2] Branthomme, A., Merle, C., Kindgard, A., Lourenço, A., Ng, W.-T., D'Annunzio, R. & Shapiro, A. 2023. How much do large-scale and small-scale farming contribute to global deforestation? Results from a remote sensing pilot approach. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5723en>
- ^[3] Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand are widely referred to as the Mekong Region or the Lower Mekong countries with reference to China's northern location.
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ANNEX C: RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>I-M CFB IP Objective: to contribute to maintaining the integrity of globally important primary forests of Indo-Malaya for maximizing multiple global environment benefits related to carbon and biodiversity</p> <p>RCP Objective: To maximize transformational impact of country child projects and regional engagement for the safeguarding of globally important primary forests across Indo-Malaya and PNG</p>							
Component 1: Enabling environment for inclusive conservation and sustainable management of primary forest landscapes							
Outcome 1: Enabling regional policy and governance environment catalyses primary forest conservation.	Indicator 1: % of CFB IP countries endorsing the regional primary forest vision and strategy ²¹	0%	0%	60%	National endorsement letters for the regional vision and strategy	I-M CFB countries recognize the importance of primary forest conservation & sustainable use and agree on regional policy agenda	RCP M&E team
Output.1.1: Long-term vision, strategy and action plan for Indo-Malayan primary forests agreed at multiple levels.	Indicator 1.1: I-M PF Vision, Strategy and Action Plan developed.	No regional vision or strategy available on PF	I-M Primary Forest Strategy and Action Plan draft prepared.	I-M Primary Forest Strategy and Action Plan finalized.	Existence of finalized regional vision and strategy document.	Host institution for coordination mechanism found I-M CFB countries buy into shared regional vision and strategy on PF	RCP M&E team
Output 1.2: Demand-driven, gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to the enabling environment on	Indicator 1.2.1: %of requests endorsed by PSC delivered with at least a “satisfactory” rating by recipients	0	80 % of work plan activities for concerned period completed with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	80 % of work plan activities completed with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSC minutes of meeting for approved work plans ▪ Participant satisfaction survey for training events ▪ Annual RCP satisfaction survey completed 	Country projects regularly express realistic demand for capacity building events and technical support to the RCP and send participants to events organized by RCP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams

²¹ Indicator tracking progress along GEF-8 Transformation Lever 1 “Policy and Governance”

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
primary forests delivered.					by country projects		
Component 2: Protected Areas							
Outcome 2: Improved transboundary Protected Area collaboration, knowledge management, technical support, and capacity building support the effective and inclusive conservation and management of Protected Area harbouring primary forests, including for the benefit of women and IPs.	Indicator 2.1: Number of country projects adopting and using tools, best practices and guidance furnished by the RCP for improved management of PAs (#)	0	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IP monitoring system ▪ PIRs of RCP and country projects 	Country projects open to adopting products and services by the RCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Output 2.1: Collaboration for management of transboundary protected area landscapes containing protected areas facilitated and supported.	Indicator 2.1.1: Number of transboundary PA landscape initiatives supported. (#)	0	2	4	Transboundary PA management MoU or comparable documents facilitated by RCP	Countries buy into transboundary collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Output 2.2: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support	Indicator 2.2: Percentage of requests endorsed by PSC delivered with at least a	0	80 % of work plan activities for concerned period completed with	80 % of work plan activities completed with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSC minutes of meeting for approved work plans 	Country projects regularly express realistic demand for capacity building events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
and capacity-development services related to Protected Areas delivered.	satisfactory rating by participants		at least satisfactory rating by participants.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant satisfaction survey for training events Annual RCP satisfaction survey completed by country projects 	and technical support to the RCP and send participants to events organized by RCP.	
Component 3: Primary forests outside PAs incl. buffer zones							
Outcome 3: Better information and technical support contribute to improved management of primary forests outside PAs and/or buffer landscapes for enhanced gender-responsive Indigenous People and Local Community resilience.	Indicator 3.1: Number of country projects adopting tools, best practices and guidance furnished by the RCP for improved gender-responsive management of PF outside PAs. (#)	0	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP monitoring system PIRs of RCP and country projects 	Country projects open to adopting products and services by the RCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCP M&E team Country project M&E teams
Output 3.1: National OECM identification and recognition processes in primary forest landscapes supported.	Indicator 3.1.1: Number of national OECM processes supported (#)	0	3	5	PIRs National OECM reports NBSAP reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries allow and request for support to OECM processes by RCP National OECM processes advance sufficiently for RCP to support them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCP M&E team Country project M&E teams

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 3.2: Stakeholder partnerships and collaborative agendas for minimizing regional primary forest loss footprints of agriculture, forest, and mineral commodities established.	Indicator 3.2.1: Number of commodity platforms or enterprises expressing commitment to reduce their primary forest loss footprint catalysed by the IP and testing implementation on the ground (#)	Several commodity platforms (FSC, RSPO, etc.) have measures in place to reduce/prevent primary forest conversion.	At least 1 additional platform and at least 2 different enterprises express commitments	2 additional platforms and at least 4 different producers/enterprises express commitments and present results of early implementation/testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes of meetings ▪ Communication/ documents released by commodity platforms 	Commodity platforms engage with RCP	RCP M&E team
Output 3.3: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to primary forests outside PAs as well as in buffer zones delivered.	Indicator 3.3: Percentage of requests endorsed by PSC delivered with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	0	80 % of work plan activities for concerned period completed with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	80 % of work plan activities completed with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSC minutes of meeting for approved work plans ▪ Participant satisfaction survey for training events Annual RCP satisfaction survey completed by country projects 	Country projects regularly express realistic demand for capacity building events and technical support to the RCP and send participants to events organized by RCP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Component 4: Innovative finance, investment and scale-up							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 4: Sustainable financing catalysed for improved primary forest conservation and management.	Indicator 4.1: Amount of additional financing mobilized (including for ROI in assets, and conservation financing) attributable to the CFB IP (USD) ²²	0	Tbd	Tbd	Reports on financial commitments Signed project deals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Countries develop bankable projects ▪ Investors buy into the long-period, low-return investments offered by PF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Output 4.1: Stock-taking on innovative options for sustainable financing of primary forests conducted.	Indicator 4.1.1: Number of reports on stocktaking on innovative financing of primary forests.	0	Comprehensive report available	Comprehensive report available and referred to by forest agencies	References to the usefulness of the report provided by national forest agencies and ASEAN regional bodies	-	RCP M&E team
Output 4.2. Indo-Malayan Primary Forest Investment Forum established.	Indicator 4.2.1.: Number of meetings of the Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Investment Forum	No Investment Forum exists	Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Investment Forum established, and 2 annual investment events held	Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Investment Forum established, and 4 annual investment events held	Review of minutes of meeting on Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Investment Forum	Host institution for Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Investment Forum found, allowing the joining of all 10 I-M CFB countries, and investors and countries taking	RCP M&E team

²² Indicator tracking progress to GEF-8 transformation lever “financial leverage”.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
						interest in participating	
Output 4.3: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services delivered.	Indicator 4.3: Percentage of requests endorsed by PSC delivered with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	0	80 % of work plan activities for concerned period completed with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	80 % of work plan activities completed with at least satisfactory rating by participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSC minutes of meeting for approved work plans ▪ Participant satisfaction survey for training events Annual RCP satisfaction survey completed by country projects 	Country projects regularly express realistic demand for capacity building events and technical support to the RCP and send participants to events organized by RCP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Component 5: Programmatic coordination, knowledge management and capacity development							
Outcome 5: Primary forest coordination, access to knowledge, capacities, and policy support strengthened across scales.	Indicator 5.1.a: Number of I-M CFB country projects with inter-project coordination initiatives under implementation to deliver transformational synergistic impacts	0	3	3	CFB IP monitoring system	Country projects open to engage with coordination initiatives	RCP M&E team
	Indicator 5.1.b: GEF Core Indicator 11 (# of beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex)	0	300 (150 females)	600 (300 females)	CFB IP monitoring system	Identified participants take part in events organized by RCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Indicator 5.1.c: Innovation and learning (technologies, business models, institutions) offered by RCP that increase capacity to generate positive CFB results (#) ²³	0	5	10	Survey among RCP beneficiaries on technologies, business models and institutional innovations introduced by RCP (2x: prior to MTR, prior to termination)	Country projects buy into technologies, business models and institutional innovations presented by RCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Output 5.1: Comprehensive multidisciplinary diagnostic assessment on the Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome delivered.	Indicator 5.1.1: Number of comprehensive baseline assessment informing RCP activities	PPG baseline assessment forming the basis for comprehensive baseline assessment available	1 comprehensive baseline assessment report	1 comprehensive baseline assessment report	Comprehensive baseline assessment report.	Country projects contribute to baseline assessment following uniform methodology	RCP M&E team
Output 5.2 Gender, and Indigenous People and Local Community responsive multistakeholder linkages for the I-M CFB IP established and strengthened at multiple levels.	Indicator 5.2.1.: Number of multi-stakeholder dialogue processes for I-M CFB involving other regional CFB IPs, other relevant IPs, commodity platforms, etc. effectively implemented ²⁴ (#)	0	6 (all CFB IPs, FSIP, ERIP)	8 (all CFB IPs, FSIP, ERIP, 2 commodity platforms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of coordination commitments ▪ Minutes of meetings ▪ Interviews with IP / platform representatives 	Receptiveness to coordination among other IPs and platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Output 5.3: Reporting on the extent and distribution of	Indicator 5.3.1.: Number of I-M CFB countries with explicit, improved, and standardized	0	3	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of national reports towards MEAs ▪ FAO Global Forest Resources 	Countries willing to adopt improved and more standardized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams

²³ Indicator tracking successful application of GEF-8 transformation lever “innovation and learning”

²⁴ Indicator tracking application of GEF-8 transformation lever “multi-stakeholder dialogues”

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
primary forests improved.	reporting on primary forests towards MEAs and international reporting systems (#)				Assessment (FRA) reporting	assessment and reporting	
Output 5.4: Integrated knowledge and learning hub on Indo-Malayan primary forests operationalized.	Indicator 5.4.1.: Functionality and use of Indo-Malaya PF dashboard	0	I-M PF dashboard designed and online	I-M PF dashboard online & containing all relevant country project information + regional information	I-M PF dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host institution can be found ▪ Country projects contribute contents to I-M PF dashboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
Output 5.5: Technical support on cross-cutting elements, gender-responsive capacity building and South-South exchange delivered.	Indicator 5.1.5a: Number of biome-wide capacity development and south-south exchange programmes developed and delivered (#)	0	Min. 6	Min. 10	Reports on capacity building / south-south exchange events	Country projects send participants to RCP-organized events The most appropriate participants are selected – i.e. those who are most likely to benefit from the capacity-building activity, and are most likely to be able to put new knowledge and skills to use in their regular day to day work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams
	Indicator 5.1.5b: Number of joint capacity-development activities for two or more country projects based on country requests	0			Reports on Capacity Building Events		
	5.1.5c: Proportion of capacity-building recipients with significantly higher knowledge/skills after training	0			Pre-test/post-test assessments		

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	5.1.5d: proportion of capacity-building recipients using new skills/knowledge in their regular work	0			3- and 6-month follow-up interviews in the workplace with a sample of the trained group		Consultant hired by RCP
Output 5.6: Communication and advocacy strategy on Indo-Malayan primary forests implemented and effectively reaches target audiences	Indicator 5.1.6a: Number of awareness raising and/or behaviour change campaigns of I-M CFB formulated and implemented addressing regional public and private actors (#)	0	4	8	Review of planning documents for awareness raising and/or behaviour change campaigns Interviews with target audiences	Campaigns are professionally designed based on known best practices for environmental advocacy and social and behaviour change communications	RCP M&E team
	Indicator 5.1.6b: Numbers of "likes" "comments" and re-posts" of I-M CFB Social Media Posts and "followers" of I-M CFB Social Media accounts	0	0	Tbc	Monitoring of RCP and Country Project Social Media Accounts		RCP M&E Team
Output 5.7: Effective results-based adaptive management supported by participatory monitoring and evaluation system	Indicator 5.2.1: % of PSC decisions based on information provided through IP monitoring system (%)	0	50%	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSC minutes of meeting ▪ PSC members' survey 	PSC members utilize IP monitoring system to inform their decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCP M&E team ▪ Country project M&E teams

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
at project and IP levels.							

ANNEX D: BUDGET AND WORK PLAN



GEF-11107 Budget
2024.05.24.xlsx

Budget explanations:

5011 Salaries professionals

- Chief Technical Advisor – hired full-time for the entire duration of the Project @ USD 154,000 per year
- Knowledge Management & Capacity Building Specialist - hired full-time for the entire duration of the Project @ USD 116,000 per year
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Specialist – hired half-time for three years of the Project @ USD 116,000 per year

5012 GS Salaries

- Admin & Finance Specialist – hired part-time for 36 months throughout the Project @ USD 5,750 per month
- Operation & Finance Specialist - hired part-time throughout the entire duration of the Project @ USD 21,000 per year

5013 Consultants

International Consultants

- Communications Specialist – hired for 36 months to support delivery of Output 5.6 @ USD 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- GIS/Geospatial Analyst/Forest Monitoring Specialist - hired for 5 months to support delivery of Output 5.4 @ USD 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- Safeguards and Gender Specialist – hired 29 months for gender and safeguards mainstreaming @ USD 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- Sustainable Financing Specialist – hired for 7 months to support delivery of Output 4.1 and 4.1 @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- Demand-based Consultancy Pool – individual consultants hired up to cumulative 21 months to support delivery of demand-based Outputs 1.2, 2.2, 3.3, 4.2, and 5.5 as periodically decided by the PSC @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- Primary Forest Strategy Specialist – hired for 2 months to support delivery of Output 1.1 @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- Primary Forest Diagnostic Specialist – hired for 2 months to support delivery of Output 5.1 @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- Transboundary Conservation Specialist – hired for 3 months to support delivery of Output 2.1 @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- OECM Specialist - hired for 6 months to support delivery of Output 3.1 @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)
- Primary Forest Reporting Capacity Building Specialist – hired for 2 months to support delivery of Output 5.3 @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)

- Agriculture, Forest & Mineral Commodity Specialist - hired for 15 months to support delivery of Output 3.2 @ 11,000 per month (=USD 500 per day)

National Consultants

- Primary Forest Reporting Capacity Building Specialist (10 positions) – hired to support delivery of Output 5.3 @ 5,000 lumpsum

5650 Contracts

- Contract to be tendered out to deliver Output 1.1 @ USD 200,000 lumpsum
- Contract to be tendered out to deliver Output 3.2 on commodity platforms @ USD 176,000 lumpsum (includes series of regional workshops)
- Contract to be tendered out to deliver Output 4.2 on investment forum @ USD 230,498 lumpsum (includes series of regional workshops)
- Contract to be tendered out to deliver Output 5.1 on the biome-wide diagnostic study @ USD 184,678 lumpsum
- Contract to be tendered out to deliver Output 5.4 on the Indo-Malaya Integrated Knowledge and Learning Hub @ USD 112,400 lumpsum
- Contracts to be tendered out to deliver the MTR and Terminal Evaluation of the RCP @ USD 50,000 lumpsum each (based on previous experience)
- Contract to be tendered out to deliver Output 5.5 on communications @ USD 130,000 lumpsum (includes production of audio-visual materials, design of project website, activities on special days relating to primary forests, etc.)
- Costs of project Terminal Report @ USD 6,550 lumpsum

5021 Travel

- PMU International travel 264,000
 - CTA travel – USD 132,000:
 - travel to country projects: 2 travels per year to each of 2 countries (Laos and PNG) @ USD 12,000 total per year
 - travel to international events: 2 travels per year @ USD 10,000 total per year
 - KM & Capacity Building Specialist travel – USD 66,000: 2 travels per year to each of the 3 countries @ USD 11,000 total per year
 - MEL Specialist travel – USD 66,000: 2 travels per year to each of the 3 countries @ USD 11,000 total per year
- National travel: PMU staff travel within Thailand 14,400 – CTA, KM & Capacity Building Specialist and MEL Specialist 2 travels per year each @ USD 400 per travel
- Travel costs of transboundary collaboration – funding of travel to 4 events @ USD 13,000 each
- Costs for inception workshop – costs of inviting participants from all Indo-Malaya CFB IP countries + regional organizations @ USD 50,000 lumpsum
- Consultant travel – lumpsum allocation of travel budget to all consultants hired under the project, noting that at least one travel each will be covered by the travel for trainings (see below), since consultants will also act as resource persons for trainings - @ USD 55,000 lumpsum
- Global CFB IP meeting – CFB IPs were requested to coordinate with other IPs and the I-M CFB IP and the Meso-America IP suggested an annual revolving event organized each year by one of the IPs across the world. Costs for participating in 4 external events are budgeted @ USD 15,000 each.
- Commodity and private sector engagement – travel costs of engaging with agriculture, forest and mineral commodity platforms, or with shaping such platforms are budgeted for 5 events @ USD 15,000 each.
- Primary forest reporting – costs of travel for delivery of Output 5.3 @ USD 10,000 lumpsum
- Travel for trainings, workshops and meetings 304,800
 - 2 trainings conducted per year for each of years 2-5 of the project for the 3 IP country projects:
 - resource person (consultant) travel cost USD 4000
 - Participant travel costs 5 persons per country) 4 days per training @150 per day DSA & USD 320 average per flight for participants from 2 countries
 - 2 trainings conducted per year for each of 4 years (not conducted in year 1 and year 6) in all 10 CFB IP countries:
 - resource person (consultant) travel cost USD 4,000
 - 14 participants (2/country) + 4 adtl. Participants from organisations, 4 days per training @USD 150 per day DSA & average USD 400 per flight

- In-person PSC meetings @ USD 30,000 total: once per year @ USD 5,000 per event (2 participants per country + 1 ASEAN participant = 5 people (Thais don't need to travel) for 3 days)
- Annual Conference @ USD 60,000 total: once per year 4 days * 60 participants (8 landscape-level participants per country + 2 Executing Agency representatives per country + 1 Country Project GEF Agency representative per country + 4 participants from IUCN, FAO, UNDP + 18 other partner participants)

5023 Training

- Meeting facilities - costs for 4 in-person training events per year for the total project duration of 6 years (=24 events) @ USD 1,501 each
- Annual conference – costs of six annual conferences @ USD 55,000 each (including costs of travel, accommodation, meeting facilities, etc.)
- Youth activity support – support to youth engagement for internships and/or other youth-led activities up to the total costs of USD 82,032
- Primary forest reporting meetings – lumpsum costs of meetings organized to deliver Output 5.3 @ USD 20,000

5024 Expendable procurement

- Paper, cartridge, pens, staplers - costs for office supplies @ USD 2,000 per year for the project duration of 6 years
- 5926 – Maintenance supply – annual costs of USD 1,500
- 5933 - Other office supplies – annual costs of USD 1,700

6100 Non-expendable procurement

- 6002 Communications equipment - costs of one video conferencing set @ USD 1,000
- 6004 Laptops, printers, camera – costs of 4 laptops (each each for PMU staff members), 1 printer/scanner, and 1 high-end camera to document RCP events @ USD 10,000 total
- 6006 Office furniture – costs of one set of office furniture for each of the 4 PMU staff consisting of one working desk, one chair and one filing cabinet @ USD 600 per set
- 6005 Zoom , other software, RS data purchase – costs of subscription to zoom for 6 years and other software and data related expenses @USD 600 per year

5028 GoE budget

- 6152 Miscellaneous – miscellaneous GoE expenses throughout the project duration of 6 years @ USD 2,000 annually
- 6172 Rental of premises - costs of renting 90 sqm of office space in Sukhumvit area of Bangkok @ USD 1,540 per month for a duration of 6 years
- 6178 Electricity – costs of electricity for the PMU @ USD 200 per month for the project duration of 72 months
- 6255 Telephone – costs of telephone for the PMU @ USD 30 per month for the project duration of 72 months
- 6307 IT Services – costs of IT maintenance @ USD 200 per year for the project duration of 6 years
- 6252 Internet charge – costs of internet connection @ USD 30 per month for the project duration of 72 months

WORK PLAN

Output	Main Activities	Responsible	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6							
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Component 1: Enabling environment for inclusive conservation and sustainable management of primary forest landscapes																														
Output 1.1: Long-term vision, strategy and action plan for Indo-Malayan primary forests agreed at multiple levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stakeholder consultations on establishment of coordination mechanism setting up of task forces or working groups development of dedicated agendas development of shared vision and strategy development of action plan / annual work plans regular follow-up on progress 	FAO																												
Output 1.2: Demand-driven, gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to the enabling environment on primary forests delivered	Tbd periodically during implementation based on country project demand	FAO																												
Component 2: Protected Areas																														
Output 2.1: Collaboration for management of transboundary protected area landscapes containing protected areas facilitated and supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mapping & prioritization of transboundary opportunities facilitate bilateral country meetings on shaping MoUs or joint work agendas facilitate implementation of transboundary PA landscape management 	IUCN																												
Output 2.2: Demand-driven knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to Protected Areas delivered	Tbd periodically during implementation based on country project demand	IUCN																												
Component 3: Primary forests outside PAs incl. buffer zones																														
Output 3.1: National OECM identification and recognition processes in primary forest landscapes supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to countries in identification of institutional responsibilities, standards, and processes for OECM recognition, Support to identification, categorization and potentially the recognition of OECMs by country projects 	IUCN																												
Output 3.2: Stakeholder partnerships and collaborative agendas for minimizing regional primary forest loss footprints of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shape regional platforms for commodities, for which no such initiatives exist, (e.g. a Regional Cassava Dialogue) or collaborate / strengthen existing ones 	FAO																												

Output	Main Activities	Responsible	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 5.1: Comprehensive multidisciplinary diagnostic assessment on the Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome delivered	Assessment to tentatively cover national policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks; governance of PF; area-based conservation gaps, OECMs and transboundary connectivity; integrated landscape management; restoration gaps; ecosystem service valuation; financing gaps and potential investors; gender aspects; tenure security; traditional knowledge; monitoring and reporting gaps.	FAO		X	X	X	X	X																		
Output 5.2 Gender, and Indigenous People and Local Community responsive multistakeholder linkages for the I-M CFB IP established and strengthened at multiple levels	Linkages established with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> other CFB IPs other GEF IPs agriculture commodity platforms regional mechanisms and institutions other relevant projects & programs 	IUCN		X	X	X			X				X				X				X				X	
Output 5.3: Reporting on the extent and distribution of primary forests improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> validation of primary forest distribution across biome methodological improvements towards national assessment and reporting of primary forests 	FAO					X	X	X	X			X				X				X				X	
Output 5.4: Integrated knowledge and learning hub on Indo-Malayan primary forests operationalized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and launch Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Integrated Knowledge and Learning Hub Periodically collect, synthesize, and present knowledge emerging out of the IP 	FAO	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Output 5.5: Technical support on cross-cutting elements, gender-responsive capacity building and South-South exchange delivered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement capacity development strategy Design and conduct exchange events across IP Design and conduct communities of practice Deliver safeguards support to country projects 	FAO		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Output 5.6: Communication and advocacy strategy on Indo-Malayan primary forests implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish of a program-wide communications team Develop communications plans / branding for I-M CFB IP Produce communications materials Establish media partnerships and media relations Primary forest conservation heroes' recognition program 	IUCN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Output	Main Activities	Responsible	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 5.7: Effective results-based adaptive management supported by participatory monitoring and evaluation system at project and IP levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inception workshop ▪ PSC & TAC meetings ▪ Establishment of IP-level monitoring database ▪ Annual review and planning meetings ▪ Periodic monitoring activities / surveys ▪ MTR ▪ Terminal evaluation 	IUCN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

ANNEX E: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT COMPONENTS

Components, outcomes, specific outputs, and some indicative activities are described below.

Component 1. Enabling environment for inclusive conservation and sustainable management of primary forest landscapes

Outcome 1: Enabling regional policy and governance environment catalyses primary forest conservation.

Output 1.1: Long-term vision, strategy and action plan for Indo-Malayan primary forests agreed at multiple levels.

The Output will utilize existing high-level regional stakeholder coordination mechanisms involving representatives of national government organizations to promote primary forest conservation as a regional policy agenda. IUCN and FAO will collaborate with the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate consultations with ASEAN Member States (AMS) plus Bhutan and Papua New Guinea on these matters. Above the AMS. Once identified, the coordination mechanism will be used for strategic policy coordination on matters of primary forest conservation and sustainable management across the region. This may include the facilitation of increased policy coherence across countries, transboundary cooperation, south-south learning, as well as communication and knowledge exchange on primary forests among countries, regionally and globally.

A key deliverable under the Output will be a long-term vision and strategy for conservation and sustainable use of primary forests across the Indo-Malaya CFB negotiated and agreed by all Indo-Malaya CFB countries (including those without country projects under the CFB IP) and operationalized through an action plan that will be reviewed and updated periodically. The development of a joint vision will rely on the findings of the diagnostic assessment delivered through Output 5.1 and the coordination mechanism identified above as a vehicle. Building on these, an agreement on the vision for the I-M CFB shared by all eligible IP countries will be brokered. Subsequently, a strategy will be developed to achieve the joint vision. The vision and strategy could be tabled for consideration by the relevant sectoral ASEAN body and be operationalized through cross-sectoral action plans. It can also be linked to/integrated with the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry 2016-2025 and Post vision 2025.

Indicative activities to be supported under the Output include facilitated stakeholder consultations, identification of the regional coordination mechanism, setting up of task forces or working groups and the development of dedicated agendas, the development of the regional vision, strategy and action plans for primary forests, as well as coordination/facilitation of regular follow-up meetings, supported by the RCP.

Output 1.2: Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to the enabling environment on primary forests delivered.

Based primarily on the findings of the diagnostic study, emerging regional priorities, and discussions and deliberations of the Program Steering Committee (PSC) areas of common needs will be defined by countries, and priorities agreed for RCP support. Indicative types of knowledge management, technical support, and capacity development activities to be supported may relate to policy advice on avoiding primary forest loss inside and outside PAs; integration of primary forest considerations into strategic spatial planning and fostering of integrated landscape management for primary forest landscapes;

approaches of integration of primary forests into relevant national and international reporting instruments; best practices of primary forest criteria to be mainstreamed into policies, laws, regulations, norms; increased policy coherence related to primary forest conservation; and enhanced substantive participation of multiple stakeholders, differentiated along sectoral, power, etc. divides (including disadvantaged groups, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women, youth, etc.) in primary forest governance and management.

Component 2 Protected Areas

Outcome 2: Improved transboundary collaboration, knowledge management, technical support, and capacity building support the effective and inclusive conservation and management of Protected Areas harbouring primary forests

Output 2.1: Collaboration for management of transboundary landscapes containing protected areas facilitated and supported.

Numerous opportunities for collaboration on transboundary protected area landscapes exist in the context of the I-M CFB IP. Building on the stock-taking of the status of transboundary collaboration as part of the Biome-wide Diagnostic Assessment (Output 5.1), the RCP will map transboundary opportunities and select priority transboundary primary forest landscapes to focus on in Indo-Malaya, including countries without projects under the CFB IP. The Output will also facilitate bilateral discussions between the concerned countries leading to agreements on transboundary PA management objectives and other types of relevant transboundary collaboration. The RCP will further support the identification of opportunities to support the implementation of these transboundary primary forest related PA management agreements.

Initially agreed priorities for support are transboundary collaboration between Lao PDR and Thailand (both with country projects as part of this IP); between Lao PDR and Viet Nam (with a country project in Laos as part of this IP, and a major WWF project in Viet Nam); as well as between PNG and Indonesia. Future priorities could also consider Indonesia-Malaysia transboundary collaboration. The process to be supported may involve the following:

An initial series of bilateral meetings will be facilitated between neighbouring countries (including reciprocal field visits) to foster networking, develop relationships, build trust, and further explore potential for collaboration. Initial meetings will be supported financially by the RCP.

Follow-up meetings will be facilitated to jointly develop roadmaps or action plans and/or draft MoUs for collaboration between countries in the selected priority primary forest landscapes and to identify funding sources for further implementation. Follow-up meetings and agreed activities should be supported by the Country Projects in the case of countries which have country projects under the CFB IP. However, for countries without projects under the CFB IP, the RCP will provide support.

Expansion of cassava growing and burning of forests related to agriculture has been identified as threats in the transboundary landscape in both Lao PDR and Thailand. Transboundary collaboration could include sharing of lessons learned and good practices relating to Protected Area Management Planning; Forest and Land Use Zoning; Protected Area boundary demarcation and patrolling; and managing post-harvest waste in agriculture systems.

Output 2.2: Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to Protected Areas delivered.

Based on the findings of the diagnostic study, and subsequent discussions and deliberations of the Program Steering Committee (PSC) areas of common need will be defined by countries, and priorities agreed for RCP support. Indicative types of knowledge management, technical support and capacity development activities to be supported may relate to: improving the governance arrangements for PAs; improving the recognition of the rights of women, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in PAs; their involvement in collaborative management of PAs including FPIC processes; strengthening management planning processes for PAs; and enhancing the use Global Standards for Protected and Conserved Areas (Green List) and tools such as Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool 4 (METT4), and Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) Patrolling.

