



GREATER MEKONG  
SUBREGION  
**CORE ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAM**

# **GMS Core Environment Program**

**Semi-Annual Progress Report**

**January to June 2015**

GMS Core Environment Program  
Semi Annual Progress Report 2015

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
AM	–	Annual Meeting
APF	–	advanced payment facility
BCC	–	Biodiversity Conservation Corridors project
CASP	–	GMS Core Agriculture Support Program
CDF	–	Community Development Fund
CEP	–	GMS Core Environment Program
DMF	–	design and monitoring framework
EBA	–	ecosystem-based adaptation
EIA	–	environmental impact assessment
EOC	–	Environment Operations Center
EPI	–	Environmental Performance Index
FIP	–	Forest Investment Program
EQS	–	Environmental Quality Standards
GEF	–	Global Environment Facility
GIS	–	geographic information system
GMS	–	Greater Mekong Subregion
ISP	–	Integrated Spatial Planning
ISPONRE	–	Institute of Strategy and Policy of Natural Resources and Environment
JICA	–	Japan International Cooperation Agency
Lao PDR	–	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LEAF	–	Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests
LOA	–	Letter of Agreement
MEP	–	Ministry of Environmental Protection – PRC
MOECAF	–	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry
MNRE	–	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Thailand)
MoNRE	–	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Lao PDR)
MONRE	–	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Viet Nam)
MTR	–	midterm review
NAMA	–	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NDF	–	Nordic Development Fund
NSU	–	national support unit

NWFPC	–	National Water Resources and Flood Policy Committee (Thailand)
OSFMD	–	Operations Services and Financial Management Department
PCD	–	Pollution Control Department (Lao PDR)
PES	–	payments for ecosystem services
PRC	–	People’s Republic of China
PRF	–	ADB Poverty Reduction Cooperation Fund
PPP	–	Phnom Penh Plan
PSU	–	CEP Provincial Support Unit
R-PP	–	REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal
REDD+	–	reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
RETA	–	regional technical assistance
RIF	–	Regional Investment Framework
SAM	–	Semi-annual Meeting
SEA	–	strategic environmental assessment
SEASTART	–	Southeast Asia START Regional Center
SFM	–	sustainable forest management
SMCA	–	spatial multicriteria assessment
TA	–	technical assistance
TASU	–	Technical Assistance Supervising Unit
TBL	–	transboundary biodiversity landscape
TOR	–	terms of reference
TWG	–	GMS Tourism Working Group
UNCRD	–	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UNESCAP	–	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
USAID	–	United States Agency for International Development
WGA	–	GMS Working Group on Agriculture
WGE	–	GMS Working Group on Environment
WWF	–	World Wildlife Fund
YEPD	–	Yunnan Environmental Protection Department

In this report “\$” refers to US dollars.

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## Executive Summary

The long-term objective of the Greater Mekong Subregion's (GMS) Core Environment Program (CEP) is to achieve an "environmentally friendly and climate resilient" GMS Economic Cooperation Program. CEP interventions concentrate on reducing development and climate change risks to high value ecosystem landscapes, the services flowing from which are crucial for sustaining economic growth in the subregion. These landscapes are increasingly under threat from economic and population growth, due to rapid development along interconnecting economic corridors.

This report summarizes the implementation progress made by CEP during the first six months of 2015. Implementation progress is monitored and reported against the 2015 work plan prepared in late 2014 based on CEP's Design and Monitoring Framework and expanded results-based framework.

This reporting period has been a crucial phase in the program, as two major events played a significant role in reshaping CEP to achieve better results. First, the 4<sup>th</sup> GMS Environmental Ministers meeting (EMM4) held in late January marked an important milestone in securing country commitment to increase investments in natural capital. EMM4 provided a clear strategic directive for CEP to align its activities to achieve a sustainable and inclusive GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF). Second, the CEP midterm review (MTR) held during March to May provided valuable insights into potential risks and opportunities for the program to deliver results in an effective, efficient, and sustainable manner. The EMM4 directive and the MTR recommendations provided essential guidance from which CEP's overall strategic framework and work plans will be shaped for the remaining period of the program.

Post EMM4 and MTR, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Environment Operations Center (EOC) have consulted with countries to reshape CEP focus, including reprioritizing activities and readjusting the work plan. The program adjustment at the strategic level focused on

- (i) aligning CEP activities with national policy priorities, ADB country partnership strategies, and the RIF;
- (ii) national policy and institutional capacity support; and
- (iii) institutional development of EOC.