Component 3: Primary forests outside PAs incl. buffer zones

Outcome 3: Better information and technical support contribute to improved management of primary forests outside PAs and/or buffer landscapes for enhanced gender-responsive Indigenous People and Local Community resilience.

Output 3.1: National OECM identification and recognition processes in primary forest landscapes supported.

The output will deliver demand-based technical support to countries across the biome in identifying institutional responsibilities, standards, and processes for Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) recognition. At the same time, the RCP will deliver technical support to the establishment of national OECM processes, as well as the identification, categorization and potentially the recognition of OECMs by country projects. Support for OECM mechanisms will be based on both environmental and socio-economic criteria, including models which improve the status of women and strengthen the land tenure of disadvantaged land users. Thereby the Output will deliver a direct contribution towards achieving K-M GBF Target 3. The delivery of the Output will be led by IUCN-WCPA, and FAO, and will provide inputs to the potential recognition of OECMs by the responsible agencies, in productive landscapes. Indicative activities include support to setting up national OECM guidelines and strategies, including FPIC processes and recognizing OECMs by I-M CFB IP country projects, OECM spatial identification across primary forests in the context of spatial planning, as well as the linking up to and the existing IUCN-WCPA OECM Specialist Group and the APAP thematic area of OECM.

Output 3.2: Stakeholder partnerships and collaborative agendas for minimizing regional primary forest loss footprints of agriculture, forest, and mineral commodities established.

This output will address agriculture, forest, and mineral commodity-driven primary forest loss and degradation by (i) shaping regional platforms for commodities, for which no such initiatives exist, but which have a substantial primary forest loss footprint (e.g. a Regional Cassava Dialogue), (ii) working together with relevant producer platforms for these commodities, particularly those that receive more limited attention, such as rubber, to identify and promote good production and trading practices; (iii) promoting and supporting the uptake of existing guidance for companies on deforestation and due

diligence,²⁵ helping them to assess and mitigate the risk of primary forest loss and degradation linked to their operations; (iv) work with industry platforms to establish a network of forest enterprises/concessionaires operating in primary forests and their buffer zones that mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into their operations; and (v) support to I-M CFB countries and smallholder umbrella organizations to facilitate the demonstration of compliance with the requirements of the EU deforestation regulation (as the first regulation in line – but preparing also for others upcoming, including from the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US)).

The ongoing work of the Forest Data Partnership (co-led by WRI and FAO),²⁶ provides relevant, reliable, and open-source information on forests to facilitate the development of agricultural supply chains decoupled from deforestation.

This output will be closely linked to Output 2.1 on transboundary collaboration considering the regional dynamics of the distribution and expansion of commodity production, e.g. expansion of cassava into forest areas has been identified as a major threat in both the Lao and Thai parts of the agreed priority transboundary landscape, with investment from Thailand largely driving cassava expansion in the Lao part of the landscape, with much of the production exported to Thailand for processing.

Output 3.3: Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to primary forests outside PAs as well as in buffer zones delivered.

Based on the findings of the diagnostic study, and subsequent discussions and deliberations of the Program Steering Committee (PSC) areas of common needs will be defined by countries, and priorities agreed for RCP support. Indicative types of knowledge management, technical support, and capacity development activities to be supported may relate to best practices of livelihood and community enterprise development with distinct positive impacts on primary forest conservation and sustainable use; restoration of forest corridors (incorporating climate modelling and the role that corridors can play in allowing species to persist under climate threats)

Component 4: Innovative finance, investment and scale-up

Outcome 4: Sustainable financing catalysed for improved primary forest conservation and management

Output 4.1 Stock-taking on innovative options for sustainable financing of primary forests conducted.

The RCP will conduct a series of assessments and studies to determine the status and future opportunities for deploying innovative financing tools in the IM CFB, to add value to existing financing mechanisms. These studies might cover some or all the following topics: environmentally harmful subsidies and perverse incentives; REDD+, sustainability-linked bonds; Biodiversity Credits; Forest Climate Investment Packages; bundled Payment for Environmental Services (PES) in IP landscapes; debt for nature swaps; ecological fiscal transfers, and blended financing. Studies should include consideration of tenure and how sustainable and unsustainable financing links to smallholders on the ground and will also identify what works and what does not work under which conditions and relate these to the enabling conditions existing

²⁵ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc6595en>

²⁶ <https://www.forestdatapartnership.org/>

or not in each country. Across this range of possible arrangement and opportunities a preference will be given to those which have concrete potential to also strengthen the well-being of forest dependent populations, including women, Indigenous People and Local Communities (where present). The Output will also deliver a regional primary forest investments plan.

Output 4.2 Indo-Malayan Primary Forest Investment Forum supported.

The RCP will support an investment forum for the I-M CFB. The overall aim of the forum will be to (i) make forest conservation more attractive to investors (ii) influence shifting of investments towards forest-positive practices, whilst also (iii) scaling-up conservation financing for primary forest conservation and sustainable use in the Indo-Malaya Forest Biome. The Investment Forum will support all eligible countries in the biome. The forum will be hosted by an existing organization or platform (to be identified), to ensure its longer-term sustainability beyond the lifetime of the IP.

Key stakeholder groups of the forum will include government agencies responsible for primary forest management; Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Organizations, Women's, and Youth Groups representing those living in/dependent on primary forests; multilateral development banks; bilateral development partners; and potential sustainable financing investors and financial institutions, including those involved in carbon financing, biodiversity impact investment, and sustainable forestry investment funds.

The Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Investment Forum will develop links with other financing initiatives such as the UNEP-led Clearing House for Responsible Investment and lending in the Forestry Sector; the IUCN-led Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC) initiative; the ADB's Nature Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific; the UNDP led Biodiversity Credits Alliance; UNDP-BIOFIN, the Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) and the Finance for Tomorrow Platform, among others.

The Forum will also collaborate closely with relevant platforms and engage with banking and investment institutions that have been directly or indirectly financing unsustainable forest practices including investments into sectors that are key drivers of degradation such as commercial agriculture, mining and oil and gas, to identify alternate investment opportunities that would have net positive value and create net positive impact for primary forest conservation and sustainable use.

Output 4.3: Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services delivered.

Based on the findings of the diagnostic study, and subsequent discussions and deliberations of the Program Steering Committee (PSC), as well as studies carried out under Output 4.1; areas of common needs will be defined by countries, and priorities agreed for RCP support. Indicative types of knowledge management, technical support and capacity development activities to be supported may relate to: assessments of all types of ecosystem services provided by specific landscapes (using tools such as INVEST); feasibility studies of specific financing opportunities including PES, biodiversity credits, carbon financing, debt for nature swaps and green bonds; incubator/accelerator support to assist development of pipeline of bankable deals; promoting jurisdictional approaches to sustainability certification and cost-effective certification for smallholders enabling them to participate in higher value chain markets; working with producers' umbrella associations and other stakeholders to develop and disseminate models for sustainably intensifying the unit productivity of smallholder land; etc.

Component 5 Programmatic coordination, knowledge management and capacity development

Outcome 5: Primary forest coordination, access to knowledge, capacities, and policy support strengthened across scales.

Output 5.1: Comprehensive multidisciplinary diagnostic assessment on the Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome delivered.

The output will deliver a multi-disciplinary diagnostic assessment for the primary forests of Indo-Malaya that will support decisions on targeted technical inputs on knowledge management, technical support, and capacity development under Components 1 to 4. The design will build on results of the Asia-Pacific roadmap for primary forest conservation,²⁷ the Third Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study,²⁸ as well as national-level assessments (e.g. State of Forests reports, national REDD+ documents, biennial national reports on carbon emissions, etc.), and will be enriched by stakeholder consultations, regional geospatial analysis, and integration of cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, gender, and Indigenous People and Local Communities and their land tenure security. The diagnostic may cover the analysis of national policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks; governance and tenure of primary forests; area-based conservation gaps, OECMs and transboundary connectivity; integrated landscape management; restoration gaps; biome-wide Ecosystem Service Valuation²⁹ for primary forests; gender aspects; tenure security; traditional knowledge; the impacts of commodities on primary forest loss; documentation of traditional knowledge on primary forests; etc. The study will also investigate in detail appropriate responses to common management challenges, and document best practices for upscaling. Results will be used to sharpen the focus of the technical components of the RCP as well as of applicable country projects. Results and recommendations of the output will be disseminated to various target audiences of the RCP through Output 5.4.

Output 5.2 Gender, and Indigenous People and Local Community-responsive multistakeholder linkages for the I-M CFB IP established and strengthened at multiple levels.

The Output will establish multistakeholder and multilevel linkages for the I-M CFB IP. These will focus on effectively linking the IP across GEF-8 portfolio with the other four regional IPs to inform GEF Secretariat for the benefit of global discussion and negotiation on financing mechanisms for primary forest as well as to other relevant initiatives, platforms, and coalitions at national, regional, and global levels. Linkages will be established to other CBF IPs, as well as other relevant GEF-8 IPs such as Wildlife Conservation for Development, Food Systems and Ecosystem Restoration. Additional linkages will include WRI / Global Forest Watch and those to regional mechanisms and institutions, potentially the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP), the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN Working Groups such as the AWG Forest and Climate Change, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Program (AYBP), the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), Indigenous People and Local Community and gender groups, as well as projects with objectives relevant to the IP. Furthermore, linkages will be established to regional commodity platforms focusing on curbing commodity-driven primary forest loss. Linkages will focus on improving knowledge exchange and

²⁷ Laumonier Y, Azzu N, Adzan G, Narulita S, Khikmah F, Meybeck A, Pingault N and Gitz V. 2022. Asia-Pacific roadmap for primary forest conservation. Working Paper. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia. CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees, and Agroforestry (FTA). <https://doi.org/10.17528/cifor/008540>;

²⁸ FAO. 2019. Forest futures – Sustainable pathways for forests, landscapes, and people in the Asia-

Pacific region. Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III. Bangkok. 352 pp. <https://www.fao.org/3/ca4627en/ca4627en.pdf>

²⁹ E.g. <https://www.esvd.info/>

collaboration, gaining synergies, mobilizing resources, and increasing the visibility of primary forests especially among youths in national and international processes and fora. Increasing visibility of primary forest and the importance of their conservation to youth groups will help ensure the sustainability of primary forests by building momentum that goes beyond the project. Green youth groups and Women Groups at national and regional levels will be engaged in selected activities as well as communicators and public influencers. RCP will support regional and national peer learning.

Output 5.3: Reporting on the extent and distribution of primary forests improved.

The Output will deliver consistent, regular, specific, and more detailed assessment and reporting on primary forest status and trends across the Indo-Malaya biome. Linked to the biome-wide assessment and gap analysis delivered through Output 5.1, technical support and capacity development will enable countries to collect more accurate and detailed information on primary forests and report better and more consistently on them, including on their national contributions towards the achievement of KM-GBF targets. Indicative activities may include the validation of primary forest distribution in countries across the biome, building on the mapping conducted for the Asia-Pacific Roadmap on Primary Forest Conservation,³⁰ as well as methodological improvements towards periodic national assessment and reporting of primary forests in support of KM-GBF reporting, as well as FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment, and the UNFF Global Forest Goals.

Output 5.4: Integrated knowledge and learning hub on Indo-Malayan primary forests operationalized.

The Output will provide effective knowledge management of information, best practice and geospatial tools from the Indo-Malaya CFB IP, including country projects and beyond. The Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Integrated Knowledge and Learning Hub will be developed. The hub will mainly collect and store relevant primary forest information resources and may combine features of a geo-portal, a clearing house mechanism, and an infographic user-friendly dashboard. The hub can also include permission-level access to technical databases for users requiring more detailed information. A common user interface and operating system will be designed to increase interoperability, especially with the GEF's previous integrated program databases and geo-portals.

Best practice and lessons learned will also be available on the hub, and will integrate national, regional, and global monitoring online platforms. The hub can enable Artificial Intelligence-supported analysis that increases efficiency in collecting and disseminating knowledge and best practice on primary forest management. Links to other digital and physical platforms, which are potential sources of data and information, will be included in the hub. This may include the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology,³¹ FAO Earth Map,³² System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL), CollectEarth, Framework for Ecosystem Restoration (FERM), and others.

A regional organization will be identified as host of the hub, ideally an institute that can create partnership arrangements that legitimize digital collaboration with and among countries outside the Indo-Malaya region. Indicative activities for this Output will include designing and establishing the Indo-Malaya Primary Forest Knowledge and Learning Hub; writing a knowledge management strategy that defines a protocol for the collection, synthesis, storage, and dissemination of knowledge from the Indo-Malaya IP; and

³⁰ Laumonier Y, Azzu N, Adzan G, Narulita S, Khikmah F, Meybeck A, Pingault N and Gitz V. 2022. Asia-Pacific roadmap for primary forest conservation. Working Paper. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia. CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees, and Agroforestry (FTA). <https://doi.org/10.17528/cifor/008540>;

³¹ <https://global-ecosystems.org/>

³² <https://earthmap.org>

conducting user training and capacity building based on a KM strategy and related capacity-development plans.

Output 5.5: Technical support on cross-cutting elements, gender-responsive capacity building and South-South exchange delivered.

The Output will deliver holistic capacity development for the entire I-M CFB IP. While key aspects of capacity development will be laid down and implemented through a capacity development strategy, individual training activities and other capacity development investments will be integrated into the concerned technical components 1 to 4. Capacity development will focus on all stakeholder groups of the IP as defined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and respond to the needs of different gender groups and members of disadvantaged groups. The RCP will provide technical guidance responding to individual country projects needs on methodologies and tools for implementation, will support communities of practice and region-wide coordination. The RCP will additionally maintain a pool of experts on a retainer basis, available to support country projects on an as-needed basis. The subject matter areas of support offered may potentially include OECMs, safeguards, monitoring, knowledge management, communication, etc. More specifically, on safeguards, resident expertise in the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) (one position joint with gender) will be available and deployed over the life of the project. This specialist will support the country projects to mainstream both safeguards and gender aware good practice on topics relevant to at least two countries. This will permit the RCP to support country projects along the life of the project cycle and across relevant components, based on both a demand and supply model and on a cost sharing basis. The benefits of this arrangement include an early program level capacity needs assessment to inform targeted support, brokering expertise which may be needed at country level, awareness of and guidance in the application of practical tools, facilitation of peer learning between country projects and their key national counterparts. The RCP will arrange an annual hands-on peer learning expert event on an aspect of safeguards and/or gender with a small number of key actors from country level, subject to cost sharing.

Output 5.6: Communication and advocacy strategy on Indo-Malayan primary forests implemented.

The Output will develop and implement a common communication strategy across the I-M CFB IP adopting global best practices in Social Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) in line with recent Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) guidance and advisory documents, to develop behaviour change campaigns targeting certain key stakeholders, based on a clear messaging framework and brand identity for the program that communicates the importance of Indo-Malayan primary forests and the program's objectives, outcomes, and impacts. The communication strategy will build on the stakeholder analyses conducted during the PPG phases of the RCP and of the country project to identify the key audiences for the program, including policymakers, decision-makers, civil society organizations, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIESs, women and youth, and the private sector, targeting behaviour change among selected stakeholders, as well as raising the profile of the Indo-Malaya CFB and its primary forests to generate momentum for their long-term conservation. Coordinated communication across all country projects and the RCP will ensure consistent communication of standardized high quality across all communications materials. Indicative activities include the establishment of a program-wide communications team; the development of communications plans and shared branding for the I-M CFB IP; the production of communications materials tailored to multiple audiences following multiple communication channels, including social media, videos, webinars, brochures, biodegradable promotional materials, and other creative means; the establishment of media partnerships and media

relations; and initiatives such as the possible implementation of a primary forest conservation heroes' recognition program celebrating local conservation heroes and promoting collaboration with regional celebrities and organizations.

Output 5.7: Effective results-based adaptive management supported by participatory monitoring and evaluation system at project and IP levels.

A coherent monitoring and evaluation system for the IP, supporting learning and adaptive management of both the program and the country projects, will be developed, and fed with information partially through the country project monitoring and evaluation systems. The RCP will also provide guidance, training, and backstopping on monitoring to country projects.

The RCP PMU will convene relevant project management meetings, including the Project Inception Workshop within the first three months of the Project, and Quarterly Virtual Program Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, as well as regular meetings with the GEF Secretariat. PSC meetings will review project progress and identify strategic adaptive management measures; as well as agreeing on priorities for specific knowledge management, technical support, and capacity development activities to be provided by the RCP to country projects in the subsequent quarter.

A project-level M&E system will be established, focusing on monitoring progress as defined in the RCP results framework. This will be linked to an IP-level M&E system, tracking progress towards higher level targets (e.g. GEF Core Indicators, KM-GBF targets, etc.) at the IP level. Both linked M&E systems will rely on a monitoring database linked to relevant web-portals (e.g. FERM) allowing the up-to-date extraction, manipulation, and synthesis of data. The M&E systems will be established during the Inception Phase of the RCP based on the M&E system design defined in the project document. Both RCP and IP-level M&E will be implemented in a participatory manner to increase transparency, gauge progress, and foster collaboration between partners.

Surveys will be conducted as necessary to validate/establish progress towards logframe indicator targets and update all indicators in the results framework. The PMU will maintain a project monitoring database that will help to keep track of all the project's monitoring needs, and their periodicities, along with the status of each logframe indicator. The monitoring database will help to anticipate and plan upcoming monitoring activities, to compile the information to be reported in the GEF Project Implementation Reviews, and to inform adaptive management. The PMU will also review key project management instruments, including Safeguards instruments, Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Grievance Redress Mechanism, Project Communication Strategy and Action Plan, project management risks, social and environmental safeguards, climate change risks and mitigation measures, and assumptions underlying the Project's Theory of Change on a periodic basis and adjust these as required.

The RCP will provide support to country projects in establishing their M&E systems to ensure compliance with the IP M&E system. Training on the monitoring system will take place during the Inception Phase of each country project, together with the establishment of their monitoring systems.

Periodic mandatory reports of the IUCN and FAO project cycles will be prepared, along with annual GEF PIRs and annual co-financing reports. Annual audits will be conducted through internationally recognized independent third-party audit firms. A mid-term review/evaluation will be conducted, and recommendations will be used to develop revised project plans for approval by the PSC. A final project report will be produced, and a terminal evaluation will be commissioned.

ANNEX F: SUSTAINABILITY AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

[Capacity Development](#) is a process whereby individuals, organizations and society unleash, strengthen, create, adapt, and maintain capacity over time.

Existing capacities to implement the project

The two Executing Agencies IUCN and FAO are already well qualified to deliver this project:

- They are recognized global leaders in forest conservation, sustainable use, and governance, delivering innovation and leadership to address key challenges facing critical tropical forest biomes, optimally complement each other's organizational expertise
- They are instrumental in shaping the forest conservation and sustainable use agenda at global, regional, and national levels, including the I-M CFB
- They have a strong presence and active programmes, in-depth understanding of, and wealth of experience in the countries of the I-M CFB
- Their comparative advantages have been demonstrated through partnerships with other GEF agencies and regional organizations, which would be further built upon for delivering the I-M CFB IP.
- Inclusive partnerships and convening stakeholders — particularly women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities — are central to the forest-related work of IUCN and FAO.

Recognized global leadership

IUCN is the world's leading provider of trusted, science-based information on the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. It has led the definition, standardization and management of protected areas systems, including defining globally recognized protected area management categories. In 2014, IUCN launched the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, a global campaign for successful nature conservation. IUCN Green List is the first global and only universal Standard of best practice for area-based conservation, providing a benchmark for quality that motivates improved performance and achievement of conservation objectives.

IUCN is globally recognized as a leader in protected area governance and rights-based conservation, with a long history of working with Indigenous Peoples. Based on key resolutions of World Conservation Congress, IUCN helped prioritizing intact forest landscapes management and conservation and has launched the IUCN Policy Statement on Primary Forests Including Intact Forest Landscapes.

IUCN has for 50 years played a unique and influential role in the World Heritage (WH) Convention as the advisory body for nature. The high-profile leverage of WH can provide a powerful catalyst to the specific issues targeted by the IP. Asia has 54 natural and 6 mixed WH sites across 19 countries covering over 26 m hectares (about 80% of the land area of Malaysia). Globally, some 44 natural WH sites have a >50% overlap with Intact Forest Landscapes, 17 of which are large sites of > 1m ha.

FAO is a world's leader in the agriculture, forest and other land use sectors and has provided a leading role in driving the global and regional agenda on forests and sustainable landscape management. The organization has a wide range of institutional capacities, technical strengths and comparative advantages that together demonstrate its leadership in the IM IP.

FAO's strengths centre around its in-house team of experts in forestry, land management, agriculture (encompassing crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry), food security, ecosystem management and climate change adaptation and mitigation, including a substantial in-country presence across the biome. Working with a wide range of key partners, FAO delivers innovation and thought leadership to address key challenges facing the region. FAO offers, among others, technical and institutional innovations and tools,

including cutting-edge monitoring tools to unlock access to climate finance. Through its role in global mechanisms like Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), and others, FAO continues to deliver well recognized technical support and leadership in strengthening forest governance in the biome. FAO has been consistently demonstrating through partnerships with other GEF agencies, global and regional organizations — which would be built upon for delivering the IP. Importantly, FAO places people—particularly women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities—along with nature and climate, at the center of its forest-related work. These multiple attributes along with FAO’s unique ability in ensuring integration and policy coherence between the forestry and agriculture sectors at national, regional and global levels make FAO a natural candidate for co-leading this IP with IUCN.

Demonstrated convening power and access to decision makers

Established in 1948, IUCN is the world's oldest global environmental organization and has developed into the largest and most diverse environmental network. IUCN harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,400 member organizations (including state members from 170 countries and more than 1000 non-governmental organizations; for membership in the biome refer to Annex 5). The network also includes over 15,000 experts organized into six Commissions providing expertise in areas ranging from ecosystem management to economic and social policy: the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), Species Survival Commission (SSC), World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), and the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL). The network is supported by a Secretariat comprising some 1000 staff in more than 50 countries. IUCN has Permanent Observer status in the United Nations and holds the status of an Intergovernmental Organization within the UNFCCC.

Recent examples of IUCN’s convening power include the Asia Parks Congress (APC) and Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP). The 2nd APC took place in May 2022, jointly convened by Sabah Parks, Malaysia, and IUCN, and including participants representing government agencies, NGOs, international organizations, youth, Indigenous peoples and local communities, academia and the private sector. With a theme of Parks for Nature and People, the congress identified priorities for the next decade to strengthen systems of protected and conserved areas across the region, articulated through the Kota Kinabalu Declaration. APAP is a platform that facilitates collaboration between governments and other stakeholders for more effective management of PAs in Asia, in support of national and regional efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Established in 2013 at the 1st APC in Japan and launched the following year at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Australia, APAP is chaired by IUCN and co-chaired by an APAP member organization on a rotational basis.

As noted above, IUCN has a unique and long-established role as advisory body to the WH Convention on nature. IUCN therefore has a privileged and influential role in advising GEF recipient countries on WH conservation priorities: on the establishment of new WH sites; on managing threats and improving the protection and conservation of critical sites and surrounding landscapes for enhanced forest conservation. Most WH sites have formal buffer zones facilitating a landscape and community-based approach to conservation. IUCN has a prominent role at annual WH Committee sessions and high-level access to national decision-makers.

FAO is the focal agency for, and chairs, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which brings together 15 international organizations and secretariats with substantial forest programmes. The CPF was established in 2001 to support the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) in strengthening cooperation and coordination on forest related issues.

Additionally, FAO exercises global convening power through the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and six Regional Forestry Commissions, which comprise the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) for which FAO serves as the secretariat. APFC meets regularly to inter alia discuss and assess technical and policy issues and trends relevant to forestry in the region; develop and advance mechanisms for regional and subregional cooperation in addressing forestry problems. FAO has effectively strengthened the coordination between COFO and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to effectively bring together multiple sectors in addressing one of the most critical drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a systemic manner. FAO co-leads, together with UNEP, the UN system-wide response to the UN Secretary General's 2019 call for 'Turning the Tide on Deforestation,' which aims to keep forests high on the global climate agenda.

In addition to the above, FAO has extensive experience participating in a wide range of partnerships, including several that it leads and / or co-ordinates. Key examples relevant to this IP include the UN-REDD Programme is a flagship UN partnership led by FAO, UNDP and UNEP that promotes a transformative nature-based solutions movement catalysed by forests through work with 65 partner countries, the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and youth. FAO is a founding member of the Global Peatlands Initiative, whose 46 members work to maintain peatlands as the largest single terrestrial organic carbon storage mechanism. FAO hosts the Secretariat for the Mountain Partnership, a UN voluntary alliance of more than 400 governmental and non-governmental members dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. FAO also hosts the Secretariat for the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), which brings together 14 members with substantial work on promoting the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources. FAO serves as the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform to facilitate dialogue and exchanges between governments and other stakeholders on multiple biodiversity mainstreaming issues.

Knowledge innovations

In addition to the NbS Standard and IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas outlined above, IUCN develops and hosts a variety of knowledge products intended to assist countries in making informed decisions about transforming systems. These include the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (the gold standard for assessing extinction risk of species), the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (placing biodiversity indicators in the context of ecosystem collapse and risk), the IUCN standard to identify areas of global biodiversity significance (KBA standard), the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD), ECOLEX: the Gateway to Environmental Law, the IUCN Natural Resources Governance Framework, and the IUCN Index of Human Dependency on Nature.

IUCN, along with the UN Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), maintain a global database of protected and conserved areas, named World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on OECMs (WD-OECM). This database, accessible through Protected Planet and updated on a monthly basis, currently lists over 260,000 officially recognized PAs, covering over 15% of the earth's land surface and 8.1% of the world's oceans. With partner countries and local stakeholders, IUCN is working to identify, recognize, and report these areas, to bring their achievements into the global community of protected and conserved areas. IUCN with its partners developed PANORAMA, a knowledge-oriented management and learning initiative that connects good practices from protected and conserved areas to a portfolio of over 1,000 inspiring and replicable solutions across a wide range of conservation and sustainable development topics.

FAO has developed, or contributed to, a variety of knowledge-related innovations, often in cooperation with global leaders in the respective fields. These innovations are generally open source, widely used and cited and are highly relevant to this IP. FAO also helps build capacities in its member countries to utilize

the platform's various tools. The tools include Open Foris which are free, open-source software tools that enable flexible and efficient data collection, analysis and reporting. They include the FAO-SEPAL platform (System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing, and Analysis for Land Monitoring), which provides a collaborative platform to advance key technical partnerships with space agencies and private data providers. Several greenhouse gas balance tools were developed by FAO based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodology for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories. They include EX-ACT, NEXT and Peat-GHG tools, all of which are designed to assist with various forest carbon-related calculations. In addition, the Biodiversity Integrated Assessment and Computation Tool (B-INTACT) provides a thorough biodiversity assessment of project-level activities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector. The Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM) is designed to analyse multiple environmental dimensions, such as feed use, greenhouse gas emissions, land use and land degradation, nutrient and water use and interaction with biodiversity.

FAO produces the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) every 5 years, which provides information on the extent, condition, management, and uses of forest resources. The Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Studies, with the third and most recent edition published in 2019 provides regional analysis and recommendations on the state and trends in the forest sector.

The Exit Strategy of the project is already considered in the project design – whereby any foreseen regional platforms and regional dialogue processes will be hosted and managed by existing regional entities, thereby increasing the likelihood of their continued existence beyond the lifetime of the project. In particular, the involvement of the ASEAN Secretariat will ensure that the project is fully integrated into important regional processes and policy developments and will enhance the buy-in and ownership of the countries in relation of project activities – again increasing the likelihood of activities being continued, after the project has ended. Also, through collaboration with ASEAN, there will be opportunities for ASEAN Inter-governmental organisations such as ACB to continue important initiatives started by the project. Work with the private sector in relation to inclusive and sustainable value chains, as well as work on enhancing conservation finance will ensure that funds for important initiatives continue to be mobilised beyond the project lifetime.

ANNEX G: MONITORING AND EVALUATION, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND IUCN/FAO OVERSIGHT

G.1 PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project results, as outlined in the project results framework (*Annex C*), will be monitored regularly, reported annually, and assessed during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. Monitoring and evaluation activities will follow IUCN's, FAO's and GEF's policies and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation. The M&E system will also facilitate learning, replication of the project's results and lessons which will feed the project's knowledge management strategy.

Monitoring Arrangements

Project oversight and supervision will be carried out by the PSC and the joint IUCN-FAO Project Task Force (consisting of IUCN members: Portfolio Manager Asia and OceaniaMul – tilateral Finance (GEF, GCF), Head of Finance, Asia and Oceania, Regional ESMS Specialist and global technical expert on PAs FAO members Budget Holder, LTO and FLO, GTO and HQ Technical Officer). Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) identified, as well as unidentified, risks are continuously monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits are being delivered.

The IUCN Multilateral Finance Team including the Portfolio Manager Asia and Oceania – Multilateral Finance (GEF, GCF) based at the Asia Regional Office and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and HQ Technical units will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs, and outcomes largely through the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

Day-to-day project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Management Unit. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception phase, the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize the identification of i) outputs ii) indicators iii) targets and iv) any missing baseline information

The strategic M&E plan is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc) will also be developed during project inception by the PMU Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Specialist.

TABLE 3: M&E TABLE

M&E Activity	Managers	Time frame / Periodicity	Budgeted costs (USD)
Inception workshop and first PSC Meeting	IUCN	1 time, two months from project start up	USD 20,000
Project inception report.	IUCN	1 time	Includes in the costs of the meeting
National Inception Workshops	Concerned country project EAs	1 time at the national level	Included in budgets of country projects
12 PSC Meetings		One virtual (no cost) PSC and one in-person PSC per year for 6 years.	In person PSC meeting included in costs of Annual Conference
Mid Term Review	IUCN	Mid way through the project	USD 50,000
Final Evaluation	IUCN	End of the project	USD 50,000
Final Report	FAO	End of the project	USD 6,550

M&E Activity	Managers	Time frame / Periodicity	Budgeted costs (USD)
Annual Work Plans & Budgets	IUCN & FAO	Every Year; to be completed as part of Annual Conference	USD 10,000 (MEL Specialist) USD 5,666 (CTA)
Monitoring visits		Monitoring visits to countries/landscapes	USD 19,553
Progress Project Report	IUCN	Every Year	USD 5,667 (CTA) USD 10,471 (MEL Specialist)
Technical Reports	Executing Agencies as relevant	Every year	Included in the technical components
Co-finance reports	IUCN and FAO to follow up on cofinancing reports, IUCN to compile into single report	Every Year	Included in the Component
TOTAL Estimate			USD 177,907

Monitoring and Reporting

In compliance with IUCN, FAO, and GEF M&E policies and requirements and in consultation with the PSC and PTF, the PMU will prepare the following i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, the Core Indicators included in Section B.2 will be used to monitor Global Environmental benefits and updated regularly by the PMU.

Project Inception Report. A project inception workshop will be held within three months of project start date and signature of relevant agreements with partners. During this workshop the following will be reviewed and agreed:

- the proposed implementation arrangement, the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder and project partners;
- an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation;
- the results framework, the SMART indicators and targets, the means of verification, and monitoring plan;
- the responsibilities for monitoring the various project plans and strategies, including the risk matrix, the Environmental and Social safeguards and the Environmental and Social Management Plans, the gender strategy, the knowledge management strategy, and other relevant strategies;
- finalize the preparation of the first year AWP/B, the financial reporting and audit procedures;
- schedule the PSC meetings;
- prepare a detailed first year AWP/B,

The PMU will draft the inception report based on the agreement reached during the workshop and circulate among PSC members, and PTF members for review within one month. The final report will be cleared by the joint IUCN-FAO PTF, the IUCN Multilateral Finance Unit, the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FAO's Field Program Management Information System (FPMIS) by the BH.

Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B).

The PMU will submit to the joint IUCN-FAO PTF AWP/Bs that are divided into monthly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that would guide implementation during the year of the project. Each AWP/B will be drafted by the CTA, will be submitted for PTF review and approval by the PSC. Necessary changes to the AWP/B - as recommended by the PSC - will be made by the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) prior to implementation of the AWP/B. The first AWP/B will be drafted during the project's Inception Phase and presented at the project Inception Workshop. As part of the AWP/B, a detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The inputs of the Inception Workshop will be incorporated, and the CTA will submit a final draft AWP/B within two weeks of the workshop to the PTF. For subsequent AWP/B, the CTA will organize PSC meetings for its review. Once comments have been incorporated, the PTF will circulate the AWP/B to the IUCN Science and Strategy Group and FAO units (FAO: LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit) for comments/clearance prior to submitting to the IUCN Science and Strategy Group and Multilateral Finance Team and FAO FPMIS by the BH. The AWP/B must be linked to the Project's Results Framework indicators so that the Project's work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators.

Project Progress Reports (PPR):

After FAO approval of the project and signature of the execution agreement, PPRs will be prepared based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework (Annex C), AWP/B, M&E Plan, and safeguards. Each semester the CTA will prepare a draft PPR, will collect and consolidate any comments from the IUCN-FAO PTF. The CTA will submit the final PPRs to the IUCN Asia and FAO RAP every six months, prior to 31 July (covering the period between January and June) and before 31 January (covering the period between July and December). The July-December report should be accompanied by the updated AWP/B for the following Project Year (PY) for review and no-objection by the IUCN-FAO PTF. The IUCN Science and Strategy Group and the FAO Budget Holder has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PMU, and relevant members of the IUCN-FAO PTF. For FAO, after LTO, BH and FLO clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

Project Implementation Report (PIR):

The annual PIR, required by the GEF, will be used to assess progress toward achieving the project objective and implementation progress and challenges, risks, and mitigation measures. The CTA will prepare a consolidated annual PIR report covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) for each year of implementation, in collaboration with project partners, country project PMUs, as well as relevant members of the IUCN-FAO PTF (for IUCN including Science and Strategy Group staff, for FAO including the Lead Technical Officer, and the GTO/FLO). The IUCN Science and Strategy Group staff and the FAO Budget Holder will ensure that the CTA will monitor and report on the progress of project results framework, the status of the implementation of safeguards. The IUCN-Multilateral Finance unit will submit the final and cleared version of the report to the GEF Secretariat and Upload it under the relevant section in FPMIS.

Technical Reports:

Technical reports will be prepared as part of project outputs, including safeguards, and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The Science and Strategy Group expert on behalf of IUCN

and the LTO on behalf of FAO will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of technical reports. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the Project Steering Committee as appropriate.

Co-financing Reports:

The PMU will be responsible for tracking co-financing materialized against the confirmed amounts at project approval and reporting. The co-financing report, which covers the GEF fiscal year 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The co-financing report needs to include the activities that were financed by the contribution of the partners.

Tracking and reporting on results across the GEF 8 core indicators and sub-indicators:

The GEF Core Indicators provided under Section B.2 of this project document will be used to monitor global environmental benefits. Throughout the implementation period of the project, the PMU is required to track the project's progress in achieving these results across applicable core indicators and sub-indicators. Before the project mid-term and project completion stage, the project team in consultation with the PTF and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit (CU) are required to report achieved results against the core indicators and sub-indicators used at CEO Endorsement/ Approval.

Terminal Report:

The CTA will prepare the Terminal Report. Three months before the actual end date of the project (NTE) – and prior to the completion of the Final Evaluation exercise – the PMU will submit to the IUCN-FAO PTF a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions, and recommendations of the project. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

Evaluations

Mid-Term Review

The Science and Strategy Group is responsible for the conduct of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project in consultation with the FAO LTO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit halfway through implementation. He/she will contact the IUCN Multilateral Finance Team and specifically the Portfolio Manager Asia and Oceania about 3 months before the project half-point (within 3 years of project CEO Endorsement) to initiate the MTR exercise.

The Mid-Term review will (i) assess the progress made towards achievement of planned results, including implementation of safeguards; (ii) identify problems and make recommendations to redress the project (iii) highlight good practices, lessons learned and areas with the potential for upscaling.

The Portfolio Manager will be the MTR focal point who will provide guidance on GEF specific requirements, quality assurance on the review process and overall backstopping support for the effective management of the exercise and for timely the submission of the MTR report to the GEF Secretariat.

After the completion of the Mid-Term Review, the Science and Strategy Group will be responsible for the distribution of the MTR report at country level (including to the GEF OFP) and for the preparation of the **Management Response** within 4 weeks and share it with the Portfolio Manager, IUCN Multilateral Finance Unit, national partners, GEF OFP and the FAO-GEF CU. The Science and Strategy Group will also send the updated core indicators used during the MTR to the Portfolio Manager for their submission to the GEF Secretariat. FAO in line with its requirements will upload the MTR report under the relevant section in FPMIS documents.

Terminal Evaluation

The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all Medium and Full-sized projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

The IUCN Asia Science and Strategy Group in consultation with the FAO LTO and GEF Coordination Unit, is responsible for commissioning the Terminal Evaluation to be conducted by an independent evaluator.

The IUCN Programme Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation (PPME) Unit has responsibility to ensure quality control. Following IUCN policy the evaluation will have an assigned evaluation manager who is a staff member who is independent of the project where possible. When this is not possible the staff member is trained in evaluation management, and supervision is provided by a staff member who is independent of the project.

Senior management in IUCN Asia is also expected to be an active participant in commissioning, participating in design, contributing to evaluations, and using results in institutional learning activities and in decision making. Senior management also monitors the implementation of changes as recommended by an evaluation.

Six months before the end of the project, the person assigned responsibility to manage the evaluation will reach out to the IUCN Multilateral Finance Team and specifically the Portfolio Manager Asia and Oceania to initiate planning of the evaluation.

Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project considering the “GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects”.

The Terminal Evaluation will provide: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

After the completion of the Terminal Evaluation, the Science and Strategy Group will be responsible for the distribution of the Terminal Evaluation report and for the preparation of the **Management Response** within 4 weeks and share it with the Portfolio Manager, IUCN Multilateral Finance Unit, national partners, GEF OFP and the FAO-GEF CU. The Science and Strategy Group will also send the updated core indicators used during the Terminal Evaluation to the Portfolio Manager for their submission to the GEF Secretariat. FAO in line with its requirements will upload the Terminal Evaluation report under the relevant section in FPMIS documents.

G.2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

IUCN

Financial management in relation to the GEF resources directly managed by IUCN will be carried out in accordance with IUCN's rules and procedures as outlined below.

Confirmed Co-financing: The actual realization of project co-financing will be monitored through the progress reports. In addition, the cofinancing evaluated during mid-term review and terminal evaluation processes will be reported to the GEF. Note that all project activities included in the project results framework that will be delivered by co-financing partners (even if the funds do not pass-through IUCN accounts) must comply with IUCN's social and environmental standards.

Budget Revision and Tolerance: The PSC will agree on a budget tolerance level for each plan under the overall annual work plan allowing the CTA to expend up to the tolerance level beyond the approved project budget amount for the year without requiring a revision from the PSC.

Should the following deviations occur, the CTA and Science and Strategy Group will seek the approval of the Portfolio Manager and the Head of Finance, Asia to ensure accurate reporting to the GEF:

- Budget re-allocations among components in the project budget with amounts involving 10% of the total project grant or more;
- Introduction of new budget items that exceed 5% of original GEF allocation.

Any over-expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount will be absorbed by non-GEF resources.

Audit: The funds managed by IUCN will be audited as per IUCN Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies. Audit cycle and process must be discussed during the Inception workshop.

Project Closure: Project closure will be conducted as per IUCN requirements. All costs incurred to close the project must be included in the project closure budget and reported as final project commitments presented to the Steering Group during the final project review. The only costs a project may incur following the final project review are those included in the project closure budget.

Operational completion: The project will be operationally completed when the last IUCN-financed inputs have been provided and the related activities have been completed. This includes the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report (that will be available in English) and the corresponding management response, and the end-of-project review Steering Group meeting. Operational closure must happen at the end date calculated by the approved duration after the Project Document signature or at the revised operational closure date as approved in the project extension. Any expected activity after the operational date requires project extension approval. The Science and Strategy through a Project Steering Committee decision will notify the Portfolio Manager when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the relevant parties will have already agreed and confirmed in writing the arrangements for the disposal of any equipment that is still the property of IUCN.

Transfer or disposal of assets: In consultation with the Science and Strategy Group and other parties of the project, IUCN is responsible for deciding on the transfer or other disposal of assets. Transfer or disposal of assets is recommended to be reviewed and endorsed by the PSC following IUCN rules and regulations. In all cases of transfer, a transfer document must be prepared and kept on file. The transfer should be done before Project Management Unit completes its assignments.

Financial completion (closure): The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met: a) the project is operationally completed or has been cancelled; b) the Science and Strategy

Group has reported all financial transactions to the Multilateral Finance Unit; c) IUCN has closed the accounts for the project; d) Multilateral Finance Unit and the Science and Strategy Group have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

The project will be financially completed **within 12 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation**. Between operational and financial closure, the Science and Strategy Group will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The Portfolio Manager will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to the Multilateral Finance Unit in HQ for confirmation before the project will be financially closed by the IUCN Asia Regional Office.

Refund to GEF: Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the IUCN Multilateral Finance Unit in Headquarters. No action is required by the IUCN Regional Office on the actual refund.

Procurement: The Science and Strategy Group will ensure that all procurement is in line with IUCN's procurement policy. The procurement plan of the project is attached to Appendix xxx of the project document.

All procurement of goods and services will be made with complete impartiality based solely on the merits of supplier proposals, including such all procurement of goods and services will be made with complete impartiality based solely on the merits of supplier proposals, including such considerations as cost, quality, environmental impact, delivery, and payment terms.

All purchase decisions shall take into consideration the environmental policy of the supplier and the environmental impact of the goods or services to be procured, to minimize the environmental impact of the procurement. All purchase decisions shall take into consideration the environmental policy of the supplier and the environmental impact of the goods or services to be procured, to minimize the environmental impact of the procurement. Environmental considerations include an assessment of the need for the procurement and the environmental impact of the eventual disposal of any goods procured.

The Project procurement activities will adhere to the environmental accountability requirements and conflict of interest provisions and procurement methods of IUCN's procurement policy. All hiring of staff and consultants will follow the IUCN guidelines.

Procurement of consultants and **subcontract** services will commence in year one and continue annually.

FAO

Financial management

Financial management of GEF resources will be carried out according to FAO rules and procedures.

Financial Records. FAO shall maintain a separate account in United States dollars for the project's GEF resources showing all income and expenditures. Expenditures incurred in a currency other than United States dollars shall be converted into United States dollars at the United Nations operational rate of exchange on the date of the transaction. FAO shall administer the project in accordance with its regulations, rules and directives.

Financial Reports. The BH shall prepare six-monthly project expenditure accounts and final accounts for the project, showing amount budgeted for the year, amount expended since the beginning of the year, and separately, the un-liquidated obligations as follows:

Details of project expenditures on a component-by-component and output-by-output basis, reported in line with project budget codes as set out in the project document, as at 30 June and 31 December each year.

Final accounts on completion of the project on a component-by-component and output-by-output basis, reported in line with project budget codes as set out in the project document.

A final statement of account in line with FAO project budget codes, reflecting actual final expenditures under the project, when all obligations have been liquidated.

Financial reports for submission to the donor (GEF) will be prepared in accordance with the provisions in the GEF Financial Procedures Agreement and submitted by the FAO Finance Division.

Budget Revisions. Semi-annual budget revisions will be prepared in accordance with FAO standard guidelines and procedures.

Responsibility for Cost Overruns. The BH is authorized to enter into commitments or incur expenditures up to a maximum of 20 percent over and above the annual amount foreseen in the project budget under any budget line provided the total cost of the annual budget is not exceeded.

Any cost overrun (expenditure in excess of the budgeted amount) on a specific budget line over and above the 20 percent flexibility should be discussed with the GEF Coordination Unit with a view to ascertaining whether it will involve a major change in project scope or design. If it is deemed to be a minor change, the BH shall prepare a budget revision in accordance with FAO standard procedures. If it involves a major change in the project's objectives or scope, a budget revision and justification should be prepared by the BH for discussion with the GEF Secretariat.

Savings in one budget line may not be applied to overruns of more than 20 percent in other lines even if the total cost remains unchanged, unless this is specifically authorized by the GEF Coordination Unit upon presentation of the request. In such a case, a revision to the project document amending the budget will be prepared by the BH.

Under no circumstances can expenditures exceed the approved total project budget or be approved beyond the NTE date of the project. Any over-expenditure is the responsibility of the BH.

Audit. The project shall be subject to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in FAO financial regulations, rules and directives and in keeping with the Financial Procedures Agreement between the GEF Trustee and FAO.

The audit regime at FAO consists of an external audit provided by the Auditor-General (or persons exercising an equivalent function) of a member nation appointed by the Governing Bodies of the Organization and reporting directly to them, and an internal audit function headed by the FAO Inspector-General who reports directly to the Director-General. This function operates as an integral part of the Organization under policies established by senior management, and furthermore has a reporting line to the governing bodies. Both functions are required under the Basic Texts of FAO which establish a framework for the terms of reference of each. Internal audits of imprest accounts, records, bank reconciliation and asset verification take place at FAO field and liaison offices on a cyclical basis.

G3. GEF Agencies' Execution

IUCN and FAO will be the two GEF Executing Agencies of the project.

The main responsibilities of IUCN as the GEF Agency for the project are as follows:

The Project Management

- Ensure that funds from the GEF comply with IUCN policies, administrative regulations and procedures;

- Management of project grant funds;
- Review of TORs of CTA, project staff and for Steering Committee;
- Attendance of inception workshop, and review of inception report;
- Review of reports (technical and financial), and procurement plans;
- Yearly supervision of project implementation reports;
- Monitoring of ESMP;
- Validation of project implementation reviews;
- Submission of project implementation reviews to GEF Secretariat;
- Validation of Mid-Term Review;
- Submissions of Mid-Term Review to GEF Secretariat;
- Evaluation effectiveness of ESMP;
- Validation of project completion report;
- Submission of project completion report to GEF Secretariat.

The Portfolio management

- Reporting to the GEF trustee;
- Preparation and submission of Annual Monitoring Review (AMR) twice a year;
- Corporate communication on GEF.

FAO has the project assurance role and will supervise and provide technical guidance for the overall implementation of the project:

The Budget Holder (BH) will be located at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The BH will be responsible for timely operational, and financial management of GEF resources implemented according to FAO rules and procedures -. The budget holder will be also responsible to ensure implementation of the Risk Mitigation and Assurance Plan and follow up on all actions and recommendations agreed upon during Assurance Activities.

As a first step in the implementation of the project, the BH will establish an interdisciplinary Project Task Force (PTF) within FAO, to guide the implementation of the project. The PTF is a management and consultative body that integrate the necessary technical qualifications from the FAO relevant units to support the project. The PTF is composed of a Budget Holder, a Lead Technical Officer (LTO), the Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) and one or more technical officers based on FAO Headquarters (HQ Technical Officer).

The BH, in accordance with the PTF, will give its non-objection to the AWP/Bs as well as the Project Progress Reports (PPRs). PPRs may be commented by the PTF and should be approved by the LTO before being uploaded in FPMIS.

The Lead Technical Officer (LTO) for the project will be in FAO Regional Officer for Asia and the Pacific. The role of the LTO is central to FAO's comparative advantage for projects. The LTO will oversee and carry out technical backstopping to the project implementation. The LTO will support the BH in the implementation and monitoring of the AWP/Bs, including work plan and budget revisions. The LTO is responsible and accountable for providing or obtaining technical clearance of technical inputs and services procured by the Organization.

In addition, the LTO will provide technical backstopping to the PMU to ensure the delivery of quality technical outputs. The LTO will coordinate the provision of appropriate technical support from PTF to respond to requests from the PSC. The LTO will be responsible for the following:

- a) Review and give no-objection to TORs for consultancies and contracts to be performed under the project, and to CVs and technical proposals short-listed by the PCU for key project positions and services to be financed by GEF resources;
- b) Supported by the FAO Representation, review and clear final technical products delivered by consultants and contract holders financed by GEF resources;
- c) Assist with review and provision of technical comments to draft technical products/reports during project implementation;
- d) Review and approve project progress reports submitted by the BH;
- e) Support the FAO Representative in examining, reviewing, and giving no-objection to AWP/B , for their approval by the Project Steering Committee;
- f) Ensure the technical quality of the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs). The BH will submit the PPR to the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit for comments, and the LTO for technical clearance. . The FLO will upload the approved PPR to FPMIS.
- g) Conduct annual supervision missions;
- h) Monitor implementation of the Risk Mitigation Plan, in accordance with the FAO Environmental and Social Safeguards.

The **HQ Technical Officer** is a member of the PTF, as a mandatory requirement of the FAO Guide to the Project Cycle. The HQ Technical Officer has most relevant technical expertise - within FAO technical departments - related to the thematic of the project. The HQ Technical Officer will provide effective functional advice to the LTO to ensure adherence to FAO corporate technical standards during project implementation, in particular:

- a) Supports the LTO in monitoring and reporting on implementation of environmental and social commitment plans for moderate risk projects. In this project, the HQ officer will support the LTO in monitoring and reporting the identified risks and mitigation measures (Appendix H2) in close coordination with the OP.
- b) Provides technical backstopping for the project work plan.
- c) Clears technical reports, contributes to, and oversees the quality of Project Progress Report(s).
- d) May be requested to support the LTO and PTF for implementation and monitoring.
- e) Contribute to the overall ToR of the Mid-term and Final Evaluation, review the composition of the evaluation team, and support the evaluation function.

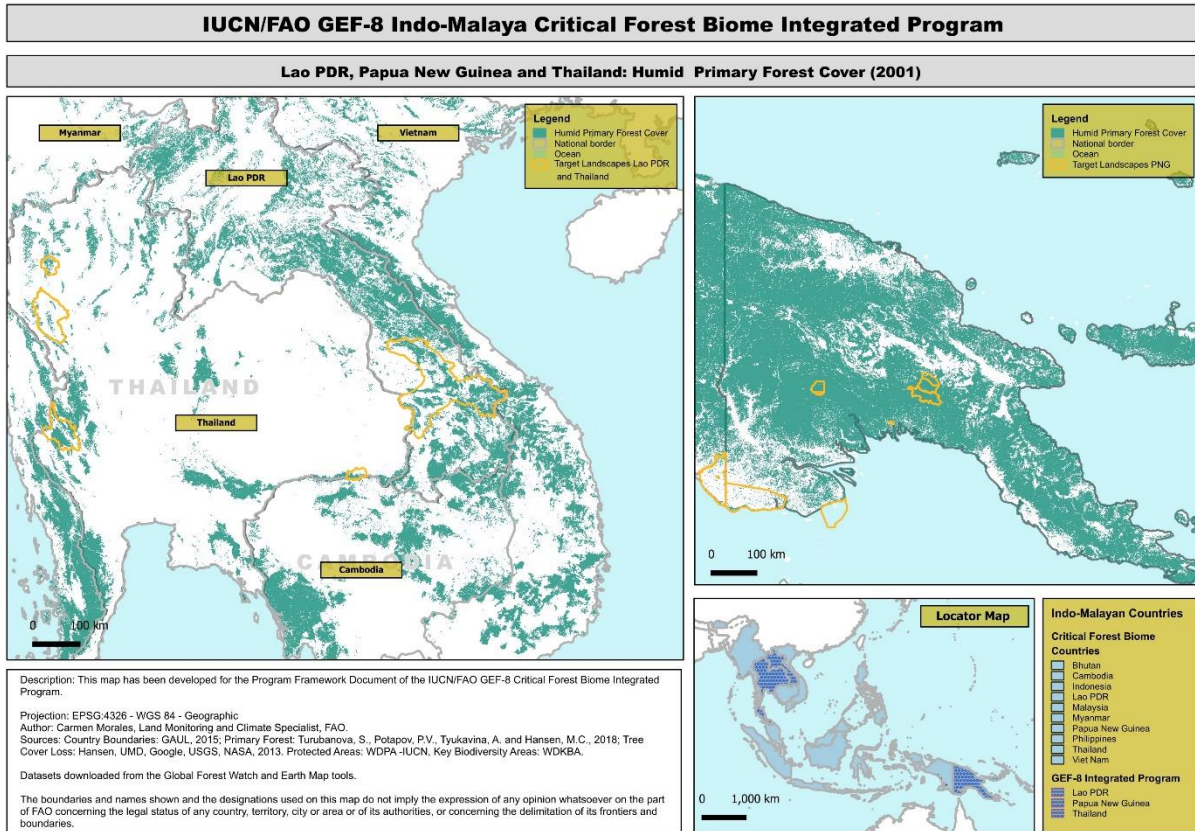
The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will provides Funding Liaison (FLO) functions and GEF-specific technical advisory services across the entire project cycle from A to Z. The FAO/GEF Coordination Unit will review and provide a rating in the annual PIR(s) and will undertake supervision missions as necessary in

coordination with the rest of the Project Task Force. The PIRs will be included in the FAO GEF Annual Monitoring Review submitted to GEF by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit may also participate or lead the mid-term evaluation, and in the development of corrective actions in the project implementation strategy if needed to mitigate eventual risks affecting the timely and effective implementation of the project. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit will in collaboration with the FAO Finance Division to request transfer of project funds from the GEF Trustee based on six-monthly projections of funds needed.

The FAO Financial Division will provide annual Financial Reports to the GEF Trustee and, in collaboration with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, request project funds on a six-monthly basis to the GEF Trustee.

ANNEX H: Project map and coordinates

Though the RCP does not directly work on the ground, it coordinates the implementation of all country projects of the I-M CFB IP, which in turn have target landscapes. An overview map of all target landscapes of the three country projects under the I-M CFB IP is presented below.



ANNEX I: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

FAO [Framework for Environmental and Social Management](#) (FESM) establishes environmental and social performance requirements for FAO programming and implementation.

Project's overall Environmental and Social Risk Classification: moderate

For the Project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) refer to the separately attached document.

ANNEX J: Stakeholder engagement plan and grievance redress mechanism

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Refer to the embedded document below.



GEF-11107 CFB IP
RCP ProDoc Annex J 5

Grievance Redress Mechanism

An important safeguards related function is provided by ensuring that the project can and does receive beneficiary (or affected party) feedback and that action is taken on this. This requires procedures, assignment of roles and responsibilities, monitoring, and sufficient knowledge of these requirements and opportunities both within the project team and among the target population. This is presented first at the level of principles then as a specific mechanism for the RCP project below.

Establishing a beneficiary feedback mechanism at the regional level

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and IUCN are committed to upholding transparency, accountability, and the welfare of beneficiaries and stakeholders involved in its projects and programs. To fulfil this commitment, the RCU establishing a user-friendly Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism (BFM) aimed at promptly addressing concerns, comments, and grievances related to project implementation and adherence to safeguards. Note that although the regional project is jointly implemented by FAO and IUCN, the FAO BFM shall apply.

Objective

The objective of the Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism is to ensure an accessible and efficient system for beneficiaries and stakeholders to express their concerns, comments, or grievances and to ensure their timely and culturally appropriate resolution. The mechanism aims to address grievances as close to the source of the problem as possible, bearing in mind that the regional project will be working through country projects in support of any activities on the ground, while also providing an escalation option to higher levels when necessary. The first port of call for any program related activities in the three countries

where projects are taking place under the aegis of the Program (Indo-Malay Impact Program or IM-IP) should be the BFM (typically a project established Grievance Redress Mechanism).

Mechanism Design

Hotline

A dedicated hotline will be established by the Regional Project and specifically by the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) to receive beneficiary feedback and grievances promptly.

The hotline will operate during regular work hours, with calls outside of these hours directed to a voice message system.

The hotline number shall be widely communicated to beneficiaries and stakeholders through various channels, including project personnel, official FAO and IUCN communications, and relevant platforms.

Designated Focal Point

A qualified representative of FAO and IUCN in the form of a senior member of the Regional Coordination Unit (= the Project Management Unit of the Regional project, based in Bangkok Thailand) will be formally assigned as the designated focal point for the Beneficiary Feedback / Grievance Mechanism.

The roles and responsibilities of the designated focal point will be explicitly outlined in their employee Term of Reference and aligned with FAO guidelines and procedures.

Receiving and Screening

The designated focal point will receive, screen, and log all comments and grievances.

Each grievance will be assessed in terms of its nature and urgency, determining the appropriate level for resolution, with a preference for addressing grievances at the lowest level which is practicable.

Exceptional cases where resolution at the RCU level proves unfeasible will involve the escalation of grievances to the Regional Office (Bangkok) or FAO Headquarters (Rome; Office of the Inspector General) for further review and resolution.

Compliance Reviews and Independent Accountability Mechanism

In addition to the project/programme-level Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism, FAO has an established Independent Accountability Mechanism with the Office of the Inspector General. This mechanism serves as a supplemental means of redress for concerns raised by affected parties in compliance with FAO's Environmental and Social Standards guidelines.

The Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism will work in conjunction with the Independent Accountability Mechanism, ensuring that concerns are properly addressed through the relevant channels and processes.

Communication and Awareness

Project personnel shall ensure that information about the grievance mechanism is accessible and understandable to diverse groups of beneficiaries and stakeholders, highlighting its role in voicing concerns and grievances. They should identify appropriate channels and techniques to effectively reach target audiences, such as meetings, workshops, posters, and leaflets.

Clear and concise messages will be developed, explaining the purpose of the mechanism, the importance of beneficiary feedback, and the process for submitting grievances or complaints. These messages should be tailored to the target audience(s).

Beneficiaries will be informed about their rights to raise concerns or grievances related to the implementation of the project activities, with an emphasis on the grievance mechanism providing a safe and confidential platform for addressing such concerns. They will be provided with clear instructions on how to utilize the mechanism, ensuring their understanding of the process for raising concerns or grievances if needed.