Corrective actions initiated to improve the efficiency of program delivery at the operational level included

- (i) consolidating CEP activities into fewer themes, sectors, and learning sites;
- (ii) rationalizing EOC and CEP National Support Unit (NSU) staffing needs;
- (iii) performance and risk assessments of CEP activities and associated contracts; and
- (iv) establishing improved contract management and accounting record keeping systems.

In addition to post-MTR adjustments, CEP continued to progress toward achieving many of its 2015 milestones. However due to post-MTR adjustments, 11 milestones are no longer relevant as related activities have either been re-scoped or cancelled. For the 15 annual milestones still valid, CEP is on track to achieve eight and is behind schedule for seven. Post-MTR adjustments have resulted in changes to some CEP work plan outputs and milestones and it is expected that this will better position CEP to achieve its outcome more efficiently, effectively, and sustainably.

By end-June, cumulatively under Phase II a total of 79 contracts (10 consulting firms and 69 individual) had been awarded and ten Letters of Agreement (LOAs) signed with government partners. Of these contracts, 35 individual contracts have been completed. Physical progress is explained in the Implementation Progress and Results section of this report.

Financially, as of 30 June 2015 disbursement cumulatively and including outstanding advances totaled \$9.108 million (31% of total budget). Contracts awarded cumulatively totaled \$16.540 million (56% of total budget).

As explained in detail in the section Key Achievements and Cross-cutting Objectives, CEP highlights during the reporting period included:

- (i) Convened high-level policy dialogues. The Natural Capital Dialogue held during EMM4 brought together senior representatives from a range of sectors, including government officials, ADB, development partners, business, and youth and resulted in ministerial recognition to increase investment in natural capital.
- (ii) Strengthened as a regional knowledge hub on environment, with increased recognition and uptake of CEP information and knowledge services during the reporting period. With the launch of the online Myanmar Environment Portal, CEP also made an important step in establishing country hubs.
- (iii) Provided important policy, strategic planning and institutional capacity support. During this reporting period, CEP contributed significantly to four major policies and strategic plans regarding safeguards, eco-tourism, energy, and payment of forest ecosystem services. It gained further traction in establishing transboundary mechanisms for the management of biodiversity landscapes.
- (iv) Enhanced collaboration with GMS working groups, particularly with GMS secretariat, and agriculture and urban sectors.
- (v) Substantial contribution to building GMS technical and human resource capacity. Nearly 2,000 participants across the GMS participated in 29 regional and national capacity-building activities (training and knowledge-sharing events) organized or co-organized by EOC and NSUs.

There were also significant challenges for the program during the reporting period. Opportunities to influence the RIF process proved challenging. The size and scale of RIF and the absence of a clear regional institutional set-up and process for the RIF formulation have presented major challenges. The most realistic opportunities for CEP to leverage influence on RIF pipeline are through national planning processes and at the project design and implementation phase. CEP will be focusing its efforts on geographic clusters where a high intensity of RIF investments are expected to be a significant driver of socioeconomic and environmental changes. Special Economic Zones, sub-corridor segments, and corridor towns are three spatial areas that are being investigated for targeted CEP engagement.

CEP implementation and efficiency continued to be constrained by procurement issues. In response, ADB plans to engage a consulting firm for managing EOC operations, which is expected to increase efficiency and significantly reduce the number of individual contracts for CEP processed and managed directly by ADB.

In terms of financial progress, while the pace of disbursements has increased, disbursement has still been slow. This is partly due to procurement processes but also due in large part to significant delays in the transfer of funds from Finland, which caused significant cash-flow issues that held up procurement and placed uncertainty on the viability of a number of activities.

# 1. Introduction

In 1992, the six countries<sup>1</sup> of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), launched an Economic Cooperation Program (ECP) that aims to strengthen economic growth by focusing on three Cs—connectivity, competitiveness and community—as building blocks for subregional cooperation. Over the past two decades (1992–2013) the ECP increased prosperity in the subregion through investments totalling \$16.6 billion, principally for transport, hydropower, tourism infrastructure, and urban development. The ECP’s new Regional Investment Framework (RIF) for 2013–2022 identified more than \$50 billion of projects, and \$30 billion of these have since been prioritized within the RIF Implementation Plan for 2014–2018.