Reporting and Follow-up

All feedback, comments, and grievances received through the Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism will be documented systematically, including details of the concern, actions taken, and resolution outcomes. (see parameters to be included in a grievance log, below)

Regular reports on the status of grievances and their resolution will be prepared by the designated focal point, providing transparent updates to relevant stakeholders and project personnel as necessary.

Review and Improvement

The Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism's effectiveness will be regularly evaluated to assess efficiency, communication and awareness efforts, responsiveness to grievances, and the mechanism's overall impact on project implementation and beneficiary satisfaction.

Lessons learned from the mechanism's operation will be used to inform improvements and enhance the overall responsiveness to beneficiary concerns and grievances.

Confidentiality and non-retaliation

FAO together with IUCN will ensure the confidentiality of individuals raising concerns or grievances through the Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism.

The grievance referral pathway is presented below as Figure 6:

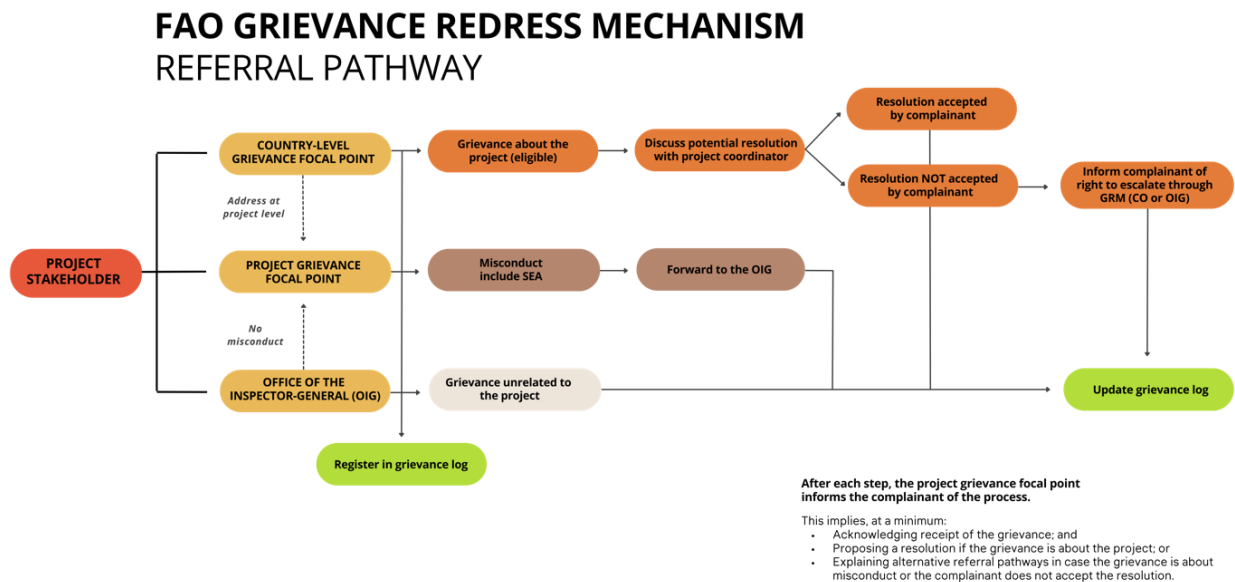


FIGURE 6: GRIEVANCE REFERRAL PATHWAY

Grievance Redress Template

To be customized by the RCU for end use (part A) and for FAO internal use (part B)

-NOTE – I will attend a FAO Safeguards training on the 21st which includes guidance on how to fill this in so will be updated/customized for the project

[The below is a suggested template for the GRM, to be adjusted and translated in local languages as per project needs.

Text in grey between brackets are annotations for filling in the GRM. It should be adapted/removed.]

Part A (for external distribution/ disclosure)

Main contact details

Do you have a grievance or suggestion about the project [TITLE]?

You can use any of the channels below free of charge to contact us. Your grievance will be handled confidentially by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

[The GRM must include multiple channels that are appropriate to the project context, the below are some suggestions. The FAOR/Budget Holder is advised to revise and add as appropriate. If information on the project was disclosed (requirement for moderate and high-risk projects), include the link to FAO's disclosure portal here.]

Phone:	[include as relevant]
Email:	[include as relevant]
WhatsApp (including voice messages):	[include as relevant]
Suggestion box address:	[include as relevant]
Fax:	[include as relevant]

Purpose of GRM and guiding principles

This is the Grievance Mechanism for the office [X]/project [TITLE], implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and [ORGANIZATION] between [DATE] and [DATE] at field level to file grievances related to the project. Contact information and information on the process to file a grievance will be disclosed in all meetings, workshops, and other related events throughout the duration of the project. In addition, it is expected that all communication and awareness raising material to be distributed will include the necessary information regarding the contacts and the process for filing grievances.

The project/FAO will also be responsible for documenting and reporting as part of the safeguards performance monitoring on any grievances received and how they were addressed.

FAO is committed to ensuring that its projects and programs are implemented in accordance with the Organization's environmental and social obligations. Concerns of non-compliance must be addressed at the closest appropriate level, i.e., at the project management/technical level, and if necessary, at the FAO Country Office or Regional Office level. If a concern or grievance cannot be resolved through consultations and measures at the project management/technical level, a grievance requesting a Compliance Review may be filed with the FAO Office of the Inspector General in accordance with the Guidelines for Compliance Reviews Following Grievances Related to the Organization's Environmental and Social

Standards³³. Project Managers will have the responsibility to address concerns brought to the attention of the officially designated project grievance focal point.

The principles to be followed during the grievance resolution process include confidentiality, impartiality, respect for human rights, including those pertaining to indigenous peoples, compliance of national norms, coherence with the norms, equality, transparency, honesty, and mutual respect.

Who can file a grievance and how

Anyone can file a grievance or make a suggestion related to the project/office. Your grievance will be handled confidentially.

To facilitate our comprehension of your grievance, please include as much information as possible. For example: what happened, who was involved, when did it happen...

From grievance to resolution

[Explain how grievance will be logged, handled and responded to by FAO and IPs and what the individual or group bringing the grievance can do in case no solution was found at project level.]

The mechanism includes the following stages:

1. In the instance in which the individual or group have the means to directly file the grievance, he/she has the right to do so, presenting through the indicated channels of the project/office (i.e.: email, mailbox, phone, etc.). The process of filing a grievance will duly consider confidentiality, and if requested by the individual or group bringing the grievance, anonymity as well as any existing traditional or indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms and it will not interfere with the community's self-governance system.

2. The individual or group bringing the grievance files a grievance through one of the channels of the grievance mechanism. This will be sent to the Project or FAO Decentralized / Country Office Grievance focal point to acknowledge and log the grievance, assess whether it is eligible and determine responsibility for attempting to resolve the grievance in line with the processes agreed for the project. The confidentiality of the grievance must be preserved during the process. For every grievance received by the project grievance focal point, written proof will be sent within ten (10) working days; afterwards, a resolution proposal will be made within thirty (30) working days.

The Grievance focal point will also be responsible for recording the grievance and how it has been addressed if a resolution was agreed.

3. If the situation is too complex, or the individual or group bringing the grievance does not accept the proposed resolution, the Grievance focal point must be informed and they must send the grievance to the next highest level, until a solution or acceptance is reached.

4. In compliance with the resolution, the person in charge of dealing with the grievance may interact with the individual or group bringing the grievance, or may call for interviews and meetings, to better understand the reasons.

Resolution

Upon acceptance of a solution by the individual or group bringing the grievance, a confidential record will be maintained.

Review Level	Contact Details
--------------	-----------------

³³ <https://www.fao.org/3/i4439e/i4439e.pdf>

Project Level	[Indicate at least the name and email address. This can be the FAO country office details if the project selects to use the country GRM.]
Next level	[Indicate at least the name and email address of the next highest level as applicable to the project. For example this could be the FAO country office or regional office].
Higher level (only if it's strictly necessary to include a third level)	[Indicate at least the name and email address of the next highest level as applicable to the project. For example this could be the FAO country office or regional office].
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)	<p>Contact FAO's independent Office of the Inspector General:</p> <p>To report non-compliance with FAO's environmental and social management guidelines in case your grievance could not be resolved through the previously mentioned channels;</p> <p>To report non-compliance with FAO's environmental and social management guidelines in case you have a good reason for not approaching the project management (e.g., fears about your safety);</p> <p>To report possible fraud and other corrupt practices, as well as other misconduct such as sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>By confidential hotline (online form & by free-of-charge worldwide phone numbers with interpreters available 24 hours/day): fao.ethicspoint.com</p> <p>By e-mail: Investigations-hotline@fao.org or inspector-general-office@fao.org</p> <p>By mail:</p> <p>Office of the Inspector General Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy</p>

Part B (FAO-internal. To be uploaded in FPMIS together with Part A)

GRM positioning

[Describe how the project GRM is positioned vis-à-vis country office and other existing GRMs, and why the project has decided to use the GRM it selected or designed. Describe how the project and office-level grievance logs will relate to each other. Note that Country Offices must annually report on the number of grievances resolved and addressed as part of the Country Annual Report (CAR) process.

Note that grievances of misconduct (such as allegations of fraud or other corrupt practices, harassment or sexual exploitation and abuse) by FAO project of country office employees are instead submitted directly to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which is responsible for investigating such allegations.]

Communications plan

[Include the GRM in the project communication activities. Questions that should be answered at a minimum: how will the GRM be communicated in local languages and during all meetings with project stakeholders? Is an information brochure on the grievance mechanism available to users? Are feedback/grievance forms available to users?]

Capacity building

[Does the project/office provide training on grievance management to the GRM focal point and project team members? Does this include training on the intake and referral process for grievances related to sexual exploitation and abuse?]

Monitoring and evaluation

[Are regular internal reports on grievances/feedback produced?

Grievances/feedback reports include data on: Numbers of grievances/feedback received; Compliance with agreed response times; Issues raised in grievances/feedback; Trends in grievances/feedback over time; The causes of grievances/feedback; Whether remedial action was warranted; What redress was provided? Recommendations/strategies to prevent or limit future recurrences.]

Budget

[Are adequate resources allocated for the grievance mechanism to be communicated, to the GRM focal point, and to function effectively, as well as for the M&E reports and potential remedies?]

Workers' GRM:

[Will the project employ workers?

It is recommended to use the project GRM also for any grievances from workers employed through the project, whether raised by individuals or a community. The GRM must allow all workers to raise concerns of violations of rights and entitlements as provided in collective agreements, employment contracts and human resources policies. If there are good reasons to instead use existing GRMs for these purposes, these may be supplemented as needed with project-specific arrangements and be made readily accessible to project workers. The FAO project grievance focal point must be made aware of any grievances received, even if an existing GRM is used for this purpose. Workers should be made aware that their grievances will be handled confidentially and that for any grievance related to misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, they may contact FAO directly if they prefer (OIG). Grievances may be lodged anonymously if requested by the individual or group bringing the grievance. In any case, the grievance mechanism will be accessible to all direct and contracted workers, taking into account their different characteristics, for example, female workers, migrant workers, or workers with disabilities. It is good practice to have a male and female staff member available to receive and process grievances.

Establishing a Grievance Log for the Regional Project

All projects establish a formal grievance log as an operational element of the GRM, including the RCP. This responsibility should be assigned from the RCP senior management, most likely to the M&E team, with technical guidance provided by the safeguards specialist.

The elements of the log (best to implement as a spreadsheet) will include the following information:

- Date grievance acknowledged
- Date resolution proposed
- Who in FAO liaises with the complainant during this process (Name)?

- Type of grievance
 - Grievance related to a specific project? (Y/N) Indicate project entity/symbol
 - Summary of grievance (what)
 - Location and details of the grievances (where, when, who)
- Resolution phase
- Summary of accepted resolution

ANNEX K: Gender analysis and action plan

Overview, Scope and Structure of the GAAP

In Section 1 of this GAAP a policy-focused introduction to gender in the region is briefly presented, to set the context in terms of (formally expressed) political will for gender equality from the regional level institutions but also in terms of the gender related policies of the GEF, IUCN and FAO as key institutions in the design and delivery and/or financing of the project and Program.

Critical gender gaps in the Indo-Malay bio-region are presented in Section 3; drawing on the data sets and methodology highlighted in Section 2. This is done in a geographically hierarchical manner to aid contextualization and comparison: first and very briefly the gaps at *global* scale (showing the regions of interest in comparison to other regions), then *regional* ones (East Asia and the Pacific), and finally *by country* for the 10 countries which correspond to the 'bio-region' defined for this program and project (subject to data availability). The overall gender situation plus gender gaps in five specific dimensions are presented very briefly for each country. This is presented in greater detail for the three countries where projects will take place in this program (Thailand, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea – PNG).

Section 4 then presents the general picture of gender relations in the specific context of forest ecosystems, forest management and forest landscape governance. This also picks up on the dimension of 'tenure and decision making over land and natural resources' presented by country in Section 3. In spite of the great variety across the countries eligible for this program there are issues which are common in terms of the roles, rights, opportunities and constraints of women in accessing and benefiting forest resources. This is followed by a discussion of promising entry points for introducing gender related issues into the larger Program by way of the Regional Cooperation Project (RCP), followed by a proposed approach to mainstreaming gender-related objectives into the RCP itself.

These, in turn, are reflected in Section 5, which is the Gender Action Plan; a summary, in tabular form, reflecting the project's Results Framework and showing how gender is mainstreamed by Component/Outcome/Output; together with the corresponding proposed gender-related actions, responsibilities, indicators, timeline and resources.

Finally, this is followed by two **additional sources of information**:

Annex 1 presents the gender gaps by country in the region, along the same 5 dimensions introduced in the analysis of the 3 countries which have country projects in this Program in the GEF8 cycle. This allows the reader to put the project countries in context and to make direct (if basic) comparisons between them and to assess patterns in the region already introduced in the analysis.

Annex 2 is the proposed ToR for a Safeguards/Gender/Indigenous Peoples Specialist who will be attached to the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) over the life of the project but on a draw-down basis (ie less months than full time, allocated when needed, with an emphasis in particular on the first year).

The **Specialist** will add considerable capacity to the RCU on gender issues and solutions and will help the project operationalize the GAP, including by working with the M&E expert of the RCU to help ensure that the gender metrics are realistic, useful, measurable and are being monitored and reported on. At project start up the assumptions behind the recommendations in the GAAP will be reviewed by the implementation team and by IUCN and FAO subject matter experts to help ensure an efficient operationalization of the gender empowerment and gender mainstreaming objectives.

Furthermore, both IUCN and FAO (as well as regional applied research organizations) have multiple guidance materials and technical tools on various aspects of women's empowerment in the context of rural development and forestry which will be inventoried and if necessary adapted for project use by the

Specialist once the needs of the project team and its partners are more precisely defined at project start up.

The **main project document** has been reviewed to identify suitable entry points for gender related empowerment, where practicable, and these have been introduced into the document in addition to the pro-gender aspects of the basic design of the RCP and the larger Program.

Section 1. Gender-related commitments in the region and applicable Policies to the project

In this section, first, the applicable gender related policies and perspectives of the GEF agencies responsible for the RCP are summarized, followed by an overview of the policy environment on gender in terms of formal commitments at the regional level on womens' rights.

1.1 GEF, FAO, IUCN gender policies

GEF Policy on Gender Equality

- GEF Policy on Gender Equality³⁴
- GEF Gender Implementation Strategy
- Guidance to advance gender equality in GEF projects and programmes
- The GEF Policy on Gender Equality identifies key guidance for the project cycle, applicable at or prior to CEO Endorsement as:
 - Requirement to prepare a Gender Analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment that identifies and describes any gender differences, gender differentiated impacts and risks, and opportunities to address Gender Gaps and promote the Empowerment of Women that may be relevant to the proposed activity, and
 - Any corresponding gender-responsive measures to address differences, identified impacts and risks, and opportunities through a gender action plan or equivalent, as well as If gender-responsive measures have been identified, the results framework or logical framework include actions, Gender-Sensitive Indicators and sex-disaggregated targets

This GAAP corresponds to this requirement.

Of the specific **entry points** identified in the strategy, the following are particularly relevant for the Project: i) support women's improved access to and control of land and natural resources, ii) enhance women's participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes, iii) targeting women as specific beneficiaries, and iv) investing in women's skills and capacities.

FAO Gender Policies

FAO Policy on Gender Equality identifies a set of minimum standards for gender mainstreaming to ensure that the gender dimensions are adequately addressed in all organizational functions, including the project design and implementation. More details of the objectives of gender mainstreaming are found in Box 1; these are reflected to the degree possible in the approach to gender mainstreaming in the RCP.

In addition, the application of the FAO Gender Policy especially in the region of concern can be found in the Regional Gender Strategy for Asia and Pacific Region 2022-2025 at www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc2408en.

The main objectives of the Regional Gender Strategy and Action Plan are to: i) identify and respond to regional trends and challenges that affect women's equal and meaningful participation in the sectors of

³⁴ GEF Council, 'GEF Policy on Gender Equality', 2017, p. 15.

agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries; ii) mainstream gender perspectives in the regional priorities; iii) establish regional focus areas that will enable gender equality and women's empowerment across agriculture, forestry, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries sectors; and iv) respond to new and emerging challenges and needs to build back gender-sensitive and -resilient lives and livelihoods.

Box 1. The objectives of gender mainstreaming in FAO

- Promoting women and girls' participation and leadership in local institutions and rural organizations, which are an important vehicle for informed decision-making.
- Making sure that both women and men are provided with equal access to and control over key agricultural and natural resources (e.g., land, water, livestock, equipment, seeds and fertilizers). As with men, women who work as agricultural producers, entrepreneurs and value chain actors depend on these resources to increase their productivity and to reap the benefits of their work.
- Ensuring equal access to agricultural support services (i.e., advisory, financial or business development services) to overcome the existing 'gender gap', and facilitate women's equal uptake of technologies and practices.
- Providing equal access to markets and decent employment opportunities both on and off the farm to assure income opportunities for all and preserve individual rights to fair treatment.
- Avoiding or minimizing the risk that an intervention inadvertently increases women's work burden and time poverty as these affect women's freedom of choice and well-being.
- Avoiding or minimizing the risk to build on or reinforce discriminatory social norms and attitudes that undermine women's position and decision-making power from the household to the institutional level.
- Strengthening the capacities to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV and abuse that may occur in connection with any of FAO supported activities.
- Preventing and minimizing unintended negative effects that can increase vulnerability and exposure to GBV, and heighten tension between the sexes, as well as ensure the proper and timely referral to relevant services of cases of disclosure of GBV and other abuse including sexual exploitation and abuse that may occur in connection with any of FAO supported activities.

Source: [FAO's Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030](#)

IUCN Gender Policies

IUCN is committed to advancing gender equality, including through women's empowerment, as a Union that understands the importance of equal opportunity and inclusion, and whose policies respect and promote diversity.

More details of IUCN's gender policy and associated publications can be found at: www.iucn.org/our-work/topic/gender-equality

1.2 Regional gender-related policy commitments

The concept of an 'Indo-Malay' region does not have a clear widely used equivalency in terms of any geographic or political grouping. Hence there are not any gender commitments of all 10 countries which fall within the Indo-Malay region. However some proxies can be used such as ASEAN, which includes the great majority (PNG has applied for membership but is not yet a member).

All ASEAN Member States (AMS) have ratified the CEDAW. The member states have also put forward the ASEAN commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment. More details on individual ratification and implementation of the CEDAW by individual countries are mentioned below. ASEAN

commitment range from the 1988 Declaration of the Advancement of Women in ASEAN Region to the 2017 Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The ASEAN Women Programme (AWP) was created in 1981 and in 2002 this body was restructured into the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW). Worth noting also is the Vientiane Declaration was formulated in 2012 during the first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women. The AMMW carries out the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of ASEAN's key regional priorities and cooperation in women's issues and concerns. The AMMW tasked the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) to effectively implement the Vientiane Declaration commitment and monitor its progress in collaboration and coordination with the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.

Another important reference is the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021-2025. The Framework outlines a strategic direction for a whole-of-ASEAN gender mainstreaming approach by presenting a set of mutually reinforcing objectives, approaches, and activities that will build ASEAN's commitment, capacity, and culture in relation to gender and inclusion, with an emphasis on strengthening coordination and collaboration between the three ASEAN Communities.; Further details can be found at <https://asean.org/book/asean-gender-mainstreaming-strategic-framework-2021-2025/>.

Table 1. ASEAN Gender related commitments and processes

Mechanism	Objectives/Tasks	Composition
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)	Sets the strategic policy direction on ASEAN's regional cooperation on women	Ministers in charge of women and girls in all ASEAN member States (AMS)
ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW)	Supports the AMMW by recommending regional policies, developing and implementing the 5-year regional work plan and managing partnerships	Subsidiary body of the AMMW composed of senior officials in ministries in charge of women and girls/gender equality
ACW+3	Serves as regular platform for exchanging policies and good practices on the empowerment of women and girls	ACW + China, Japan and Republic of Korea
ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)	Develops policies, programmes, and innovative strategies to complement the building of the ASEAN community	20 representatives of AMS for women's and children's rights, each AMS representative serves a term of 3 years and may be reappointed for a second term
ACW – ACWC Consultation Meeting	Serves as a platform for the ACW and the ACWC to synergies their efforts of areas of mutual interest, e.g., gender mainstreaming, gender and climate change, non-gender stereotyping, etc.	
ACW-ACWC Joint Ad-hoc Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming	Develops a comprehensive strategy to mainstream gender perspectives across all 3 ASEAN Community pillars	
ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN)	Seeks to create a favorable environment for female-led enterprises and support for women entrepreneurship in the region	Network of businesswomen in the region

Source: courtesy of GIZ presentation at gender-biodiversity workshop, the Philippines, December 2019.

Similarly, in 2019, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministers endorsed [the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth](#) to encourage initiatives across all of APEC's workstreams to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

Gender equality commitments are just as important in the private sector. Fortunately, from 2018 to 2021, there was a 186 per cent increase in

companies in Asia and the Pacific that have signed the UN Women and UN Global Compact's Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). In Asia and the Pacific, 400 companies have completed the United Nations Global Compact's Women's Empowerment Principles Gender Gap Analysis Tool (WEPs Tool) over the last four years³⁵.

Section 2. Measurement of gender inequality: metrics, sources, data, presentation

Criteria employed for selection of preferred indices/data sources for this GAAP include recency, authority, completeness, comparability, efficiency of presentation, relevance to the context and object of the

³⁵ asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/11/trends-and-opportunities-to-advance-gender-equality-in-asia-and-the-pacific-web-introduction

program. However, this can and should be complemented by other, deeper dives either by country or sector where available. For example, the ADB produces detailed country gender studies, but they can be dated. Other limitations were found with data sets or reports from the OECD, UN – ESCAP, UN – Women, RRI etc, for the particular purpose of this GAAP. However, two sources of data were identified which were considered particularly useful: the Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum (2023, though with various dates for the underlying data sources) and the World Bank’s Gender Portal. These are both briefly discussed in more detail below.

2.1 The WEF Gender Gap Report

The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 to benchmark progress towards gender parity and compare countries’ gender gaps across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership, based on the data available. The goal of the Gender Gap Report (WEF GGR) is to offer a consistent annual metric for the assessment of progress over time. Using the methodology introduced in 2006, the index and the analysis focus on benchmarking parity between women and men across countries and regions. For a country to be included, it must report data for a minimum 12 of the 14 indicators that comprise the index. Data from the GGR for the countries in the region (where available) are presented in this GAAP but in the Annex for the sake of brevity in the body section of this document. Only for the three project countries of this program are they presented in the main body (in Section 3); both as a ‘spider diagram’ summarizing the gender parity gap in the country as measured via 4 sub-indices, as well as a table derived from the dataset prepared for this GAAP using metrics which are most relevant to rural development and forestry.

2.2 The World Bank Gender Portal Data

The second most relevant data set identified for the purposes of understanding gender at a national scale in the bio-region is that of the World Bank (URL), which complements that of the WEF both in terms of the type of parameters measured, the way temporal trends are presented, and the clear contextualization of country data with respect to two comparison ‘peer’ groups: one regional and one income related. These are strongly commended to the interested reader and should be a project resource for reference during implementation, especially for the 7 countries in the region which do not have country projects under this Program in the GEF8 cycle; however for the sake of brevity are not reproduced here.

2.3 Data sources for national level gender gap assessments: FAO and the World Bank

Two particularly relevant and recent sources of more qualitative data (expert country assessments) on gender gaps were also identified, from FAO and the World Bank. Whilst the FAO country gender assessments reports are primarily concerning gender relations and equality / inequality and their drivers in the agricultural sector, they are still indicative of the status of women with respect to natural resource use in forest ecosystems. The World Bank assessments tend to be focused more on the economic aspects such as female rate of participation in the labour market, wage differentials, representation in senior positions within business etc. In Section 3 the assessment of the gender gaps by country and by dimension draw on one or both depending on availability and relevance.

Section 3. Gender gaps in the Indo-Malay bio-region

The gender gaps in the Indo-Malay bio-region are presented in this section, drawing on the data sets highlighted above. This is done in a geographically hierarchical manner to aid contextualization and comparison: first and briefly the global gaps (showing the region(s) of interest in comparison to other regions), then the regional ones of interest, and finally by country for the 10 countries which comprise the grouping for the purposes of this program and project. In short, this section lays out a snapshot of the current status of women in the region according to selected metrics.

The overall picture of gender gaps in the geographies of interest is presented in Box 2 below.

Box 2. Overview of gender gap trends, gender data needs in Asia and the Pacific

Over the past few decades, countries in Asia and the Pacific have made significant progress to empower women and girls, particularly in the key areas of educational access and women's health. However, despite these advancements, women and girls still face discriminatory policies and social and cultural barriers that restrict their economic and civic participation, impede their rights, and hinder their potential including the opportunity to access finance on account of lack of formal ownership of land and related resources.. Moreover, the region is witnessing growing disparities in income and wealth, further aggravated by technological transformation and the climate crisis, disproportionately affecting women and girls and placing them at increased risk of being left behind.

These challenges are particularly pronounced in the economic sphere. Asia and the Pacific is the only region globally where the gender gap in labour force participation is increasing. Currently, only 43 per cent of women in the working-age population are economically active, compared to 73 per cent of men. Furthermore, 64 per cent of women in the labour force are employed in informal and vulnerable jobs, limiting their access to decent work, fair wages, and social protection. Additionally, women's disproportionate responsibility for unpaid and domestic work significantly limits their full participation in productive activities, with women in Asia and the Pacific spending at least 4 times more time than men on unpaid care and domestic work.

Precise data is paramount for policymakers to address women's needs and track progress towards women's economic empowerment. However, in the Asia-Pacific region, almost all countries lack data on over 50% of the indicators necessary to monitor SDGs from a gender perspective, with gaps in key areas, such as violence against women, unpaid care and domestic work and key labour market indicators and – of particular importance to this project – the lack of data on women's formally registered ownership of land. This data deficit is particularly acute in the Pacific, with multiple island states having data for less than 3% of these indicators.

3.1 Gender Gaps at the Regional scale

East Asia and the Pacific is at 68.8% gender parity, marking the fifth-highest score out of the eight regions defined for the WEF's GGGR 2023. New Zealand, the Philippines and Australia have the highest parity within this region. Southern Asia (together with the Middle East and North Africa) share the distinction of having the greatest gender gap still to close, at approximately 63%. In terms of temporal trends, Progress towards parity has been stagnating for over a decade.

Turning now to sub-indices which make up the WEF Global Gender Gap Index, it is apparent from Table 2 below that for East Asia and the Pacific that in terms of women's economic participation and opportunities, that on regional comparative basis that the region of concern scores (ranks) relatively well. In terms of educational attainment and health and survival, the gender gap is quite low for all regions. Conversely, in all regions the sub index 'political empowerment' (which mostly reflects participation in formal and higher-level governance structures) reveals that the gender gap is very large. This does not appear to be solely related to level of economic development of a region, implies that other factors are also determine these outcomes. East Asia and the Pacific on this metric is tied with the Middle East and North Africa at the second lowest score.

Of course, in all these measures there may be considerable variation by country. For the RCP this is now unpacked in Section 3.2 below for the countries eligible to participate in this program, with a focus on the three which currently participate and are therefore most relevant.

Nevertheless, it is recommended and foreseen that the RCP, on behalf of the program, can be a window for these individual countries to lessons and options to promote towards gender parity from within the program region and beyond. A gender/safeguards specialist (see the RCP’s Environmental and Social Management Framework for the proposed ToR for this position in the RCU) will help identify and facilitate these opportunities; including both disseminating good practice on gender which emerges from the program into relevant regional mechanisms, linking to the gender focal points as needed in the three countries, and possibly with the gender focal person at regional level of the other GEF8 Impact Programs

Table 2. Regional performance 2023, by Gender Equality Sub-Index

	Overall Index	Subindexes			
		Economic Participation and Opportunity	Educational Attainment	Health and Survival	Political Empowerment
Eurasia and Central Asia	69.0%	68.8%	98.9%	97.4%	10.9%
East Asia and the Pacific	68.8%	71.0%	95.5%	94.9%	14.0%
Europe	76.3%	69.7%	99.6%	97.0%	39.1%
Latin America and the Caribbean	74.3%	65.2%	99.2%	97.6%	35.0%
Middle East and North Africa	62.6%	44.0%	95.9%	96.4%	14.0%
North America	75.0%	77.6%	99.5%	96.9%	26.1%
Southern Asia	63.4%	37.2%	96.0%	95.3%	25.1%
Sub-Saharan Africa	68.2%	67.2%	86.0%	97.2%	22.6%
Global average	68.4%	60.1%	95.2%	96.0%	22.1%

Parity 0% 50% 100%

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Index, 2023.

Note: Population-weighted averages for the 146 economies featured in the Global Gender Gap Index 2023. The percentages are indicative of the gender gap that has been closed.

in the other forested ecosystems globally.

3.2 Gender and forest ecosystems, forest management and forest landscape governance in the region

Over the past few decades, many forest-dependent people, particularly women, have faced emerging challenges due to the adverse impacts of climate change and increasing encroachment over forest areas. This has not only affected rural households’ overall food security and livelihoods, but also women’s income-generating opportunities as well as work burden and safety; for instance, by forcing them to walk longer distances and deeper into the forests to collect fuelwood and non-wood forest products (NWFPs).

Differential benefits from forest resource utilization, by region

Men and women often have disparate knowledge and varying levels of dependence on forest goods. And accordingly, they tend to have distinct interactions with forest resources. These distinctions influence the way forests are managed. In the Asia-Pacific region, rural women are mainly responsible for the collection of fuelwood, water and other non-timber forest products as well as biodiversity conservation, while rural men are engaged in more income-generating activities, decision-making and high-value activities, such as

cutting and hauling timber, hunting and fishing³⁶. Women's share of employment in the forestry sector, especially in management and decision-making positions, is relatively small³⁷. Their underrepresentation in forestry does not mean that women's role in forestry is insignificant, however. Much of women's work in forestry is unpaid and informal. Table 3 shows that women make up almost 80 per cent of all labour for part-time unpaid collection of fuelwood in Asia and the Pacific.

Non-timber forest products are an important source of income for many people, especially women (see Figure 1). The Asia-Pacific region derives the world's largest share of income from the production of non-timber forest products, mainly from plants. On the other hand, in Asia, unlike the other regions, the gendered specialization is not clear³⁸. For example, both women and men also contribute substantially to income generation from fuelwood, unlike in other regions. However, the gendered stereotypes of male domination in structural and fibre harvesting, and animal product collection (hunting) appear to hold across the regions. In line with findings from the literature, women dominate for income earned from wild plant food in Asia.

Leisher et al³⁹ found that empowering women in local decision-making with respect to the conservation of forests and fisheries in India and Nepal led to better resource efficiency and conservation.

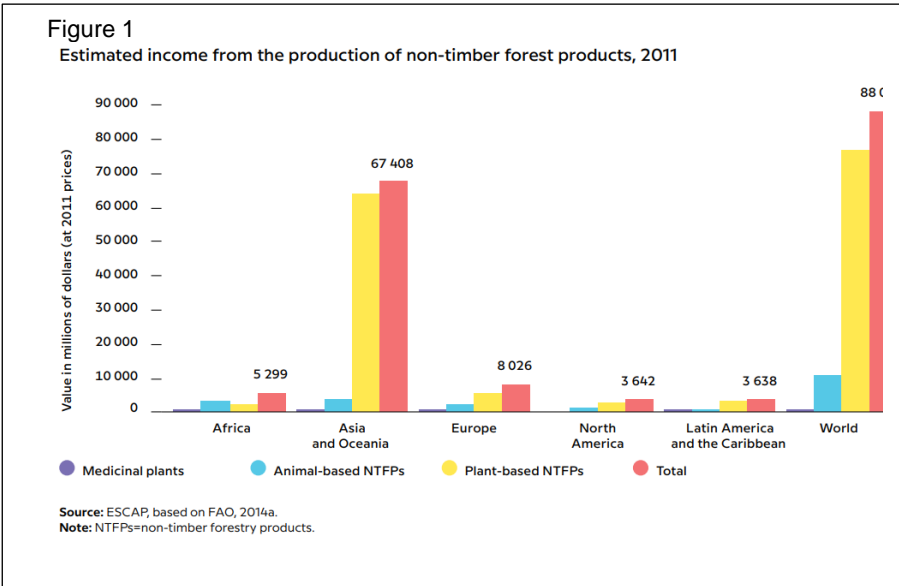
Small and medium scale forestry enterprises (SMEs) engage significant numbers of women, for instance in the processing of NTFPs – such as the production of juice from forest fruits – or in wood-based furniture industries. When done at home, SME

activities offer women the flexibility to combine work with their household chores. Development initiatives, however, sometimes overlook women's multiple roles⁴⁰ when introducing formal processes and hence complicate women's work. When providing training and credit opportunities for men rather than women, programmes sometimes create opportunities for men to replace the income once earned

Table 3
Estimated number of people engaged in fuelwood and charcoal production, by sex and type of engagement, 2011

REGION	FULL-TIME (MILLIONS)		PART-TIME, UNPAID (IN MILLIONS)	
	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN
Africa	19	<1	23	152
Asia and Oceania	11	<1	110	521
Latin America and the Caribbean	7	3	2	33
World	37	4	135	706

Source: FAO, 2014a.



³⁶ Jattan, P. S. (2003). Gender Issues in Participatory Forest Management in India. Quebec City, Canada: XII World Forestry Congress

³⁷ International Labour Organization (2015a). Decent Work in Forestry. Geneva: International Labour Office

³⁸ United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2017). Gender, the Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

³⁹ Leisher, C., and others (2016). Does the gender composition of forest and fishery management groups affect resource governance and conservation outcomes? A systematic map. Environmental Evidence, vol. 5, No. 6.

⁴⁰ Mainstreaming Gender into Forest Policies in Asia and the Pacific," a study conducted by RECOFTC with the support of FAO in 2015: A Training Manual 2016

by women. Similarly, when programmes introduce the mechanization of product processing, they sometimes adversely affect women’s incomes, and their labour becomes superfluous. Hence the importance of gender informed safeguards analysis during project design, such as FAO’s FESM; as well as during the screening of intended activities at the start of the implementation phase.

Gender analysis allows us to identify the implications of gender-assigned roles, such as excessive work burden and invisibility of interests and needs as identified above. Other implications related to gender-assigned roles are unequal access to and control of resources, stereotyping and discrimination.

Gendered access to resources – facilities, services, funds, benefits, information, natural resources – refers to the differences between men and women’s rights and opportunities to make use of and extract resources. Such practices are determined by the values and social and cultural norms existing in a particular place and time. Gendered control of resources refers to differences between women and men’s rights and power to decide on the use of resources, to derive benefits and to participate in any relevant decision-making processes

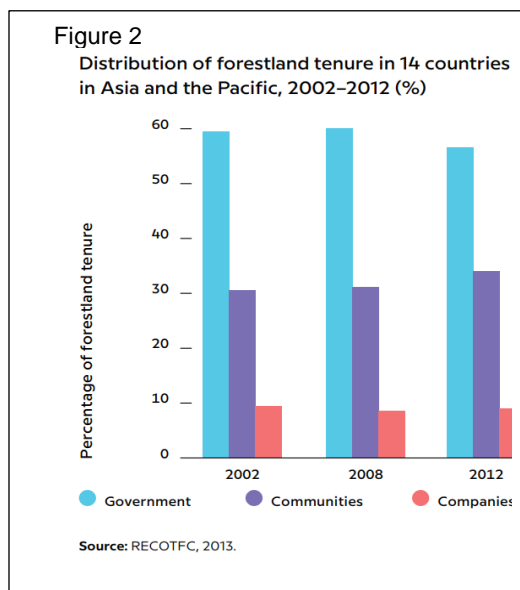
Differential impacts of deforestation

The impacts of deforestation on men and women differ. Because it is often women’s task to collect fuelwood and edible items from the forest, they must walk longer distances to find them after deforestation. Longer distances exacerbate women’s time poverty. Their security on the way to and from forests is at risk. Less access to edible items in the forest can easily lead to women’s food insecurity because they often sacrifice their own intake when there isn’t enough food for other family members.

Tenure Rights and Forest Resources

Ownership of forests influences forest-dependent people’s degree of access to them for food security, livelihoods and income. According to a study that examined 14 countries of Asia and the Pacific⁴¹, more than 55 per cent of forests is owned by governments, more than 34 per cent by communities and less than 10 per cent by companies as a whole (see Figure 2). The countries with the most forest area owned by companies are Indonesia (at 26 per cent), Thailand (at 15 per cent) and the Philippines (at 8 per cent). Community-owned forests are increasing faster than government- and company-owned forests. The share of national forestland in community possession ranges widely from country to country. Community-owned forests account for 99 per cent of forests in Papua New Guinea, almost 60 per cent in the Philippines and about 30 per cent in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. Some of these community-owned forests enjoy stronger land tenure than others.

Community-owned forests in Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Viet Nam are protected by the constitution or civil code and cannot be taken away by governments without legal procedures. Other countries, such as Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand, provide



⁴¹ RECOTFC - The Center for People and Forests (2013). Community Forestry in Asia and the Pacific: Pathway to Inclusive Development. Bangkok

weaker tenure rights; government agencies can take away or limit the duration of tenure rights of communities through administrative act⁴².

The type of land tenure system in place has an impact on the access that men and women have to forest resources. The distribution of rights to land and trees between men and women are known to have important implications for women's empowerment and household welfare. For example, a 2006 global study suggested that women's rights to land and trees give incentives to women to adopt agroforestry technologies more than other crop varieties due to the long time horizon between investment and returns⁴³.

Box 3 Gender and Tenure: the VGGT

- Policies and laws to ensure that tenure rights be non-discriminatory and gender sensitive.
 - Information on tenure governance in applicable languages be provided to all potential stakeholders through gender-sensitive messages.
 - Encourages monitoring of the programme outcomes, including the gender differentiated impacts on food security and poverty eradication.
 - Provide technical and legal assistance to affected communities to participate in the development of tenure policies, laws and projects in non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive ways.
- www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf

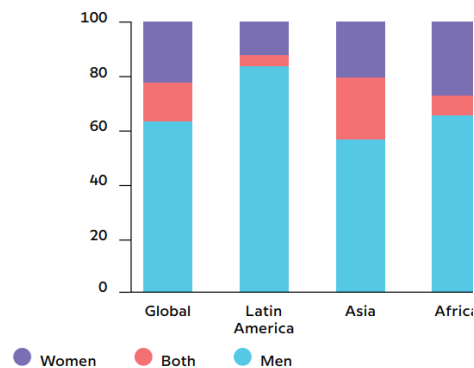
An important resource on gender and forestry with respect to land tenure is the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), which was endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012. The VGGT has also been endorsed by many member states, giving it a quasi-legal status in these countries. In addition, it is worth noting that *FAO and several partners are building a Global Land Observatory to generate evidence and data on the status of land tenure and governance, which will be a useful and potentially spatially explicit resource. Some key gender-specific messages to be derived from the VGGT are highlighted in Box 3.*

Gender, power and forest management Participation that leads to influence in decision making is a type of power; the process leads to empowerment. This is difficult to measure but simple proxies can include, at least to start, female membership in informal or formal decision-making fora. In Asia, approximately 20 per cent of women participate in forest user groups, while the number of men who participate in forest user groups is much higher, representing about 60 per cent of the population (see Figure 3).

Gender and power in conservation and restoration of forest ecosystem functionality, services and biodiversity

The IM-IP project will be significantly targeting various forms of what is often referred to forest landscape restoration (FLR), though other terms are used to describe similar approaches and/or practices. These are related to active management regimes, specific objectives in terms of improving forest ecosystem function and multiple benefits. Such interventions, including in the countries of the Indo Malay bioregion, have, are and will be implemented in contexts with weak systems of governance, histories of land tenure conflicts and structural discrimination against women and indigenous communities.

Figure 3
Percentage of men and women who participate in forest user groups, as of 2014



Source: Sunderland and others, 2014.

⁴² United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2017). Gender, the Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

⁴³ Garrity, D., and others (2006). World Agroforestry into the Future. Nairobi: World Agroforestry Centre

Consequently, it is essential to ensure that such initiatives, including those which take place under the auspices of or are supported or advocated for by this Program do not perpetuate even inadvertently the same historical injustices and/or exclude and marginalize indigenous and local communities as have occurred at many times and in many places⁴⁴. The Environmental and Social Management Framework of the regional project (which also acts to guide the overall Program in terms of safeguard coordination) and the Environmental and Social Management Plans of the three country level projects are intended precisely to help guard against this; as well as providing positive guidance for empowerment of disadvantaged communities of forest dwellers and/or other forest dependent communities.

Gender-equitable and socially inclusive engagement must consider at least three types of decisions: land use and control; priorities and approaches; and the distribution of costs and benefits. Women's lack of voice and influence across the three areas of decision making is a persistent challenge and the product of interlocking inequalities at the household, community, state and market levels. Discriminatory gender norms and practices, exclusionary institutions and persistent information asymmetries, among other factors, may all limit women's ability to voice their views, interests and concerns effectively⁴⁵.

Implications for forest landscape interventions for disadvantaged users, including women

It must be acknowledged that management regimes – including those supported by projects such as these - may well create enclosures and contribute to the exclusion of women and men in local and indigenous communities from existing systems of land uses or livelihoods⁴⁶. If not managed responsibly, such exclusion can ultimately undermine the sustainability and legitimacy of these interventions. Therefore, in addition to identifying suitable areas through satellite maps and aggregated data, a thorough understanding of land-use practices, claims, and customary and statutory tenure relations under different forest governance and management scenarios, is essential. This is integral for better identifying which groups of users, formal and informal rights holders and/or other stakeholders are likely to be affected under particular scenarios. These threats have elevated the importance of 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent' (FPIC) as a mechanism to safeguard local and indigenous peoples' rights. However, there is very little understanding about how to apply FPIC in non-cohesive and heterogeneous communities⁴⁷.

Important decisions pertaining to include protection, conservation and restoration objectives, location, duration, scale, approaches, selection of species and restoration of ecosystem services. These priorities are driven by gendered sets of knowledge, rights, roles and responsibilities. For instance, gender norms and roles determine perceptions about land degradation and priority areas.

Participating as full participants with a voice and influence in decision-making structures and processes often enables more equal access to resources and a more equitable sharing of benefits for women. However, women's official participation in structures ('50% of participants are women') and processes does not in and of itself guarantee their access to benefits. For instance, despite social safeguards, marginalized groups — including women — have often been left out of REDD+ benefits⁴⁸.

⁴⁴ Sarmiento Barletti, JP and Larson AM. 2017. Rights abuse allegations in the context of REDD+ readiness and implementation: A preliminary review and proposal for moving forward. Infobrief No. 190. Bogor, Indonesia: Center for International Forestry Research

⁴⁵ Basnett, Elias, Ihalaninen and Valencia. 2017. Gender matters in Forest Landscape Restoration. A Framework for Design and Evaluation. CIFOR

⁴⁶ Basnett, Elias, Ihalaninen and Valencia. 2017. Gender matters in Forest Landscape Restoration. A Framework for Design and Evaluation. CIFOR

⁴⁷ McLain R, Guariguata MR and Lawry S. 2017. Implementing forest landscape restoration initiatives. Tenure, governance, and equity considerations. Presentation, McClain, 3 November 2017, Bonn, Germany: GIZ.

⁴⁸ Sarmiento Barletti, JP and Larson AM. 2017. Rights abuse allegations in the context of REDD+ readiness and implementation: A preliminary review and proposal for moving forward. Infobrief No. 190. Bogor, Indonesia: Center for International Forestry Research

Whether or not they can benefit, women's engagement in such activities is likely to have an impact on their overall workload. This is particularly the case in contexts where land management and agricultural production is becoming increasingly feminized⁴⁹. Agroforestry technologies and practices often promoted as part of restoration initiatives are knowledge- and labour-intensive. In some cases, they involve long-term investment with delayed returns. Many restoration and even conservation related initiatives rely on women's labour for planting and nursing seedlings. However, women's lack of secure tenure means they do not always have rights to benefit from the trees when they grow. In short, gender-blind benefit schemes thus risk generating benefits from which women are excluded, while further heightening women's overall work burden.

3.3 Gender gaps at national scale and implications for forest landscape governance

This section provides brief, selective overviews of gender gaps by country, with brief explanations where possible, focusing on those aspects which are considered to be particularly relevant as context for the IM-IP, ie the rural sector, forestry and the rights of women, economic opportunities and the policy/legal environment in which they operate politically. It also summarizes the larger, often cultural context in terms of gender relations in the country, which obviously may vary considerably due to various factors. Gender based violence is also touched upon, which can be thought of as an expression of gender-based power relations at a domestic scale.

Each country overview is structured in the following way:

Overall status of gender relations +

1. Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration
2. Political rights and women's participation and representation
3. Gender and Economic Opportunities
4. Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources, including forestry
5. Gender based violence

Based in part on this survey of gaps in the bio-region (in the main text and in detail only for the 3 project countries, in less detail and in Annex 1 for the other 7 countries), a brief summary of the types of gaps which appear to be common across these countries are presented in the analysis section which follows. This analyses in turn informs in part the gender mainstreaming strategy of the regional project; which in turn is 'unpacked' into the Gender Action Plan as a table (Section 5) correlating proposed actions / timelines / responsibilities and resources to the corresponding project components / outcomes and outputs.

Project country gender diagnostics

A brief analysis of five gender dimensions of particular relevance to the RCP and the Program are presented below. Further details can be found in the GAAPs of the respective project documents.

Lao PDR

Lao PDR has a child project in this program, and is part of the Indo-Malay bio-region. The following assessment is based in part on FAO's country assessment for gender and the rural sector. Reference should also be made to the much more detailed GAAP of the Lao PDR child project.

The majority of the population (67 percent) lives in rural areas, with 59 percent in rural areas with road access, and 7 percent in rural areas without road access. Lao People's Democratic Republic is an incredibly ethnically diverse country, home to 49 different ethnic groups. The Lao-Tai ethnic group comprises

⁴⁹ Agarwal B. 2014. Food sovereignty, food security and democratic choice: Critical contradictions, difficult conciliations. Journal of Peasant Studies 6150(September):1–22.

roughly 62 percent of the total population, generally inhabits the lowlands and farms paddy rice. Poverty in Lao People’s Democratic Republic is prevalent in upland areas, which are predominantly inhabited by non-Lao-Tai ethnic groups. As a whole, ethnic minority groups in Lao People’s Democratic Republic are often less educated, less literate, less resourced and poorer than Lao-Tai groups. Ethnic minorities are also far more forest dependent; hence deforestation and more generally the status and nature of forest management has direct impacts on their well-being.

Overall status of gender relations

Gender dynamics and women’s roles in village life and leadership differ significantly across ethnic groups. Ethnic women and girls are among the most disadvantaged in Lao society, facing a heavy burden of work, less decision-making power than men, limited mobility, and cultural norms that limit women’s roles in society (Khampoui, 2012). Open discussion of gender issues in Lao People’s Democratic Republic is relatively recent. While the discourse surrounding gender has become more progressive in the past few years, conversations on gender issues in Lao People’s Democratic Republic lag behind discourses in many other countries.

Lao PDR ranks remarkably well in terms of women’s economic participation and opportunity, at 5th in the world, much better than any of its peers in the region (see Figure 4). Putting this in perspective, however, it should be noted that economic opportunities for both men and women in Lao PDR are still quite limited for a variety of reasons. Lao PDR also does quite well (in absolute, but not necessary relative terms) when it comes to gender gaps in educational achievement and health/survival; however as with many of the other countries in the region, the status of women in terms of political empowerment is quite poor (in both absolute – ie score - and relative - ie ranking - terms).

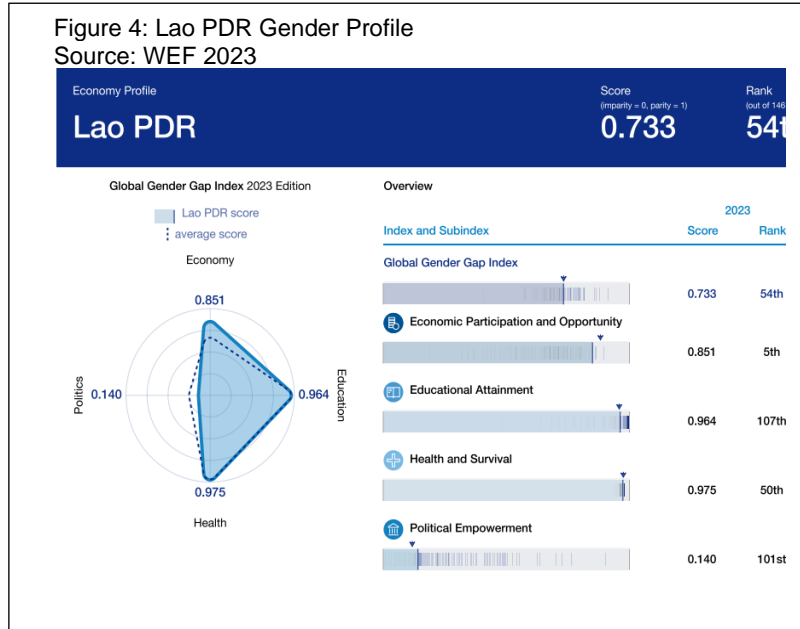


Table 4. Dimensions of Gender Equality in Lao PDR

Dimension of Gender Equality	Metric
Access to land assets	Equal rights
Access to non-land assets	Equal rights
Access to financial services	Somewhat equal rights
Inheritance rights for widows and daughters	Somewhat equal rights
Access to justice	Equal rights
Freedom of movement	Restricted rights
Female students of Agricultural	45%

As can be seen from Table 4, access to the resources needed by women to develop themselves in rural contexts is relatively good, including in terms of access to justice; albeit less so with respect to freedom of movement. A standout figure is the very high rate of participation of women in the field of agriculture (including forestry), which could be a positive indicator of future mainstreaming of gender perspectives and possibly gender rights in this space.

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

Lao People’s Democratic Republic, 2003 marked the establishment of the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW), an organization tasked with promoting gender equality. Lao PDR ratified CEDAW in 1981. There is a need for greater public advocacy and building the capacity and creating awareness of district officials on CEDAW and of women’s human rights, in general. In 2003, Lao PDR established the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW) which serves as the national focal point for advocating women’s rights.

The 9th Five-year National Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) explicitly articulates one of the priority activities to promote and create opportunities for women and children. This includes coordination with all parties to integrate gender equality into development plans, programmes, projects and activities to promote and create gender equality in all areas and to strengthen mechanisms to monitor, promote and enforce laws related to gender equality, the CEDAW and Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also includes raising awareness about gender equality among politicians, members of parliament, industry leaders, lawyers, youth, parents, guardians, community leaders and civil servants to enhance understanding of the importance of gender equality, CEDAW etc.

Political rights and women’s participation and representation

Women’s leadership in positions of political power in Lao People’s Democratic Republic remains limited at all levels, from the national to the lowest administrative unit, the village. Villages also have a variety of additional committees, focusing on issues such as trade, agriculture, health, education and security. The Lao Women’s Union also has a village-level body, which is the main avenue through which village women participate in the village committees. Except for the LWU, these committees are almost exclusively composed of men. Additionally, in ethnic communities, women shy away from leadership positions because they are less likely to speak due to both reasons of culture and educational opportunity. It is important to note that, although men are often the de-facto heads of the household, they are not only the ones to make decisions. The Agricultural Census found that over 60 percent of households reported being joint decision-making households⁵⁰.

Gender and Economic Opportunities

Currently, Lao People’s Democratic Republic is transitioning from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture, which has brought benefits for some rural communities, including economic growth, poverty reduction and employment, but has exacerbated gender disparities and power imbalances in others. For women in poor rural areas, especially those who either never had or have lost access to productive land

⁵⁰ MAF and FAO, 2014

and who cannot find employment off-farm, the commercialization of agriculture can also increase vulnerability. This is also due in part to the nature of commercial agriculture that often requires larger plot of land, inputs, mechanization and partly due to traditional gender roles, in which men typically deal with the cash economy. This transition to a market-based economy and the emergence of cash crops can bring particularly negative impacts for non-Lao-Tai ethnic groups, who may not speak or understand Lao language, and who may not have experience in a cash economy. Social safety nets are not yet in place to 'catch' those who may fall during this period of transition.

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

Non timber forest products (NTFPs) have also proven in several studies to be a highly important food source for rural communities in Lao People's Democratic Republic, but access is declining. Women are particularly impacted by this dwindling access, as they are the predominant collectors and sellers of NTFPs in most communities. Women may, therefore, be pushed to travel longer and farther to collect NTFPs or suffer losses to their income. Loss of NTFPs also threatens food security and nutrition in already undernourished communities, as forest products like nuts, fruits and vegetables become scarcer in rural diets. NTFPs also provide a source of income which is increasingly important in a cash economy. According to field observations and national research, women are most likely to collect and gather NTFPs, while men hunt in the forest.

Although under Lao law men and women have equal status regarding land ownership and land-use rights, and women have legal capacity to enter contracts or sign legal documents, in practice it is often the head of household (usually a man) who signs the tenure document, whether a temporary certificate or a land title. In the 2003 National Land Law, there was a provision requiring both husband and wife to sign a land title or document, but this was later changed; in any case the majority of rural land untitled and unregistered and is determined more by local customary practices. Women from ethnic groups are most likely to refuse to have their name on a land title, believing land management is a man's role. Land thus passes on to sons only, with wives and daughters often not accepting their shares of the property that is rightfully theirs by law (FAO, 2013b). At the same time, these attitudes are not universal.

Gender based violence

The issue of human trafficking across borders to neighbouring Thailand, Viet Nam and China is a widely known phenomenon in Lao People's Democratic Republic and one that particularly threatens rural communities, where opportunities for labour are sparser and where the notion of seeking better work abroad has high appeal. As the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children recently reported, most of the victims of sale and trafficking across the border with Thailand are children, and many of the trafficked girls fall victims of prostitution⁵¹. For a detailed institutional mapping of domestic violence see Hyun and The World Bank (2020)⁵².

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has a child project in this program and is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion. The following assessment is based in part on FAO's country assessment for gender and the rural sector. Reference should also be made to the much more detailed GAAP of the PNG child project.

⁵¹ UNODC, 2017

⁵² <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/300891594091530233/pdf/Lao-PDR-Gender-Based-Violence-Institutional-Mapping-Report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3yLCpqlFsLrevmDoGeVJHLkAbwtsrLU0ufbAyOgBE8-3sDE8TIJCMv7bw>

Papua New Guinea is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, with over 1 000 tribes and 800 languages; hence it is difficult to make generalizations about the country, including with respect to gender, although certain patterns can be supported from the evidence. Papua New Guinea's formal sector focuses mainly on large-scale export of natural resources such as minerals, oil and gas, timber and fish, which make up a large and significant proportion of the government's revenue. The majority of the population lives in areas of poor infrastructure and often rugged terrain, which gives them little or no access to basic services, such as health, education, sanitation and safe drinking water.

The women's movement in Papua New Guinea evolved over the years through interventions by different institutions at different times. An early influence was the formation of women's groups by churches, starting in the 1930s. Women's activism through church groups has been hailed as an empowering path and a "catalyst for change" in Papua New Guinea (see Dickson-Waiko, 2003), subsequently reinforced by various development actors.

Overall status of gender relations

The majority of the population lives in rural areas (87 percent). Gender disparities are seen in access to and control over key agricultural and rural resources and services, knowledge, opportunities and markets. Nevertheless, rural women play a prominent role in subsistence food production, agricultural value chains and rural livelihoods. They actively participate in livestock and poultry production and in fish farming. They sell their surplus produce, generally at local markets, to generate income for their families. Women have also ventured into small to medium enterprise activities. However as in many other countries in the bioregion, rural women are challenged by their multiple roles and chronic time poverty. Given these multiple roles, rural women tend to lack the time to participate in other opportunities that could potentially contribute to enhancing their autonomy, knowledge, skills and self-esteem. Despite this progress, sociocultural attitudes of men (and women) still remain barriers to women playing a greater role in leadership and decision-making.

Note that insufficient information on the relevant parameters for the WEF Global Gender Gap means that Papua New Guinea is not covered by that index/report; which would otherwise be presented in Annex 2 together with Thailand and Lao PDR.

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

The Papua New Guineans who live in rural areas are socially organized into clans on communally owned land. Several key services, such as extension or financial services, are either absent or not readily available for women. The forests of Papua New Guinea cover approximately 60 percent of its total land area (which is about 29 million hectares. Twenty-seven percent of the land is arable, of which only about 8 percent is cultivated (i.e. less than 2 percent of the total land mass).

Both women and men living in forested regions of the country depend on forest resources for many livelihood needs. In many Papua New Guinean societies, women make extensive use of forest resources for food, firewood, medicine and materials for handicrafts. Forests are also used for activities such as hunting, cutting trees for building materials and clearing for new food gardens, which tend to be performed by men. Sago palms provide the staple food resource in swampland forests in riverine areas. Coastal communities depend heavily on mangrove forests, which play very important ecological and cultural roles. Women harvest various mollusc and crustacean species from these areas for food, as well as for sale if there are accessible markets. Mangrove forests serve a wide range of other uses as well, including providing wood for house construction and fuel, serving as breeding grounds for fisheries and reducing coastal erosion.

Forest land is almost entirely collectively owned, although concessions have been given by the government to private investors for various purposes, sometimes creating conflict with local communities. Although women generally have access to land, they have limited control of it as compared to men, through traditional governance and organizational systems, which determine most (if not all) decisions pertaining to its use. The land held under customary tenure is controlled by different clans (wantok). While women typically have user rights to cultivate land, gather forest products and fish or collect marine resources, they rarely hold ownership rights or have associated control over productive resources. This tends to be the case regardless of whether an inheritance system is patrilineal or matrilineal. Planting annual food crops does not secure long-term user rights over land, unlike the planting of small plantations of perennial crops such as cocoa, coffee and coconuts. Food gardens (typically managed by women) are generally transient, whereas plantations of tree crops are semi-permanent markers of property rights and confer status upon the men who control them. When customary land is leased for plantations, logging or mining, or when access to marine and riverine rights are negotiated, women seldom participate in such negotiations.

Gender based violence

Security challenges in Papua New Guinea, including the high rate of gender-based violence, restrict women's and girls' mobility outside of their homes and communities. Such a lack of mobility tends to exclude women from key downstream activities within value chains, such as selling to exporters, therefore limiting their access to markets and their control over their income. Furthermore, parents' concern for security and safety of girls is a major factor preventing their enrolment in and attendance of schools, especially at the secondary level. For more details see a recent report by the US Institute for Peace⁵³.

Thailand

Thailand has a child project in this program and is part of the Indo-Malay bio-region. The following assessment is based in part on FAO's country assessment for gender and the rural sector. Reference should also be made to the much more detailed GAAP of the Thailand child project.

The following assessment is based in part on the World Bank's country gender assessment.

Compared to other developing countries, Thailand's structural transformation from an agriculturally based economy to a manufacturing- and service-based economy has benefitted women with jobs that have more flexibility and match their skills and abilities. For example, between 2005 and 2019, while the employment share of women in the agricultural sector dramatically decreased, their share in the manufacturing sector stabilized, and in the service sector it increased from 41 percent to 53 percent. Over the same time period the share of women in low-skill occupations, especially those who work as skilled agriculture and fisheries workers, sharply declined from 57 percent to 41 percent.

⁵³ <https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/addressing-gendered-violence-papua-new-guinea-opportunities-and-options>

Figure 5: Thailand Gender Profile
Source: WEF 2023



A large proportion of Thai women works in the agricultural and informal sectors, have much less access to social security, and live in poverty. It is worth noting that in addition to Thai workforce, Thailand has been a main destination for migrant workers from neighbouring countries for over 20 years and migrant workers significantly contribute to Thailand’s economy, mostly work in low-skilled jobs such as fishing, construction, and other services (ILO, 2021). Labour protection of migrant workers – and in particular female workers

- is not sufficient.

Overall status of gender relations

There remain many barriers to and biases against women rooted in cultural norms and power relations, especially in the rural areas. As can be seen from Figure 5, Thailand ranks quite well in terms of women’s economic participation, health and survival and educational attainment vis-à-vis its overall economic status. However, it ranks very poorly on political empowerment (measured as representation in formal political systems). Looking into further details, Table 4, it is apparent that in terms of factors dimensions of equality which are particularly important in rural areas Thailand is assessed as relatively progressive on most metrics. These are of course overall assessments, and the actual situation will vary, based on a range of factors including whether women are also part of ethnic minorities, which may have specific cultural gender norms. This is particularly relevant in the forest sector due to the high proportion of ethnic minorities / IPs who live in or depend on forest resources (though access and ownership of these resources may be an issue both male and female). As mentioned above, the status of women (and persons) in terms of whether they are migrants (as with Malaysia and some other countries of the region) is also an important determinant of women’s rights both in absolute and relative terms

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

Table 4. Dimensions of Gender Equality in Thailand

Dimension of Gender Equality	Metric
Access to land assets	Somewhat-equal rights
Access to non-land assets	Somewhat-equal rights
Access to financial services	Equal rights
Inheritance rights for widows and daughters	Equal rights
Access to justice	Somewhat-equal rights
Freedom of movement	Equal rights
Female students of Agricultural.	Not

Thailand has officially committed itself to women’s rights with international treaties and laws since 1985 when the country became party to the key United Nations treaty on the subject: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017)¹ Section 27 states that “all persons are equal before the law and shall have rights and liberties and be protected equally under the law. Men and women shall enjoy equal rights. Furthermore, the Gender Equality Act, B.E. 2558 (2015)² Section 17 Paragraph 1 stated “Prescribing policies, ordinances, Rules, Notifications, measures, projects or procedures for State agencies, private organizations or any person which appear to discriminate unfairly by gender shall be prohibited.”

Thai women represent a higher share of civil servants in government services compared to men, though most of them work in lower-level positions rather than as managers and decision-makers. According to Office of the Civil Service Commission (2019), on average, women comprised 58.6 percent of Thailand’s civil servants; however, women hold only 26.8 percent of management positions, and only 18.6 percent are high-ranking civil servants. Thai women hold 32 percent of senior leadership positions in the private sector, which is higher than the Asia Pacific average of 26 percent.

Gender and Economic Opportunities

At a macro level, there is a pattern of Thai women having shifted to work more in middle-skill occupations (increasing from 28 percent to 41 percent). Furthermore, the share of women in high-skill occupations increased, while the share of men dropped by 3 percentage points. Consequently, Thai women are more concentrated than men in middle- to high-skill jobs, predominantly as service workers. In fact, men’s poverty rate is higher than that of women and the rate increases with age. The population with the highest poverty rates – both male and female – are in the rural areas.

Political rights and women’s participation and representation

In 2020, only 15.7 percent of lower house members and 10.4 percent of senators were female. Out of 35 ministers, only 3 ministers were female (accounting for 8.6 percent of the cabinet), while there was only one female governor out of 77 provinces. The main obstacles to women in politics are societal attitudes toward women and traditional gender roles and perceptions of women in political positions, the lack of funding for women-led campaigns, and the political party system.

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

Men and women in Thailand have distinct roles, skills and knowledge in relation to forestry⁵⁴. Women generally focus more on protecting traditional knowledge, forest rituals and keeping records of customary laws on forest protection and conservation. More than 60 percent of forest-dependent women gather non-wood forest products (NWFPs) for subsistence and sale. Men, on the other hand, generally enforce written agreements and laws that pertain to logging and forest patrolling and tend to dominate decision-making processes concerning the management of forests and forest resources.

Due to women's reliance on forests, primarily for subsistence, their rights and responsibilities in forest management and protection have often been perceived as secondary to those of men. Women are rarely accepted as programme and field team leaders at the subnational level and in executive positions in forestry institutions at the national level. As a result, women are under-represented in decision-making in forestry planning and management at both levels. This is compounded by inadequate evidence-based research and data collection on women's contributions to sustainable forest management, which inhibits informed gender-inclusive forest policy planning and formulation.

Gender based violence

Persistent rates of gender-based violence impede women's voice and agency. Over 16 percent of Thai women who are married, or cohabitating, have encountered domestic violence, including psychological, physical, and/or sexual violence. More severely, most of the incidents are unreported due to the stigma associated with gender-based violence and women's lack of knowledge of services. The Thai government passed the Domestic Violence Act, Victim Protection Act, B.E. 2550, which is aimed at fighting against gender-based violence. For further information see, for example, a recent report of the US National Institute of Health⁵⁵

Section 4. Gender Analysis

Section 4 below presents both the general picture of gender relations across multiple dimensions – as summarized on a country-by-country basis in Section 3 above - but with a focus of the specific context of forest ecosystems, forest management and forest landscape governance. This also picks up on the aspect of 'tenure and decision making over land and natural resources' presented by country in Section 3 but generalized across the 'region'. Given the great variety across the countries eligible for this program (as well as the differences between Thailand and Lao PDR on one hand and PNG on the other) this is, of necessity, a high-level description. Nevertheless, there are certain types of issues which are common across multiple countries in terms of the roles, rights, opportunities and constraints of women in accessing and benefiting (directly and/or for their families) forest resources. These are introduced below; starting with a high-level assessment and then narrows down to the main findings for this particular region. This is followed by a discussion of promising entry points for introducing gender related issues into the program and into debates and practice in the region; followed in turn by a proposed approach to mainstreaming gender related objectives into the RCP. This is reflected, in turn, in the Gender Action Plan (tabular format, reflecting the structure of the project's Results Framework, with corresponding proposed gender-related actions, responsibilities, indicators, timeline and resources.

4.1 Crosscutting findings

There are many issues which could be identified which are common across the majority of countries for which gender equality snapshots were presented above (for the 3 countries participating in this program) and in Annex 1 (for the other 7 in the region defined for this program, but which are not participating in

⁵⁴ FAO and RECOFT (2015) Understanding Womens' Participation in Forestry in Thailand

⁵⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5986850/>

the GEF8 cycle), together with the regional level analyses in terms of both gender gaps in general and in terms of forest landscape governance in particular.

However, filtering these against those which are most relevant to the Program / RCP, the following actionable findings are highlighted, and inform the planned gender mainstreaming by component in the Gender Action Plan table in Section 5 further below and more generally for consideration for the RCP during the implementation phase of the project and Program:

- For policy and planning to have the potential to empower women and avoid inadvertently undermining them, it needs to be informed by gender-explicit evidence (both quantitative and qualitative). Conversely, evidence of women benefiting from certain approaches and practices, and/or women's contributions to biodiversity and forest health, can be used to strengthen their position if taken up by decision makers at higher levels.
- Protected Area creation and/or management can lead to women losing access / use rights if it is gender blind.
- There are often culturally specific attributes which affect women, which vary by community and can also be specific to particular groups of indigenous peoples; every effort needs to be made to understand the practical implications of this as they relate to project interventions in a specific context(s) and to work accordingly. This equally applies to projects addressing primary forest management outside of protected areas. The issues in this case are normally related to tenure, i.e. ownership &/or access/use rights for women, and decision making over forest resources; which when projects are gender-blind can either result in not benefiting and/or making women worse off. On the other hand, there are principles of good practice which a project needs to be aware of, incorporate in its own approach/activities and promote.
- Economic opportunities can either play a very empowering role or undermine the position of women in forest landscapes. Private sector, especially from outside the area, are often seen locally as being favoured by government and creates fear of loss. On the other hand, payment for environmental services (whether in cash or tenure or other benefits) can be win-win for biodiversity, local livelihoods and women. The key is the How. Hence it is critical to ensure that projects are well informed of local realities, manage perceptions of who/what they represent and provide concrete benefits in the short term.
- Effective mainstreaming of gender in the real world requires a critical mass of a wide range of partners across different functions and scales, in this case affecting forest management (and, in particular forest landscape governance). Therefore, the RCP, building on its institutional stakeholder engagement and communication plans, needs to ensure that in rolling these out that gender specific perspectives and partners are highlighted, and that attention is not restricted to box ticking.

4.2 Mainstreaming gender empowerment via the RCP

Based on the analyses above it is apparent that there are multiple potential entry points for gender in the IM-IP program, including via the RCP, which indeed could be catalytic in this regard. However, it must be borne in mind that the RCP will of necessity and by design be operating indirectly with respect to the main instruments of the program, i.e. the three country level projects. On the other hand, the RCP could in principle promote gender empowerment in forest governance and forest management in the larger region, however the standing or authority of the project may be limited as it does not have any official status in regional institutions etc. Nevertheless, the RCP can create opportunities to highlight good practice which ideally will have been undertaken in the country project implementation to a broader audience as a form of inspiring and expanding options and leveraging impacts. As the RCP's operational

context will be policy and institutions, and seeks to exercise an influence on both, this will be the emphasis here. Whilst some outlines of probable entry points can be articulated at this point, in practice, this will also need to be opportunistic once implementation is underway.

The RCP during the design phase has already started to apply the principles of mainstreaming of a gendered perspective. For example:

- The design team consulted Women for Biodiversity, and the International Forest Students' Association (IFSA), both of which have a distinct gender perspective on biodiversity/forest topics they work on. The stakeholders consulted with these two organizations were all female.
- Whilst the project aspires to a fully gender disaggregated baseline data set / analysis, given the RCP's nature, this will be limited but at least this limitation is explicitly recognized and will be further detailed during the implementation phase.
- The most direct gender entry points identified are gender-responsive capacity development, gender responsive governance and gender-responsive knowledge management. In a forest landscape context, gender responsive governance translates in practical terms to who gets access to, control over and benefits from land resources; though it cannot be reduced to purely this aspect
- In the RCP design workshop 15 out of 38 stakeholders who participated were women; and in the regional technical design workshop 25 out of 67 stakeholders who participated were women.
- In addition, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) participated in both events. They have a strong record working on gender in biodiversity and helped launch the CBD training materials on gender in biodiversity in the ASEAN Region.

Mainstreaming gender via a program level partnership approach

It is recommended that the project take a mainstreaming approach to gender issues (further details below); which implies that the most relevant partnerships would not necessarily be those which are single issue advocacy oriented – in this case explicitly gender related – but rather that the issues be introduced via the regular processes, fora, frameworks etc of forest management/regulatory/research/policy-oriented institutions which cover multiple countries.

Having established opportunities to promote gender empowerment via a strategic set of complementary partners (see the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan), compelling messaging would still need to be developed by the RCP and larger program in order to influence targeted decision makers. This will be generated in part from the country projects, but also directly via multiple activities of the RCP; which can and should include the gender dimension of various other objectives being promoted by the program, including through the regional project (see the Gender Action Plan for more details). In short, an evidence-based approach is also required in order to take advantage of the entry points identified.

For example, there is good evidence that the greater participation of women in community-based forestry and forest enterprises has positive impacts on the socio-economic empowerment of women, the well-being of their households and the environment. For example, one analysis of community forestry institutions, Agarwal⁵⁶ reported a 50 percent higher likelihood of improved forest conditions in community forest user groups with all-women executive committees compared with groups with mixed executive committees. Much more evidence along these lines could be cited but for the sake of brevity

⁵⁶ Agarwal, B. 2015. The power of numbers in gender dynamics: illustrations from community forestry groups. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42(1): 1–20

will not be further referenced here. These sorts of insights can be brought by the RCP into support the approach of the country projects where this is the need and interest.

Potential entry points for gender empowerment

A study by the IP-IM prospective partner organization ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity identifies twelve possible entry points for mainstreaming gender in the context of protected area management⁵⁷ See Box 4.

Box 4. Entry points for mainstreaming gender in the context of protected area management and biodiversity management

- (1) Policy Framework
 - (2) Host/Protect Area Management Authority Institutional Structure (National / Sub National Levels)
 - (3) Protected Area Organisational and Management Structure (Site Level)
 - 4) Protected Area Management Planning Team
 - (5) Stakeholder Analysis
 - (6) Planning Processes and Procedures
 - (7) Biodiversity Status and Threats Characterisation
 - (8) Sociocultural and Context Analysis
 - (9) Proposed Interventions/ Management Prescriptions
 - (10) Communication Strategy
 - (11). Capacity Building Activities
 - (12) Monitoring and Evaluation
- Source: ASEAN Draft Guide on Gender Mainstreaming in Protected Area Management

Whilst all of these possibly entry points are relevant to the RCP, the actual entry points will depend on the scale as well as opportunities which may arise. For example, the timing of when policy frameworks at regional level are being developed or revised, the timing of planning processes and procedures in regional institutions etc. Similarly, entry point # 3, PA organizational and management structure at site level would be the remit for the country level projects in the program but the RCP in principle (and dependent on demand) could backstop activities at national level if this is relevant to multiple countries.

Otherwise, the RCP could help facilitate the identification of entry points across the three country projects by way of, for example, a workshop early in the implementation period. Similarly, point #10, Communication Strategy, is an area where the RCP might support effective communication of the benefits of mainstreaming a gender-aware approach to PA management. In terms of point #12, Monitoring and Evaluation, the RCP will have its own baseline and with-project gender related indicators, beyond PA management, but could support with guidelines on good principles and practice if there is demand for this from the country projects. Ditto with good practice on Stakeholder Analysis (point #5), for which corporate FAO and IUCN and UNDP (as well as the GEF) all have excellent and practical resource materials, some of which is specifically relevant to forest interventions.

In short, a 'basket of options' approach is recommended considering the benefit of responding to perceived demand, which is still to be determined at both regional and country levels. Hence the RCP will be providing expertise, funding and technical resources and these are ringfenced in the project budget and will be deployed based on cost sharing as evidence in part of genuine interest from counterparts.

Gender mainstreaming specifically in Protected Areas planning or management

⁵⁷ Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP)EuropeAid/138579/DH/SER/PH DRAFT Guide on Gender Mainstreaming in Protected Area Management

Gender mainstreaming entails conducting an in-depth characterisation not only of the biophysical aspects of the PA area but also the socio-cultural dimensions and how gender and the sociocultural context influence roles and responsibilities, access, control, utilisation and management of biological resources. This provides valuable insights on women and men's contribution to biodiversity conservation and protection as well as facilitates in identifying existing and emerging gender gaps, threats, inequalities and their consequences to sustainable PA management. Mainstreaming gender in PA planning, thus, sets the foundation for producing a gender responsive plan. If implemented properly, this could lead to social transformations as processes seek to engage both women and men, communities, and decision-making authorities in addressing gender biases in PA planning and management.

Section 5. Gender Action Plan

Mainstreaming gender perspectives and practice at the implementation stage of the RCP

The translation of the gender mainstreaming principles articulated above from the design to the implementation phases of the RCP project (and, indirectly, into the larger program) is summarized in the Gender Action Plan in tabular form, presented below.

Section 5. Gender Action Plan

Mainstreaming gender perspectives and practice at the implementation stage of the RCP

The translation of the gender mainstreaming principles articulated above from the design to the implementation phases of the RCP project (and, indirectly, into the larger program) is summarized in the Gender Action Plan in tabular form, presented below.

NOTE: The Gender Action Plan may be further detailed as more information on the activities of the regional (and national) projects are available and may be revised again at the start-up of the project implementation phase after validation of the initial assumptions

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
Component 1. Enabling environment for inclusive conservation and sustainable management of primary forest landscapes				
Outcome 1 Enabling regional policy and governance environment catalyzes primary forest conservation				
Relevant findings from the gender analysis (risks & opportunities)				
For policy and planning to have the potential to empower women and avoid inadvertently undermining them, it needs to be informed by gender-explicit evidence (both quantitative and qualitative). Conversely, evidence of women benefiting from certain approaches and practices, and/or womens' contributions to biodiversity and forest health, can be used to strengthen their position if taken up by decision makers at higher levels				
<p>Output 1.1: Long-term vision, strategy and action plan for Indo-Malayan primary forests agreed at multiple levels</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender specific issues are clearly embedded in the process to develop the Vision, Strategy & Action Plan ✓ Gender-relevant findings are reflected in specific guidance resulting from these ✓ Consultations with key stakeholders representing gender perspective are conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-specific dimensions are included in policies and strategies and in particular in the Action Plans (Yes/No)* • Change in women's participation in decision making bodies at regional level targeted by the project (% change; anonymous self-assessment by female participants on degree of meaningful voice in these processes) 	<p>Baseline establish at year 1. Measure mid and end of project</p>	<p>IUCN & FAO as GEF Agencies</p> <p>Project Executing Partners</p> <p>Safeguards / gender specialist(s) in the RCU</p> <p>Working with Gender focal points of country projects</p>	<p>As part of regular cost of activity, including inputs from the Gender/Safeguard s/IP Specialist in the RCU</p> <p>Cost estimates for Gender/Safeguard s/IP Specialist (with ToR) can be found in the ESMF and budget of the regional project*</p> <p>*For the purpose of gender budgeting a suitable portion of the cost of the</p>
<p>Output 1.2: Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-specific dimensions are included in the service offer (Yes/No; 			
<p>*Methodological note1: If expert opinion is available could be a pragmatic solution for internal accountability purposes. Gender specialist to do and/or to send out to TAG Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming for semi-independent assessment? Advantage of involving the TAG, a Community of Practice or similar: opportunities for suggested improvements as opposed to simply assessing whether something was achieved</p> <p>* Methodological note2: Assessment should be based on both the presence and the quality of mainstreaming having been undertaken.</p>				

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
<p>related to the enabling environment on primary forests delivered.</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender specific issues are included from the beginning – starting with the ToRs which define them - in the KM, tech support and capacity building plans for services to be provided ✓ (Even with a demand-driven approach) Gender-explicit perspective is embedded in the service offers which result from this exercise 	<p>target number to be established at project start up*)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender empowerment related services are selected by beneficiaries (Yes/No; target number to be established at project start up*) • At least 50% of the beneficiaries of 			<p>Specialist could be mapped to gender and the rest to safeguards (including on Indigenous People)</p> <p>It is recommended that in addition to the personnel cost that a travel budget be allocated for gender specific event participation</p>
<p>*At the time of project design, it is not yet known exactly which or how many services will be offered and which proportion of those will be directly related to issues important to women and girls</p>				
<p>Component 2. Protected Areas</p>				
<p>Outcome 2 Improved transboundary Protected Area collaboration, knowledge management, technical support, and capacity building support the effective and inclusive conservation and management of Protected Area harbouring primary forests.</p>				
<p>Relevant findings from the gender analysis (risks & opportunities)</p> <p>Protected Area creation and/or management can lead to women losing access / use rights if it is gender-blind</p>				
<p>Output 2.1: Collaboration for management of transboundary landscapes containing protected areas facilitated and supported</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Countries encouraged to include explicit and measurable gender empowerment related objectives relevant across boundary where a shared resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of countries which include explicit and measurable gender empowerment related objectives in their transboundary work under Output 2.1 	<p>Over the life of the project</p>	<p>Project Executing Partners</p> <p>Executing Agencies</p>	<p>As part of regular cost of activity, including inputs from the Gender/Safeguards Specialist in the RCU</p>
<p>Output 2.2: Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to Protected Areas delivered</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender explicit criteria and metrics embedded in analysis and guidance resources for the management of PAs ('Proportion which reflect an acceptable level of gender mainstreaming = at least 		<p>Safeguards and gender specialist in the PMU</p> <p>Working</p>	<p>Cost estimates for the Gender/Safeguards Specialist (and ToR) can be found in the ESMF and</p>

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gendered perspectives, concerns and considerations reflected in the services related to PA management provided from the RCP on PAs ✓ Specific and relevant pro gender criteria and metrics included in any related gap analysis, tools and standards employed as part of management guidance 	<p>85%’*)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting activities from the RCP to PA management plans are gender-explicit (Proportion which reflect acceptable level of gender mainstreaming = at least 85’*) 		<p>with Gender focal points of country projects</p> <p>National counterpart institutions involved in transboundary work</p>	<p>budget of the regional project</p>
<p>*Methodological note: Would require expert opinion to assess: see note under Output 1.1; Also note that these services will be delivered over multiple years; hence the quality/effectiveness of this mainstreaming exercise could also be the object of more formal review if included in the ToRs of annual reports, Mid Term Evaluation etc</p>				
<p>Component 3 Primary forests outside PAs, including buffer zones</p>				
<p>Outcome 3. Better information and technical support contribute to improved management of primary forests outside PAs and/or buffer landscapes for enhanced gender-responsive INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES resilience.</p>				
<p>Relevant findings from the gender analysis (risks & opportunities)</p> <p>There are often culturally specific attributes which affect women, which vary by community and can also be specific to particular groups of indigenous peoples; every effort needs to be made to understand the practical implications of this as they relate to project interventions in a specific context(s) and to work accordingly. This equally applies to projects addressing primary forest management outside of protected areas. The issues in this case are normally related to tenure, i.e. ownership &/or access/use rights for women, and decision making over forest resources; which when projects are gender-blind can either result in not benefiting and/or making women worse off. On the other hand, there are principles of good practice which a project needs to be aware of, incorporate in its own approach/activities and promote.</p>				
<p>Output 3.1: National OECM identification and recognition processes in primary forest landscapes supported</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Explicit gender relevant considerations included in OECM identification and recognition standards ✓ Gender aware guidance and capacity developed on OECM recognition processes ✓ Gender focal area within the OECM CoP with a focus on evidence, documentation and good practice, dissemination; in coordination with the OECM stock taking exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender specific considerations included in <i>all</i> OECM standards (Y/N*) • Gender explicit aspects of OECM included in both the CoP and Stocktake (Y/N*) 	<p>Years 1-3</p>	<p>Project Executing Partners</p> <p>Executing Agencies</p> <p>Safeguards and gender specialist in the PMU</p>	
<p>Output 3.2: Stakeholder partnerships and collaborative agendas for minimizing regional primary forest loss footprints of agriculture, forest, and mineral commodities established</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender impacts explicitly included in the forest degradation footprint analysis (Y/N*) • Pro-gender recommendations included in the presentation of 		<p>Working with Gender focal points of country</p>	

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrate the specific impact on women in the analysis of the footprint of agriculture/forestry/mineral commodities in forest landscapes ✓ Identify ways in which women can benefit from different modes of restoration and under different conditions; to inform best practice exchange 	<p>options for managing deforestation drivers (Recommendations are meaningful and practical for womens' empowerment – independent expert opinion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder partnership includes <i>at least three</i> institutions with acknowledged expertise on gender in forest landscapes in the Biome; regional level institutions & possibly national level institutions from the three project countries 		projects	
<p>Output 3.3 : Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services related to primary forests outside PAs as well as in buffer zones delivered</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gendered perspectives, concerns and considerations reflected in the services related to management provided from the RCP on primary forest areas outside of PAs ✓ Specific and relevant pro gender criteria and metrics included in any related gap analysis, tools and standards employed as part of management guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender explicit criteria and metrics embedded in analysis and guidance resources for the management outside of PAs generated from the work of the RCP (tools, standards, plans etc) (Proportion which reflect acceptable level of gender mainstreaming'*) • Supporting activities from the RCP to country level on forests outside of PA: management plans are gender explicit (Yes/No + possibly 'proportion which reflect acceptable level of gender mainstreaming'*) 			
<p>*Methodological note: Would require expert opinion to assess: see note under Outcome 1; Also note that these services will be delivered over multiple years; see note under Outcome 2. More specific criteria to determine whether 'an acceptable level of gender mainstreaming' or equivalent standard can be elaborated at project start up once more information is available about the planned activities and context</p>				
<p>Component 4. Innovative finance, investment and scale-up</p>				
<p>Outcome 4 Sustainable financing catalysed for improved primary forest conservation and management.</p>				
<p>Relevant findings from the gender analysis (risks & opportunities) Private sector, especially from outside the area, are often seen locally as being favoured by government and creates fear of loss. On the other hand, payment for environmental services (whether in cash or tenure or other benefits) can be win-win for biodiversity, local livelihoods and women. The key is the How. Hence it is critical to ensure that external financing opportunities are well informed of local realities, manage perceptions of who/what they represent and provide concrete benefits in the short term.</p>				

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
<p>Output 4.1: Stock-taking on innovative options for sustainable financing of primary forests conducted</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender related risks and opportunities integrated into studies on sustainable forest financing related to the stock-taking exercise ✓ Proven win-win models between women’s economic empowerment and forest conservation identified and promoted. ✓ Specific opportunities for women in sustainable forest investments within the IM-IP identified and highlighted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied reviews &/or studies on sustainable financing clearly include gender relevant aspects in their ToRs (as assessed by RCU Gender Specialist &/or independent party) • Economic models which benefit women within sustainable forestry financing initiatives identified, documented, quality controlled via peer review and disseminated 	tbd	<p>Project Executing partners</p> <p>Executing Agencies</p> <p>Safeguards and gender specialist in the PMU</p>	
<p>Output 4.2: Indo-Malayan Primary Forest Investment Forum supported</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender integrated explicitly in the sustainable forest enterprise development models and opportunities on the agenda, discussion and reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Forum ToR includes explicit objectives and activities to promote women’s economic opportunities in the forest sector and forest landscapes (Y/N) • Individuals and institutions relevant to economic empowerment of women in sustainable financing in forest conservation invited and participate (virtually &/or in person: at least 5 institutions and/or 10 individuals) 		<p>Working with Gender focal points of country projects</p>	

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
<p>Output 4.3: Demand-driven gender-responsive knowledge management, technical support and capacity-development services delivered</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <p>✓ Identify relevant examples and models of where women have benefited from specific types of timber production and trade operations. Examine also the inter-sectionality between gender and indigeneity in this context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender explicit metrics embedded in analysis and guidance resources for sustainable forest financing generated from the work of the RCP (tools, standards, plans etc) (Proportion which reflect acceptable level of gender mainstreaming' =85%*) Supporting activities from the RCP on sustainable forest financing: management plans are gender-explicit and relevant (Proportion which reflect acceptable level of gender mainstreaming'*) <p><i>*same notes as above</i></p>			
Component 5. Programmatic coordination, knowledge management and capacity development				
Outcome 5 Primary forest coordination, access to knowledge, capacities, and policy support strengthened across scales				
<p>Relevant findings from the gender analysis (risks & opportunities) Effective mainstreaming of gender in the real world requires a critical mass of a wide range of partners across different functions and scales, in this case those which collectively influence forest management (and, in particular, forest landscape governance). These partners need to be strengthened with relevant and actionable knowledge, policy support and other related capacities which the RCP is in the position to provide</p>				
<p>Output 5.1 Comprehensive multidisciplinary diagnostic assessment on the Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome delivered</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <p>✓ Diagnostic assessment clearly reflects gender specific considerations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic assessment clearly reflects gender specific considerations (Yes/No: As assessed by RCU Gender Specialist or independent expert) 	Over the life of the project	As above	
<p>Output 5.2 Effective gender, and INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES responsive multistakeholder linkages for the I-M CFB IP established and strengthened at multiple levels</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender thematic area of work included in the design of stakeholder cooperation exercises and/or mechanism of the RCP and Program (Survey of participants of linkages established shows at least 75% 		As above	

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Establish a gender theme which cuts across the work on stakeholder coordination 	<p>agreement that activities are relevant and gender responsive)</p>			
<p>Output 5.3 Reporting on the extent and distribution of primary forests improved</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify whether gender impacts of changes in primary forest reporting can be highlighted, subject to the nature of established reporting systems; if so, do so 			As above	
<p>Output 5.4 Integrated knowledge and learning hub on Indo-Malayan primary forests operationalized</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure that Knowledge/Learning Hub includes explicit gender considerations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge/Learning Hub includes explicit gender considerations (Yes/No: At least 75% of learning hub respondents survey agree that gender considerations have been incorporated and are relevant) 		As above	
<p>Output 5.5 Technical support on cross-cutting elements, gender-responsive capacity building and South-South exchange delivered</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Technical backstopping on operational gender mainstreaming in forest landscape governance projects provided ✓ Gender mainstreamed into the Project’s and Program’s South-South exchange related activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support and capacity building strategy of the project include specific gender-in-forestry objectives and expertise, tools, exchange program etc ((i)Yes, to an adequate level – expert opinion; (ii) backstopping & south-south exchange beneficiaries report at least 75% satisfaction with the gender related content and support received – survey results) 		As above	<p>Budget needed if this involves travel to countries and/or to regional events not in Bangkok. This could be combined with a travel budget allocated under the ESMF for the Safeguards Specialist if these are roles are combined in one position (Output 5.5)</p>

Gender Relevant Outputs and Activities	Tentative Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
<p>Output 5.6 Communication and advocacy strategy on Indo-Malayan primary forests implemented and effectively reaches target audiences</p> <p>Pro gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender specific knowledge on sustainable forestry promoted and communicated effectively as part of larger communications strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender specific messaging included in the Project’s communication strategy and disseminated to target audiences (At least 85% of users have seen and understood gender related messaging originating from the RCP – result of survey of target users) • % of target audience reporting a change of perception of their recognition of the importance of women's participation in forest management (user survey – target at least 70%) 		As above	
<p>Output 5.7 Effective results-based adaptive management supported by participatory monitoring and evaluation system at project and IP levels</p> <p>Planned pro-gender mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender related lessons learned are identified and applied to RCP and Program planning for the subsequent period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that adaptive learning taking place based on emerging feedback on gender mainstreaming at various levels in the Program* (Y/N) 		As above	
<p>*Evidence of adaptive management in particular, but mainstreaming more generally is difficult to define but this could be tightened up when the operational M&E system and project planning processes for the RCP are established at the beginning of the implementation phase</p>				

Annex 1: Gender gaps in the Biome by country (countries in the program geography but without country projects)

Bhutan

Bhutan does not have a child project in this program, however, is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion. The following assessment is based in part on FAO's country assessment for gender and the rural sector.

A brief overview of the status of women, gender relations and quantified gender gaps are presented below. The same data are presented in the same way for all the other countries.

Overall status of gender relations in Bhutan

Over the years, remarkable progress has been made in women's and girls' education and maternal mortality. However, there are key areas where gender gaps persist with women and girls lagging behind in representation in political and public spheres and labour force participation. The National Plan of Action for Gender Equality (2019 to 2023) has identified prejudices and stereotypes as a key area of concern and accordingly identified interventions to address its negative impact on women's empowerment initiatives.

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

Since the tenth Five Year Plan (2008 to 2013), major focus has been on gender mainstreaming in the plans with the development of the National Plan of Action for Gender (NPAG). The twelfth FYP (2018 to 2023) adopted a two-pronged approach to promoting gender equality through a dedicated National Key Result Area (NKRA) 10 'Gender Equality' and mainstreaming gender as a cross-cutting theme into all other NKRA's. Nevertheless, judging from various reports and studies of the country, portrays a mixed picture.

Political rights and women's participation and representation

Women's participation and representation in political and public spheres has been dismally low. Similarly, women are also not well represented in the civil service, especially at the upper decision-making positions. The existence of gender-based sociocultural attitudes, stigmas and political patriarchy, which views men as better leaders than women, hinders women's participation in governance and leadership roles.

Gender and Economic Opportunities

Women (35 percent) are more likely to take on the role of being family agricultural workers where earnings are nil or low. Only 17 percent of male workers take on these roles. The consistent pattern of higher unemployment rate for women and female youth might likely suggest the prevalence of gender discrimination in the labour market.

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

Legally speaking, in Bhutan, men and women enjoy equal legal rights over land (and other properties) as per the Inheritance Act, 1980 and the Land Act of Bhutan, 2007. Traditionally, matrilineal heritage favouring daughters in land inheritance was practiced in most parts of the country with the exception of the southern region where a patriarchal system is followed. Nevertheless, generally land related decisions are taken jointly.

Gender based violence

Bhutanese women's economic dependence on their husbands aggravates their vulnerable situation and the acceptability, including by the victims themselves, of domestic violence. Recognizing the huge significance and negative impacts of gender-based violence (GBV), the government and relevant agencies have made a concerted effort towards addressing violence against women by amending laws and awareness training of the policemen, lawyers, doctors, educators, the media, and government officials.

Cambodia

Cambodia does not have a child project in this program, however, is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion. The following assessment is based in part on FAO's country assessment for gender and the rural sector.

Overall status of gender relations in Cambodia

Gender equality promotion and achievements to advance women's empowerment have been widely recognized in Cambodia through key policies, mechanisms, and initiatives in agricultural and rural sectors. However, gender inequalities remain. For example, women in the rural areas have limited access to and control of productive resources, natural resources, services, and to markets and other opportunities to scale up their businesses.

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

The government is also committed to promoting gender considerations in the forestry and the natural resource management sectors. The National Forest Programme 2010-2029 includes the participation of women in the management of the institutional structures and management of the Forestry Administration to make the forestry sector more efficient and effective. An update of Gender Mainstreaming in the forestry sector by the Forestry Administration is currently prepared (UN Women and CDRI, 2021).

Gender and Economic Opportunities

Unpaid family work involved 25 percent of rural women, more than twice higher than rural men at 11 percent. Moreover, women still earn an average of 19 percent less than men for equivalent work. This is tied to gender disparities in education (a higher share of no primary education, and lower tertiary enrolment), as well as labour market discrimination, gender-segregated occupations, and social norms associated with women's primary domestic role (UN Cambodia, 2022).

Political rights and women's participation and representation

Women's participation in decision-making and leadership remains limited in both the public and private sectors. Although women accounted for 41 percent of civil servants, women's representation in government administration and decision-making is generally at the lowest levels of the hierarchy in all levels of government from the national to the local level.

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

A report by FAO (2022) indicated that even though progress has been made for gender equity in land tenure, women still face several challenges. Women in female-headed households and rural women in male-headed households face barriers in access to land titles including customary practices that undermine the principles of joint land ownership. In addition, many rural women are facing the risk of losing their land in case of a divorce, widowhood or their husband's migration since many poor families in rural Cambodia lack vital registered records for identification of property ownership such as marriage certificates, separation certificates, spouse disappearance confirmation, etc.

Gender based violence

More than one in three (36 percent) of ever-partnered men reported perpetrating physical and/or sexual violence against a female partner during their lifetime (Fulu, 2013), and this was true across different ages, regions, and income levels. Women and men still believe that husbands can beat their wife or female partners for a specific reason, mostly related to unperforming well in their roles at home.

Indonesia

Indonesia does not have a child project in this program, however, is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion and a particularly important forest ecosystem at a regional scale and beyond. The following assessment is based in part on FAO's country assessment for gender and the rural sector⁵⁸.

Overall status of gender relations

In Indonesian society, women have traditionally been responsible for domestic activities and not designated as household heads able to represent their families in community dialogues. Women are less likely to be engaged in the public sphere and/or in decision-making processes. As the domestic realm is not considered a priority, the interests of women are often not discussed or addressed directly.

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

In 2000, the Presidential Instruction No. 9/2000 on Gender Mainstreaming in National Development Plan was issued. Attached to the Instruction are the Guidelines for Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming, to which each ministry and agency must adhere. Furthermore, to help women raise their voices in public life and the political arena, certain policy directions and strategies on gender mainstreaming are elaborated in the National Medium-Term Development Plans (RPJMN).

Political rights and women's participation and representation

As an affirmative policy, the Government of Indonesia issued Law No.10/2008 on General Election of the Members of National Parliament, Senate (Regional Representative Council) and Regional Parliament to promote women's participation in Parliament and political parties and women's representation in decision-making institutions. Subsequently, Law No. 8/2012 stipulated that at least one in every three candidates of a political party must be a woman.

Gender and Economic Opportunities

The increasing pace of urbanization in Indonesia has widened the gap between rural and urban areas. As more development interventions are concentrated in urban areas and on more industrial sectors such as manufacturing, more rural people tend to migrate to industrial and urban areas seasonally or permanently. This is exacerbated by limited job opportunities in villages. Trends in migration of rural girls and young women are different. Given women's limited access to land ownership, there are other factors that determine whether they take on farming as a job or not. In general, girls and young women help their parents on the farm until they get married and then work on the farm of their husband (or male relatives, if required) as well as taking care of their household after marriage. In line with prevalent gender norms, young women may accompany their migrant husbands to urban areas.

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

The social forestry programme is a cornerstone of the Government of Indonesia's policy on agrarian reform, which many consider essential to improving environmental and social outcomes. Even though they do both productive and reproductive work, they lack access to and control over vital resources, such as land, technology and markets. Under both cultural norms and customary and formal laws in Indonesia, both men and women have rights to land ownership and land inheritance, although they do not have equal rights.

Gender based violence

National Policy of Elimination of Violence against Women that aims to enhance women's community participation by offering safety and protection measures in public places. It has also committed to

⁵⁸ FAO. 2019. Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Indonesia. Jakarta.

addressing gender-based violence through the implementation of the government's zero-tolerance policy for gender-based violence through several domestic laws.

Malaysia

Malaysia does not have a child project in this program, however, is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion. The following assessment is based in part on the World Bank's Malaysia Gender Note⁵⁹.

Overall status of gender relations

Women in Malaysia have significantly improved their situation, in parallel to the general rapid economic development of the country over the last 40 years. However cultural norms still present several impediments to gender equity, including conservative religious belief systems.

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

Although Malaysia ratified the CEDAW in 1995, its progress towards the implementation has been slow. Malaysia has still not ratified the optional protocol to CEDAW, which allows for a communications (complaints) procedure as well as an inquiry procedure related to violations of rights protected under the CEDAW. Various women's rights NGOs met with UN officials during the review of the 2016 report to raise issues related to discrimination under Islamic law, the lack of conveyance of citizenship to foreign husbands of Malaysian women, and inadequate laws on marital and intimate partner assault (UNHCR 2018).

Gender and Economic Opportunities

In education, Malaysia has achieved gender parity and in the last two decades, reversed gender gaps in enrolment at all educational levels. The reverse gender parity index widens at the upper secondary and tertiary levels. In health, Malaysia has made significant strides in improving health outcomes for women in its first 40 years since independence and does well in terms of broad indicators of female health: maternal mortality, female life expectancy, and adolescent health. Improvement remains for reproductive rights and fertility. The combination of educational and health achievements for women are indicative, in principle, of the future economic trajectory of women in the country.

Political rights and women's participation and representation

In the judiciary, Malaysia has achieved outstanding progress with the appointments of eight female judges and six male judges. However, Malaysian women are still severely under-represented in Parliament and in the Cabinet with only 4% of Members of Parliament being female. Since Malaya having achieved independence in 1957 to the present, there have been 21 Cabinets, and Malaysia has had only a total of 18 female Ministers out of 477 Ministers (4%) and 32 female deputy Ministers (6.6%).

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

Key issues include deforestation, logging, and land use, particularly in rural or indigenous communities, especially in East Malaysia. Top-down environmental planning by the state governments, in which land use is a state prerogative, has led to social and economic consequences, and the creation of new patterns of wealth and poverty. In Peninsular Malaysia, under National Land Code, 1965, all lands not owned by title belong to the states and there are no clear provisions recognizing customary land. The National Forestry Act, 1984, further grants the state government authority over forest products on reserved areas.

⁵⁹ World Bank. 2021. Malaysia Country Gender Note 2021. © World Bank, Kuala Lumpur

Gender based violence

While there is a Domestic Violence Act (Act 521, 1994), which was amended in 2012, marital rape is not criminalized in Malaysia. Victims of domestic abuse face barriers in going to the authorities, including social stigma, possible retaliation, and institutional apathy. In 2017, there were an estimated 2.96 to 3.26 million migrant workers in Malaysia, with 1.23 to 1.46 million in irregular circumstances. The rights of migrant workers, especially domestic workers who are predominantly female, remain an issue. Migrant domestic workers are specifically termed as ‘domestic servants’ in the Employment Act 1955, and so excluded from the benefits mandated to employees under the Act. A draft bill on sexual harassment has been in the making for over 20 years, led by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MoWFCD).

Myanmar

Myanmar does not have a child project in this program, however, is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion. The following assessment is based in part on FAO’s country assessment for gender and the rural sector⁶⁰.

At the time of writing there was insufficient up-to-date and reliable information on the gender inequalities in Myanmar to produce a relevant country profile. This will be updated as information may become available.

Philippines

The Philippines does not have a child project in this program, however, is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion. The following assessment is based in part on FAO’s country assessment for gender and the rural sector⁶¹.

Overall status of gender relations

Customary practices and traditional patriarchal relations in families and communities discriminate against women, causing gender inequalities in areas such as land rights, agricultural labour markets, access to agricultural extension services, climate change and disaster management. These disparities are mainly brought about by societal and cultural norms, which are still very much prevalent in the country.

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

Numerous enabling policies, guidelines and mechanisms to close the country’s gender gap have been enacted and institutionalized, including the Magna Carta of Women, the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development 1995–2025, Women in Development and the Nation Building Act, to name a few. The Philippines’ participation in CEDAW has been instrumental in the advancement and empowerment of Filipino women, including through the enactment of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), a comprehensive women’s human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women, especially those in marginalized sectors (PCP, 2009).

Gender and Economic Opportunities

The country has made considerable progress in advancing the status of women. Access to schooling for girls is higher than for boys, and Filipino women, particularly those with higher education, are marrying at a later age and are finding employment. However, women’s representation is still low, particularly in decision-making positions. Despite having strong policies, institutional mechanisms and programmes in place, gender inequalities and discrimination against Filipino women at the household and community

⁶⁰ FAO. 2022. National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – The Philippines. Country gender assessment series. Second revision. Manila, FAO

⁶¹ FAO. 2022. National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods – The Philippines. Country gender assessment series. Second revision. Manila, FAO

levels still persist in rural areas. Their roles in farming and fishing are seen as household chores and, therefore, remain unpaid.

Political rights and women's participation and representation

Men dominate posts for local government chief executives and middle- and senior-level ranking career officers. Inaccessible courts, complex processes and language barriers are some of the obstacles faced by women seeking agrarian justice. While agrarian reform policies provide that women's desks and community-based dispute resolution mechanisms be created where rural women can register their complaints and grievances, very few women victims pursue legal action as most are economically dependent on their husbands who are often the perpetrator of such abuse (Corral, 2015).

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

Agrarian reform laws and guidelines have increasingly recognized and protected the rights of rural women to land and other productive resources. However, weak implementation of existing land laws and guidelines, customary and discriminatory practices, lack of information and ineffective gender mainstreaming strategies have been impediments to promoting and achieving gender equality in agriculture and the rural sector, particularly regarding land rights (PAKISAMA, 2015). Rural women's limited registration, or their absence, in the farmers' databases, which traditionally consist of male farmers who are 'heads of the family', is a barrier to gender equality in agriculture. The DA has made an effort to review and update the Registry System on Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) to include women in the database and pushed for the inclusion of 'actual tillers' in the registry, which are often women.

Gender based violence

At the intra-household level, unequal power relations between men and women persist, leading to violence against women and a lack of control. Women face gender-based risks in the workplace such as a gender wage gap, persistent occupational gender segregation and sexual harassment. While labour migration is mainly caused by financial factors, migration also represents a means for women to escape gender-based violence at home (IOM, 2013).

Vietnam

Vietnam does not have a child project in this program, however, is part of the Indo-Malay bioregion. The following assessment is based in part on FAO's country assessment for gender and the rural sector⁶².

Overall status of gender relations

Gender inequalities in agriculture, food and nutrition security are visible in labour and in access to resources (land, finance, technology, training and markets) and agricultural extension services.

Gender in the domain of Policy, Law and Administration

Over the past few decades, Viet Nam has made significant progress in promoting gender equality in all sectors by endorsement or revision of legal frameworks and policies on gender equality and the advancement of women, most notably the Gender Equality Law and the National Strategy for Gender Equality. For example, several sectorial and interinstitutional mechanisms on gender equality and women's empowerment exist. These have made notable contributions toward the development of legislation on gender equality and toward related dissemination and awareness raising, from the central level down to the community and have served as the primary advocacy tools on gender equality within

⁶² FAO. 2019. Country gender assessment of agriculture and the rural sector in Viet Nam. Hanoi.

the state system, including the examination of all proposed and drafted laws to ensure that gender aspects are incorporated into these normative documents.

Gender and Economic Opportunities

Labour force participation rates are relatively high for both men and women in Viet Nam. However, women are highly concentrated in informal employment, which is not covered by the provisions of the Labour Code. Gender gaps in educational access are particularly evident among ethnic minority young people and those from poor households who live in remote and mountainous areas.

Political rights and women's participation and representation

Both the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011–2020) and Party Resolution No 11 (2007) set a target of a minimum 35 percent women representatives in the National Assembly and People's Councils in the term starting in 2016. However, to date the government's targets have not been met. Although there is a high percentage of women civil servants, women's representation in government administration and decision making is low from the central to the local levels, lagging far behind gender equality improvements in education and the economy.

Tenure and decision making over land and natural resources

The 2013 Land Law was promulgated to promote the development of the land market and maintain land use rights, with land area allocated based on family members per household. The revised 2013 Land Law stipulates that both a husband's and wife's names are to be included on a Land Use Rights Certificate (LUC). The challenge lies in the implementation process, as the LUC is not well enforced. Rural women have limited access to land due to kinship-based practices of inheritance, such as in patrilineal succession and patrilocal marriage. Regarding land rights, the most vulnerable women were found to be the ones from patrilineal groups and those living in rural and mountainous areas.

Gender based violence

Despite efforts towards gender equality and the advancement of women, Vietnamese society continues to face significant challenges such as violence against women and girls and a sex ratio imbalance at birth. The imbalanced sex ratio at birth (SRB) is a considerable demographic challenge and policy issue in Viet Nam. Data from the 2010 National Study on Domestic Violence against Women represents the first and only nationally representative study on intimate partner violence in Viet Nam (GSO, 2010). It shows that 58 percent of married women experienced some form of physical, sexual or emotional violence by their intimate partners at some time in their lives. However, 87 percent of them never sought help from a formal service or authority.

Annex 2

Indicative ToR for Safeguards / Gender / Indigenous Peoples Specialist attached to the Regional Coordination Unit of the Regional Cooperation Project

- To be modified as needed by the recruiting parties -

The ToR below is subject to modification for the purpose of recruitment and should be considered to contain the minimum critical elements. This is based on the standard FAO template for safeguards consultants. This position is not full time as a project staff but rather a type of long-term draw-down consultancy but with staff-like characteristics, attached to the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) of the Regional Cooperation Project. The budget for the RCP allows for a total of 29 months of work over the

full duration of the project, i.e. 72 months. This will have to be allocated judiciously over both time and in terms of the three focal areas

Background to the Project

The Integrated Program (IP) is designed to address drivers of deforestation and degradation in a systemic manner, targeting the enabling environment; primary forests and their buffer landscapes in- and outside Protected Areas in a landscape approach; sustainable financing for primary forests; and enhanced stakeholder engagement.

Overall, it is expected that RCP and the three country child projects (CCPs) will contribute to this and, in the process, generate net positive social and environmental outcomes, given:

- The governments [stated] commitment to strengthen land tenure systems, including legal recognition of customary rights, to improve tenure security of Indigenous Peoples and/or Local Communities (IPLCs) and women and to enable genuine co-management of PAs with governance systems that ensure participation of IPLCs and vulnerable groups
- The nature of the design of the program, which is based on a sound assessment of the key drivers and a set of realistic areas of interventions and
- The operational arrangements, including the involvement of credible international GEF accredited agencies, sufficient levels of resources and an approach of raising awareness and building capacity in counterparts for sustainability.

Nevertheless, as with any program or project, there are safeguards risks which need to be identified and addressed. The guiding documentation for this assignment will be the Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF) and Gender Analysis & Action Plan (GAAP), together with the project document of the RCP; and at a secondary level (primarily for information) the project documents and safeguards instruments and GAAPs or equivalent and IPPs (Indigenous Peoples Plans) or equivalent of the country project comprising this Program. The safeguards system applicable to the RCP is FAO's Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM); documentation related to the FESM represents key guidance for this assignment.

Key topics which have been identified across the Program which represent the operational context for this assignment and which both represent safeguards &/or gender &/or IP related risks but also opportunities for integrating a risk-aware approach into the implementation of the actions of the constituent projects include gender; indigenous peoples/ethnic minorities; forest governance / land tenure (especially the issue of customary vs de jure tenure and of State vs community claims on access and use rights); the specificities of working in and around protected areas; and/or recognizing or establishing or strengthening other forms of community level institutions.

General Objectives of the Assignment, Principal Tasks, Modality of work

The main objective of this assignment is to play a critical catalytic and facilitative role in operationalizing the planned safeguards risk management across the Program by way of the activities of the RCP, working in partnership with the IUCN/FAO led senior management of the project (including technical resource persons from the Regional office or as otherwise assigned as a counterpart), operational staff of the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) safeguards focal persons and experts resident in the staff complement or working on a shorter term basis for the country projects and relevant external partners. The consultant shall provide clear, comprehensive and practical guidance as an 'adjunct' member of the RCU to the FAO and IUCN on integrating an

environmental/social due diligence process into the project implementation in the context described here.

The consultant will identify relevant options, approaches, tools, data etc necessary to fulfill this assignment, starting with a review of those already highlighted in the regional and country safeguards related document. A capacity building plan will be developed, target priority beneficiaries of this plan identified, a proposal made to the PCU in terms of resources and timelines and consultations on the same will be undertaken with counterparts in the project implementation teams of the country level projects.

As early as possible in the process, the consultant will review the ESMF and GAAP of the RCP in order to validate its assumptions and recommendations in light of the then current realities at project and Program start up, making recommendations (with justification) for any changes, and documenting the same in the form of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), as well as to revise – as necessary – the GAAP in order to help ensure that it is more operationalizable. In particular, the relevance of the preliminary gender related metrics in the RCP Results Framework will be reviewed both in terms of reporting requirements of the GEF, IUCN and FAO, as well as in terms of the practical considerations related to data availability etc.

The consultant is encouraged to use [FAO's templates](#), including for the ESMP, and FAO guidance materials, including the FESM safeguards specific Guidance Notes.

Specific Tasks

Tasks include but are not limited to:

- A workplan with priority actions and required resources estimated covering the months allowed for under this consultancy, spread across the life of the project
- Consultative validation of the ESMF and GAAP and revision of the ESMF in the form of an action oriented ESMP (a copy of which will be submitted by FAO to its HQ safeguards unit for information) and updating, as necessary, of the GAAP.
- Preparation and delivery of a safeguards-theme day at a suitable RCP workshop, with a special focus on women and IPs/ethnic minorities
- An agreed capacity building focussed plan for relevant RCP and country project persons and partner institutions
- A working list of tools, guidance, data, resources, contacts and potential institutional counterparts at regional level in particular, and other information useful for safeguards, gender and IP protection and empowerment for the Program
- A brief but strategic institutional partnership building plan at regional level on safeguards, gender and IPs as relevant to the work and operational context of the Program, as well in terms of identifying policy informing technical working groups within regional institutions of reference which could serve as pathways for messaging based on lessons learned emerging from the work at country level within the Program
- Establishment and maintenance of a GRM and Grievance Log (see ESMF/annexes)
- Establishment and animation of a Safeguards Community of Practice incorporating key individuals and institutions across the Program and within the Region and including relevant persons from other CFB Impact Programs, FAO, IUCN and UNDP regional and headquarters resource persons etc
- All tasks required to ensure delivery of the major safeguards and gender related activities of the RCP, with special reference to the ESMF and GAAP

- Ensuring the application of protocols of FAO within the RCP (together with project management) regarding FAO policy on SEAH and GBV and advise on a monitoring protocol, in consultation with FAO experts
- Drafting of a working and pragmatic regional-scale Indigenous Peoples / Ethnic Minorities Guiding Plan for the RCP (as opposed to a formal safeguards instrument such as an IPP), with a focus on ensuring representation and recognition in a context where they may not be formally identified in some or all of the country projects; working closely with counterparts in country projects. To review Stakeholder Engagement Plans of all projects as part of this task.
- Identify the most relevant tools and capacity building opportunities on the topic of land governance in forest ecosystem, including the application of FAO's related Voluntary Guidelines, and ASEANs guidelines on customary tenure; in particular in terms of the implications for working effectively with women and IPs/ethnic minorities.

Qualifications

- An advanced university degree in agriculture, natural resource management, environmental science, rural development, social empowerment or similar;
- At least 7 years of progressively responsible experience in the formulation, review and application of environmental and social management frameworks, impact assessments, management plans and reporting framework; in particular with a focus on issues of gender and/or indigenous peoples.
- Fluency in English is mandatory.
- Stakeholder engagement, grievance handling and disclosure in FAO and/or in other development organizations is considered an asset
- Experience in rural development in one of more of the project countries or in the Region is considered an advantage
- Experience with the governance of forested landscapes, protected areas (formally or locally recognized), biodiversity conservation, land tenure and especially customary tenure all considered to be assets
- Familiarity with FAO policies preferred; in particular safeguards and gender policies
- Familiarity with the environmental and social safeguard requirements and/or the gender and/or Indigenous Peoples policies of the project's partners, is considered an asset, especially IUCN, UNDP, the GEF
- Experience working with governments on related issues in South East Asia and Papua New Guinea is preferred

ANNEX L: TERMS OF REFERENCE

PMU Staff Positions

Terms of Reference

Project:	Integrated Program, for the Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Regional Coordination and Technical Support project (IP I-M CFB RCP)
Post title:	Chief Technical Advisor (international)
Duration:	Full-time throughout the Project Period of six years
Duty station:	PMU Office, Bangkok

Background

The Project will engage a full-time international Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), who will lead the implementation of the project and the work of the PMU, under the guidance of the PSC. The CTA will provide lead technical advice to the implementation of the Project and will ensure that project implementation meets IUCN, FAO and GEF standards. The CTA will be fielded full-time in Bangkok throughout the project duration.

Expected outcomes and deliverables

- Technical implementation:
 - Provide technical advice to the PSC to ensure technical soundness of all project activities and outputs, assuming quality control of interventions, maximum technical cross fertilization with other initiatives as well as technical consistency between project work implemented by different partners;
 - Overall technical co-ordination of the inputs of individual consultants and partners;
 - Technical quality control of the work of all consultants and sub-contractors, to ensure timely and quality delivery of expected outputs; ensuring effective synergy among the various sub-contracted activities, and integration of project outputs;
 - Bring international technical experiences to project planning and implementation to ensure that full use is made of lessons learned, and that best practices are used to achieve the project objective;
- Team supervision and management:
 - Supervise and coordinate the production of project outputs, as per the project document in a timely and high-quality fashion;
 - Coordinate all project inputs and ensure that they adhere to IUCN, FAO and GEF procedures;
 - Supervise and coordinate the work of all project staff, consultants and sub-contractors ensuring timing and quality of outputs;

- Coordinate the recruitment and selection of project personnel, consultants, and sub-contracts, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications and overseeing all contractors' work;
 - Lead day-to-day operations of the PMU, including staff management, contracting, etc.;
 - Apply adaptive management for progressing towards the Project's strategic targets;
- Work planning, budgeting, and financial management:
 - Prepare, revise, and submit project work and financial plans, as required by Project Steering Committee and IUCN/FAO;
 - Manage the Project and budget according to the Project Document and Annual Work Plans, applying results-based management;
 - Lead the financial management of the Project including procurement, disbursement, with the support of the Finance and Administration Specialist;
 - Manage requests for the provision of financial resources by IUCN and FAO, through advance of funds, direct payments, or reimbursement;
 - Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports submitted on a quarterly basis.
- Safeguard issues:
 - Coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of any required management or action plans in response to Safeguards issues, working closely with the Safeguards and Gender Specialist consultant
 - Uphold social and environmental safeguards, including the implementation of relevant procedures (supported by the Safeguards and Gender Specialist Consultant);
 - Support gender mainstreaming into project implementation, including the implementation of the Gender Analysis and Action Plan
 - Encourage staff, partners, and consultants such that strategic, intentional, and demonstrable efforts are made to actively include women and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the project
 - Lead technical advice to the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Project Communication Strategy and Action Plan and social and environmental safeguards;
 - Advise on and ensure gender-disaggregated data collection to track progress on gender aspects,
 - Identify gender-specific information and capacity needs and mainstream these into the Project's capacity development and communications strategies.

- **Communication:**
 - Review the project Communication Strategy and support the development of the Communication Plan and update annually;
 - Help design the project information website and supervise its maintenance;

- **Knowledge Management and Capacity Development:**
 - Supervise the KM and Capacity Development Specialist to ensure case studies, knowledge and lessons learned on key issues are shared; key project reports are published and disseminated; and successful experiences from the project are documented.
 - Provide strategic guidance to the Project's capacity development efforts;
 - Monitor the implementation of the Capacity Development Plan.

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships:**
 - Develop and foster the strategic partnerships required for effective project implementation, maintain an overview of their effectiveness, and adapt their management as necessary;
 - Lead liaison with project partners and other groups to ensure effective coordination of project activities, and coordination with complementary projects and programs;
 - Ensure partnerships are facilitated and supported to high standards by relevant consultants and services contract providers, through provision of training, guidelines, and evaluation;

- **Project Reporting:**
 - Lead, oversee and ensure timely project reporting, including Inception Report, Annual GEF Project Implementation Reports, Half-Annual Progress Reports, Quarterly Financial Reports, Annual Non-Expendable Material Purchase Report, Final Project Report, ensure preparation and consistency of Annual Co-financing Reports by Co-financers, technical reports and any other reports required by IUCN, FAO and GEF;
 - Disseminate project reports and respond to queries from concerned stakeholders;
 - Report progress of project to the Project Steering Committee and ensure the fulfilment of directives.

- **Monitoring Evaluation and learning:**
 - Work with the MEL Specialist to review and update the M&E plan including results framework baselines GEF Core Indicator sheet, etc. during project inception phase;
 - Work with the MEL Specialist to monitor and report on results achieved against the relevant GEF Core Indicators at Mid-point of project implementation and at project end.
 - Support the establishment of baselines;

- ○ Monitoring of logframe indicators and project impacts;
- Advise the PSC on progress towards annual, mid-term and end-of-project targets
- Support the introduction of midcourse corrections to the Project based on the recommendations of the MTR;
- Support the MEL Specialist in preparing evaluations and in implementing their recommendations, including the project phasing out.

Reporting structure

The Chief Technical Advisor has a primary reporting line to IUCN, and a secondary reporting line to FAO.

Qualifications

- master's degree in environment, natural resources management, or a closely related field;
- A minimum of 10 years of work experience in results-based management implementing GEF-funded projects;
- Past CTA experience considered an asset;
- Demonstrated solid knowledge of sustainable forest and land management, including land use planning, and biodiversity conservation, including protected area management;
- Knowledge of the UN system;
- Mandatory relevant work experience in Southeast Asia and/or the Pacific.

Languages

- Excellent English language skills, including written and oral communication.
- Working knowledge of one or more Southeast Asian languages is an advantage

Terms of Reference

Project: IP I-M CFB RCP
Post title: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist
Duration: Part-time (50%) throughout the Project Period of six years
Date required:
Duty station: PMU Office, Bangkok

Planning, monitoring and reporting:

- Develop and ensure timely implementation of the MEL System and MEL Plan according to IUCN Policies and Standards.

- Present the MEL System and Plan in the Project Inception Workshop
- Track and monitor implementation of project activities, delivery of outputs and progress towards targets for all project indicators.
- Provide regularly updated monitoring information to the CTA, PMU, TAC and PSC to support project management and decision-making.
- Contribute MEL section to Annual Reports and Annual Work Plans.
- Coordinate with country projects to provide input on progress against GEF Core Indicators/IP Program-level Indicators for compilation by the RCP, and regularly update the tracking tools

Evaluation and learning:

- Support the project mid-term review and final evaluations, and other relevant reviews/evaluations, including: advise on evaluation ToRs, advise on and provide evaluation management in alignment with IUCN guidance on evaluations and reviews, ensure the project complies with the IUCN Monitoring and Evaluation Policy requirements for evaluation, facilitating appropriate feedback on draft reports, and facilitating the preparation of management responses; and incorporating lessons learned and good practices from FAO M&E policy and guidelines where relevant.
- Participate in project supervision missions and learning missions.
- Advocate for and facilitate the proactive use of MEL information in decision-making in the project.
- Contribute MEL aspects to design and implementation of the Annual Conference

Reporting structure

- The MEL Specialist reports to the CTA.

Qualifications:

- Master’s degree or higher in environmental studies, biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, or related subject
- At least 5 years of experience in programme and project performance management and or Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL).
- Demonstrated experience in results measurement methods and management in conservation, development or other relevant sectors.
- Excellent organization and communication skills with a proven ability to engage across levels of an organization and across geographies.
- Ability to deliver analytical reports to facilitate management decision-making.
- Proficiency with statistical and data management software and tools, project management software or tools.
- Capacity to work collaboratively within a diverse team and experience of working in Southeast Asia

Languages

- Excellent English language skills, including written and oral communication.

Terms of Reference

Job Description

Project: IP I-M CFB RCP
Post title: Finance and Administrative Specialist

Duration: Part-time (50%) throughout the Project Period of six years

Date required: January 2023

Duty station: Project Management Unit office, Bangkok

Counterpart: n/a

Background

The Administrative and Finance Assistant (AFA) will work under the guidance and supervision of the CTA, and be responsible for administration, finance, and information technology.

Expected outcomes and deliverables

▪ Administration:

- Assist the CTA in day-to-day management and oversight of project activities;
- Assist project M&E by contributing to the preparation of progress plans and reports;
- Ensure all project documentation (progress reports, consulting and other technical reports, minutes of meetings, etc.) are properly maintained in hard and electronic copies in an efficient and readily accessible filing system, for when required by PSC, IUCN, FAO, project consultants and other PMU staff;
- Provide PMU-related administrative and logistical assistance;
- Support IT needs of the project office.
- Support arrangements for project travel
- Provide administrative support for meetings and workshops.
- Assist with procurement of supplies and equipment.
- Ensure that the fixed asset register is properly maintained; undertake physical stock take of assets (at least once a year) and reconcile with register

▪ Finance:

- Establish and maintain the Project's financial management system;
- Maintain and operate (based on countersigning by the CTA) the Project's bank account(s);
- Disburse project funds according to IUCN and GEF rules and regulations, based on disbursement authorizations received from the CTA;
- Keep records of project funds and expenditures, and ensure all project-related financial documentation are well maintained and readily available when required by the CTA;
- Checking all vouchers including bank payments, petty cash payments and journal vouchers
- Ensure that petty cash reconciliations and cash counts are properly documented; payments are properly authorized and supported, established cash "in hand" limits are respected, and cash is held safe and secured;
- Reconcile all balance sheet accounts and current accounts on monthly basis;

- Monitor that staff travel, and loan accounts are reconciled regularly.
- Review and sign off all bank reconciliations on monthly basis.
- Manage common costs (including rentals, phone, refreshments, internet etc.)
- Review project expenditures and ensure that project funds are used in compliance with the Project Document, and IUCN and GEF requirements;
- Cash Flow Management - review daily funds position and ensure sufficient funds are available in relevant bank accounts.
- Provide necessary financial information as and when required for project management decisions;
- Provide necessary financial information during project audit(s);
- Review annual budgets and project expenditure reports, and notify the CTA if there are any discrepancies or issues;
- Consolidate financial progress reports submitted by consultants and contractors for implementation of project activities;
- Liaise and follow up with the consultants and contractors for implementation of project activities in matters related to project funds and financial progress report

Reporting structure

The Administrative and Finance Assistant reports to the CTA with a secondary reporting line to the IUCN Regional Finance team.

Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree or an advanced diploma in accounting/ financial management;
- Proficiency in the use of computer software applications, especially MS Word, MS Excel, and relevant financial accounting software;
- At least five years of relevant work experience preferably in a project management setting involving multi-lateral/ international funding agency. Previous experience with GEF projects will be a definite asset;

Languages

- Excellent language skills in English (writing, speaking, and reading).

Terms of Reference

Job Description

Project: IP I-M CFB RCP

Post title: Knowledge Management and Capacity Building Specialist (international)
Duration: Full-time throughout the Project Period of six years
Duty station: PMU Office, Bangkok

Background

The Knowledge Management and Capacity Building Specialist will work under the guidance and supervision of the CTA, work closely with the MEL specialist, and be responsible for knowledge management and capacity development activities of the project.

Expected outcomes and deliverables

- Capacity Development:
 - Conduct Capacity Needs Assessment & develop Capacity Development Plan;
 - Implement the capacity development plan and evaluate impacts of capacity development activities.
 - Coordinate the development, review and updating of training modules with module leads, suggest improvements and updates.
 - Review training materials and make improvements and updates to package in consultation with key staff to ensure the best transfer of knowledge.
 - Provide support to the development of knowledge products and training materials.
 - Contribute capacity development aspects to annual project reporting, planning, and budgeting.
 - Contribute Capacity Development aspects to the design and implementation of the RCP Annual Conference.

- Knowledge management
 - Oversee the planning, coordination and implementation of knowledge management policies, procedures and systems, and ensure these are efficient and effective.
 - Further develop the project knowledge management strategy and ensure its timely implementation.
 - Design and manage the Project's Integrated Knowledge and Learning Hub
 - Continuously capture and manage knowledge emerging from the Project, document successful experiences and make them available for up-scaling.
 - Develop best practice notes, and videos displaying key project thematic areas
 - Oversee the exchange and sharing of experiences and lessons learned with relevant projects nationally, regionally, and internationally.
 - Share case studies, knowledge and lessons learned on key issues relating to the project's areas of work with stakeholders at all levels through technical briefs, websites, videos,

social media, media, etc. and provide this information as part of the PIR, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation;

- Promote a culture of lesson learning amongst the project team, partners and beneficiaries.
- Contribute KM sections to annual reports and annual workplans and budgets.
- Contribute KM aspects to the design and implementation of the Annual Conference.

Reporting structure

The Knowledge Management and Capacity Development Specialist Reports to the CTA, with additional reporting line to FAO

Qualifications

- An advanced university degree in education, social anthropology, economics, sustainable development, knowledge management or related fields is required;
- A minimum of 8 years' work experience in knowledge management, institutional capacity development, training and/or curriculum development;
- Mandatory relevant work experience in Southeast Asia and/or PNG
- Technical competence in software and applications related to the running of the Integrated Knowledge and learning hub

Languages

- Excellent English language skills, including written and oral communication.

CONSULTANT POSITIONS

Terms of Reference

Job Description

Project:	IP I-M CFB RCP
Post title:	Communication Specialist
Duration:	Part-time (50%) throughout the Project Period of six years
Date required:	
Duty station:	Project Management Unit office, Bangkok

Background

The Communication Specialist will work under the guidance and supervision of the CTA, and be responsible for all aspects of communication support.

Expected outcomes and deliverables

- Develop and implement Project Communication Strategy and Action Plan
- Lead external project communication with regional development organizations, government organizations, and beneficiaries, private sector, as well as international stakeholders;
- Lead internal communication across project team and partners;
- Support design and setting up of the project website, and continuously update the project's social media sites and website;
- Video and photo documentation of meetings and events;
- Organize and deliver awareness campaigns (jointly with country projects);
- Support project meetings for updating stakeholders and exchanging experience
- Manage all liaising activities of the PMU with all project partners.
- Prepares briefing notes, presentations, talking points and periodic updates as requested by CTA and/or PSC;
- Prepares media and communications products (articles, stories, press releases, reports, human-interest stories, social media, inputs to publications, etc.) and Liaison with various media platforms and news coverage organizations
- Coordinate and support the editing, design and publication of knowledge and advocacy products.
- Support distribution and dissemination of relevant knowledge products; plan, develop and launch campaigns and roll-out strategies.
- Contribute Communications aspects to the design and implementation of the Annual Conference

Reporting structure

The Communication Specialist reports to the CTA.

Qualifications

- A master's degree in development communication, mass communication, journalism or related field;
- Proficiency in the use of computer software applications, especially MS Word, MS Excel, and virtual meeting software
- At least five years of relevant work experience in communication preferably in a project setting involving multi-lateral/ international funding agency. Previous experience with GEF projects will be a definite asset;
- Excellent inter-personal skills;

- Experience and participation in the development and delivery of communications campaigns;
- Strong communication skills including through web-site management, social media, presentations to conferences and the media;
- Website design and management software and managing social media groups

Languages

- Excellent language skills in English (writing, speaking, and reading).

Project committees

Program Steering Committee

The Program Steering Committee (PSC) is the main strategic decision-making and coordinating body of the overall IP, and of the RCP.

Chaired alternately by IUCN and FAO, with the PMU playing a secretariat role, the PSC will meet virtually on a quarterly basis and will meet in person once annually, in conjunction with the IP Annual Conference. PSC members will include IUCN and FAO as the RCP GEF Agencies, FAO and UNDP as the GEF Agencies for the 3 country projects, as well as the three government implementing agencies – DOF (Lao PDR), CEPA (PNG), and DNP (Thailand); as well as the ASEAN Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat

The PSC will take policy-level decisions on the RCP project implementation, such as recommendations to IUCN and FAO on necessary strategic adaptations of the Project, and senior management decisions, including the approval of Annual Work Plans and Budgets and the approval of major project deliverables. The PSC will also provide strategic guidance, review the progress of project implementation, facilitate strategic coordination between stakeholders, and ensure the delivery of co-financing. The PSC will also regularly identify and agree on priorities for knowledge management, capacity building and technical support activities to be provided by the RCP in each subsequent period of implementation.

PSC decisions will be taken unanimously, or where not possible, by majority vote. The resolutions of PSC meetings will be circulated by the PMU, signed by the CTA, no later than two weeks following meetings.

The tentative responsibilities of the PSC to be finalized during the Project Inception Workshop include:

- Provide strategic guidance and take policy decisions on project implementation, and certain strategic management decisions, e.g., related to the approval of Annual Work Plans and Budgets;
- Review project progress and decide on strategic adjustments to ensure that Project is on track to meet targets;
- Ensure that project goals and appropriate GEF, IUCN and FAO procedures for reporting are met;
- Facilitate strategic stakeholder coordination and verify whether PMU takes adequate consideration of stakeholder priorities;
- Provide oversight and facilitating potential collaborations with projects with similar goals or objectives;

- Facilitate the procuring of committed co-financing and potential additional funding, and ensure the submission of annual co-financing reports;
- Approve any major changes in the Project, e.g., related to the findings of the Midterm Review;
- Ensure that social and environmental safeguards are upheld, and that the Project's grievance redressal mechanism is fully functional;
- Assist in public and policy-level outreach of the Project.

It is expected that in each PSC meeting, each of the country projects and the RCP will make presentations to the PSC focusing around three key issues:

Progress: What have you achieved in the previous period that you are proud of and want to share with others?

Challenges: Share information about challenges you have encountered and how you have addressed them that might provide ideas about solutions to challenges that others are facing.

Lessons learned: In implementation, and particularly in addressing challenges, what have you learned that may be helpful for others?

Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be constituted to provide technical oversight and guidance to project implementation, closely supported by the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA). The TAC is responsible for reviewing and providing recommendations to the PMU on all technical methodological processes developed and followed the Project, and on technical aspects of implementing activities. Additionally, the TAC is responsible for reviewing the technical quality of implemented activities. The TAC membership will include important regional partners with specialist technical expertise including AFoCO, AYBP and/or GYBN, ITTO, RECOFTC, RSPO, WWF and WCS. Final membership will be agreed in the Inception Period. TAC meetings will take place quarterly on-line and once annually in conjunction with the annual conference.

The responsibilities of the TAC include:

- Review and make recommendations to the PMU and PSC on technical matters related to the work planning and reporting;
- Review and make recommendations for improving the Terms of Reference for the recruitment of consultants, while ensuring that this review does not constitute undue delay to the project's procurement processes;
- Participate in key meetings, workshops, consultations, trainings, and other related activities as required;
- Provide the project with access to information, data, and technical advice of specialized areas of competence of the member;
- Review and approve key technical project methodologies and key technical reports.

ANNEX M: Responses to project reviews and summary of changes from PIF

Responses to GEF comments

GEF Secretariat comments	Responses
We would like to remind that you need to make the demonstration in which way the use of a tool X or a method Y will help in generating or maximizing Global Environment Benefits Tools: interest and demonstration in supporting GEB to be demonstrate during the PPG. For instance, we are not convinced with the use of GEF resources to finance the IUCN Green List (not found in this PFD but found in other PFD under the CFB IP. To be demonstrated during the PPG of concerned projects, if needed.	Addressed during PFD stage. Additional tools in the RCP ProDoc include IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology, FAO Earth Map, SEPAL, CollectEarth, and FERM in Output 5.4 (refer to Annex E) listed merely as potential tools the Indo-Malaya Knowledge and Learning Hub will provide linkages to in order to increase the efficiency in collecting and disseminating information on primary forests.
The PMC portion funded by co-financing is not proportionate to the GEF-funded PMC. It is not an issue at this stage, but please anticipate that we will review the PMC allocation more closely at child project CEO endorsement submission. To be revised during PPG.	Both IUCN and FAO committed to provide cofinancing towards PMC, which is proportionate to the overall GEF financing to cofinancing ratio.
Knowledge Management: While an overall approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been described in the Program Description and communications activities are mentioned, there is no reference to an overall communications strategy/plan. Thus, the agency is requested to include a brief description of a coherent communications strategy/plan for awareness raising and dissemination of program outputs/results, including outreach & dissemination to/from child projects. Please, clarify and correct.	The PPG Phase developed both a communications strategy as well as a knowledge management strategy for the RCP. We additionally defined a dedicated Output 5.6 for communications (Annex E) and provided adequate resources for it in the budget (Annex D).
Worth considering whether engagement of the private sector via forest legality/traceability (timber and timber product/content) could contribute positively to the objective of the IP-which goes beyond investment in bankable projects and biodiversity friendly value chain development.	This aspect is addressed not by the RCP, but by country projects under the IP (e.g. Thailand project).
For PPG please consider current GEF global investments that will have direct relevance to the countries and assessment/planning needed for this IP in the context of GBF T3, policy coherence and NBSAP revision. Please review to maximize complementarity and avoid duplicative funding or activities in regional program or country projects:	Relevant projects have been reviewed as listed in Section C, and coordination with on-going relevant GEF projects in the context of the KM-GBF, policy coherence and NBSAP review is listed in Section B.1.
Please, during PPG, take lessons and best practice from past or on-going projects in the region	The Project Document in Section C, Sub-section Lessons learnt from past project took stock of relevant baseline investments (including those funded by the GEF), along with resulting lessons learnt and best practices identified.
Component 2: Per the GEF-8 strategy, engagement with protected areas must include clear emphasis on systems-level to support sustainable financing and effective management to be sustained versus a park-by-park approach. This is consistent as well with the transformational change that is intended through this IP, please revise accordingly and take into account in PPG.	Component 2 takes a systemic approach to strengthening PAs across the region, which will be based on a comprehensive diagnostic assessment carried out through Output 5.1 (Annex E).
Outcome 4.2: Suggest ensuring that analytic work build on current GEF investments in assessment/guidance on policy coherence and 30X30 as noted elsewhere with GEFIDs.	The relevant GEF project have been taken into account for the baseline and for coordination of inputs as described in Sections B.1 and C. In addition, Output 4.1 will provide further important analytical baseline work for Output 4.2 (refer to Section E).
Output 5.7: Please reconsider/revise this output in the PFD (and during activity design during PPG) global best practice regarding	While we appreciate the importance of SBCC approaches, designing successful SBCC campaigns

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<p>behavior change communications including recent STAP documents/guidance/advisory documents. Communication Advocacy and Awareness activities should be strategically designed to serve the intended impacts of the IP (maintenance of the integrity of IFLs in the region). Therefore, investment in this Output should focus specifically on changing behaviors (stopping negative ones, starting positive ones, campaigning for change etc.) as opposed to, for instance, “raising the profile of the IP and primary forests” and “promoting the IP.” In addition, may want to consider whether the ‘rumble in the jungle’ event is culturally relevant/appropriate in the regional context, and whether there might be another more regionally relevant or context specific name for an event. Suggest leaving this out and considering event design/naming further with participating countries during PPG.</p>	<p>requires significant investment in market research, understanding the motivation of actors, understanding who and what influences them, pilot testing key campaign approaches and materials, in order to design effective SBCC campaigns and similarly significant investment in identifying the effect of the campaigns on the behaviour of target groups. However, with so many competing demands on the budget, the final allocation for communications is far short of what would be needed for successful SBCC approaches. Consequently, the project really cannot afford to pursue this kind of approach.</p>
<p>The participation to the CFB IP in the Indo-Malay region is dependent on the willingness and prioritization from countries. For the time being, the Indo-Malay CFB IP should work with four countries (if Vietnam confirms). We hope that the regional platform will create the enabling conditions to get the interest from other countries, as Malaysia (national dialogue to come) and Indonesia (out of the CFB IP, but potentially interested in forest issues). To be confirmed.</p>	<p>The RCP was designed to allow modular docking/engagement of countries across the I-M CFB that do not currently have a country project under the IP. For details see Figure 4.</p>
<p>The ambition of the Integrated Approach is to maximize the Global Environment Benefits. Please, explain how the coordination project succeeds in increasing the global environment benefits from child projects. If not, please discuss with the GEF agencies involved in child projects and see how to increase the targets under the Core Indicators.</p>	<p>The added value of the programmatic approach in form of the RCP has been described in Section A and B.</p>
<p>Based on the language in the PFD, and especially the expected results under the component 3, please provide a target for the core indicator 4.5 on OECM</p>	<p>National progresses across the I-M CFB on defining what OECMs in participating countries are, were reviewed. None of the country processes have progressed far enough during the PPG to be able to define targets for CI 4.5 (see Annex B). This will be rectified during implementation, as soon as the national OECM dialogues have led to conclusive results.</p>
<p>It is imperative that OECMs be part of the entire spectrum of conserved areas. We expect the core indicator to be used within the CFB IP, especially the component 3 of the Indo-Malay CFB IP.</p>	
<p>Indicators tracked under the Program objective do not include any indicator tracking improvement in “human well-being”, making the Program Objective not fully measurable. Please consider either including an indicator tracking this aspect of the Program objective or further limiting references to this aspect in the Program objective statement.</p>	<p>The RCP will not directly result in impacts on human well-being. However, the IP’s relevant impacts on human well-being will be tracked by the indicators of concerned country projects with direct impacts.</p>
<p>Please during PPG, explore with Conservation International the possibility to include the Positive Conservation Partnerships as a cofinancing partner. Some Indo-Malay countries may be eligible to this \$100 million fund launched at the Libreville Meeting.</p>	<p>This was not done.</p>

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<p>While the importance of secure tenure rights and the importance of forest tenure conflict are noted extensively, alongside importance of IPLC engagement, it would be helpful to explore how the proposed IP will relate to growing civil society movements focused on community tenure.</p>	<p>Most civil society movements focused on community tenure are active at the national and sub-national levels. It is really the remit of the country projects to engage with these organisations, rather than the role of the RCP. One of the few organisations actively supporting tenure rights at the regional level is RECOFTC. RECOFTC has been consulted, has participated in the PPG workshops, and has provided</p>

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	significant written inputs to, and comments on drafts of the ProDoc. RECOFTC might also be involved in implemntaiton of the project
<p>Deepen critical analysis on strategies for engaging and influencing the private sector, including indirect measures of influence through strengthening of policy coherence, governance and enforcement. Current description contains few concrete examples. This shortcoming could be strengthened during the next phase, along with more details regarding the proposed investment forum.</p>	<p>Critical analyses on the relations of the private sector to CFB in terms of commodity-driven deforestation were performed during the PPG phase. In addition, the PPG also delivered critical analyses on key private sector stakeholders as a basis for engaging with them during project implementation. Building on these analyses, Annex E contains details on engaging with the private sector through commodity platforms, work with regional private sector representative bodies, and the Annex also provides further details of the targeted investment forum.</p>
<p>Prioritize opportunities to extend the geographic breadth of the program, engaging countries that have not yet committed, in order to increase the likelihood of significantly influencing trends in the region. Related to this, the selection of an appropriate regional organization (not yet identified) to house the regional platform and help execute the project will be critical to pursue multiple pathways for broader country engagement – among government, civil society and private sector actors.</p>	<p>This point is addressed by the RCP through explicit provisions to keep the RCP an open framework to engage countries of the region without country projects. ASEAN was engaged to provide a regional policy level forum for exchange of I-M CFB countries on primary forests. Specific provisions in project components to reach out to countries without country projects include the regional vision for primary forests (Output 1.1), transboundary conservation landscape collaboration (Output 1.2), support to OECM recognition (Output 3.1), the primary forest investment forum (Output 4.2), the biome-wide diagnostic (Output 5.1), reporting on primary forests (Output 5.3), and the knowledge hub on primary forests (Output 5.4).</p>

Changes against DRAFT results framework contained in concept

Concept	ProDoc	Justification for change
Objective: no objective in concept	To maximize transformational impact of country projects for the safeguarding of globally important primary forests across Indo-Malaya and PNG	RCP objective was not available in the concept and was introduced during PPG.
Component 1: Enabling environment for inclusive conservation and sustainable management of primary forest landscapes	No change	n/a
Outcome 1.1: Enabling policy, improved tenure security, and governance environment created at multiple scales for primary forest conservation	Outcome 1.1: Enabling regional policy, improved tenure security, and governance environment created at multiple scales for catalyses primary forest conservation	Clumsy language of concept improved, no content change
Component 2: Protected Areas	No change	n/a
Outcome 2.1: Increased area of primary forests under effective and inclusive conservation and management	Outcome 2.1: Increased area of primary forests under Improved transboundary Protected Area collaboration, knowledge management, technical support, and capacity building support the effective and inclusive conservation and management of Protected Area harbouring primary forests	Numbering of Outcomes made single digit, since only one outcome included per component. Earlier language focused on entire IP was amended to focus on RCP Outcome.
Component 3: Primary forests outside PAs incl. buffer zones	No change	n/a
Outcome 3.1: Increased area of primary forests outside PAs and of buffer landscapes under improved practices for enhanced gender-responsive Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' resilience and primary forest benefits	Outcome 3.1: Increased area Better information and technical support contribute to improved management of primary forests outside PAs and/or buffer landscapes under improved practices for enhanced gender-responsive INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES resilience and primary forest benefits	Numbering of Outcomes made single digit, since only one outcome included per component. Earlier language focused on entire IP was amended to focus on RCP Outcome.
Component 4: Innovative finance, investment and scale-up	No change	n/a
4.1 Innovative finance and investment supports sustained scaling up of forest conservation actions	Outcome 4.1: Innovative Sustainable finance ing catalysed for improved and investment supports sustained scaling up of primary forest conservation and management actions	Numbering of Outcomes made single digit, since only one outcome included per component. Outcome language applied and management aspect added.
Component 5: Programmatic coordination, knowledge management and capacity development	No change	n/a
5.1 Primary forest coordination, access to knowledge, capacities,	Outcome 5.1: rest no change	n/a

Concept	ProDoc	Justification for change
and policy support strengthened across scales		

ⁱ includes permission-level access to technical databases for users requiring more detailed information.

ⁱⁱ <https://global-ecosystems.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://earthmap.org>

^{iv} <https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/>

^v Across countries, national stakeholders will be engaged to select most appropriate information systems that will increase interoperability with previous GEF IP databases and geo-portals. Insights from past GEF cycles, especially GEF6 and GEF7, consistently recommend stakeholder engagement activities based on effective knowledge management principles. For example, the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes IP engaged multistakeholders in selecting systems that use internationally accepted methodologies for data collection and information sharing. As a result, a Community of Practice and website were created to promote consistent reporting and sharing about the Amazon forest landscapes.

^{vi} For example, with Papua New Guinea and Bhutan, which are both outside the Southeast Asian region.