The environment was identified as a critical sector for cooperation of the outset of the ECP, with the first technical assistance (TA) program approved in 1995. In 2005 GMS countries responded to growing concern about the environmental impacts of rapid economic development by launching the Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative – hereafter the Core Environment Program (CEP). Administered by ADB and overseen by the environment ministries of the six countries that form the Working Group on Environment (WGE), the vision (outcome) of the CEP is an environmentally friendly and climate-resilient ECP. The Environment Operations Center (EOC), as secretariat to the WGE, provides coordination and technical support. ADB, the governments of Finland and Sweden, and the Nordic Development Fund (NDF) co-finance CEP. In 2014 additional co-financing support was secured from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the People’s Republic of China’s Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund (PRCF).

Phase I of CEP (2006–2012) improved environmental management in the GMS by strengthening strategic planning processes, supporting enhanced biodiversity and livelihoods in key transboundary biodiversity landscapes (TBLs), and improving national monitoring systems. In recognition of the program’s achievements and continued relevance, ADB approved a new five-year phase in 2011 (TA 7987) and implementation began in 2012.<sup>2</sup>

CEP has taken a spatial approach and interventions are concentrated on high value TBLs increasingly under threat from emerging clusters of urban development and interconnecting economic corridors. It is guided by the following key principles:

- (i) secure natural capital (ecosystem assets and services);
- (ii) optimize the allocation of scarce resources and manage competition;
- (iii) enhance the efficiency of natural resource value chains;
- (iv) improve inclusiveness and equitable benefit sharing; and
- (v) promote collaborative natural resource management across international borders.

As a regional technical assistance program, CEP is focused on building human and institutional capacity to mainstream environmental knowledge in sector, subnational, national and regional development planning, and on stimulating greater investments in natural capital. Key elements of the CEP capacity development approach include

- (i) innovation by introducing and refining approaches, tools, and instruments to generate environmental knowledge;
- (ii) environmental knowledge management, exchange, and sharing throughout the GMS; and
- (iii) design and facilitation of sector, subnational, national, and regional development processes to mainstream environmental knowledge and better inform planning and development.

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<sup>1</sup> The six countries are Cambodia, People’s Republic of China (PRC), Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam

<sup>2</sup> For more information about CEP, visit [www.gms-eoc.org](http://www.gms-eoc.org).

CEP comprises the following four components:

**Component 1: Environmental Planning, Safeguards, and Monitoring**

Output: Environmental planning systems, methods, and safeguards improved.

**Component 2: Biodiversity Landscapes and Livelihoods**

Output: Management of TBLs and local livelihoods improved.

**Component 3: Climate Change**

Output: Climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies developed.

**Component 4: Institutions and Financing**

Output: Institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management improved.

## 2. Implementation Progress and Results

The Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF) guides CEP implementation. The DMF was expanded into a results-based framework in early 2013 to include annual milestones and deliverables, monitor implementation progress and institute an adaptive management approach. In late 2013 CEP complemented this work-planning approach by monitoring the development, procurement, and implementation of activity packages (contracts).

In March 2015, an ADB-led team conducted a midterm review (MTR) of CEP. In line with the MTR recommendations, EOC initiated reshaping of the program to strengthen implementation through end-2016. The MTR recommendations are generally in line with the CEP's fourfold sustainability strategy as discussed in the CEP 2015 Annual Progress Report:

- (i) ensure CEP activities are aligned with national policy priorities;
- (ii) strengthen CEP linkages with the RIF, ADB country partnership strategies and other partners' initiatives;
- (iii) continue to invest in mentoring and learning-by-doing initiatives to retain a critical mass of expertise in country systems; and
- (iv) ensure that a strategy for the institutional development of EOC is owned and adopted by GMS countries.

Furthermore post-MTR work planning adjustments intend to achieve

- (i) stronger focus on institutional and policy capacity support; and
- (ii) better program efficiency, effectiveness, and impact by focusing on fewer themes, sectors, and learning sites.

With implementation of RIF gaining momentum, CEP is increasing support for multisector planning tools and approaches to improve environmental performance of the investments in the pipeline. CEP is working closely with GMS Secretariat and sector working groups to specifically undertake

- (i) strategic assessments of RIF project portfolios in priority geographic areas; and
- (ii) assessments of select key RIF transport, energy, and agriculture projects in the RIF portfolio

CEP has recently increased its engagement with the GMS Urban Taskforce, particularly in the area of spatial planning and climate risk assessment for the sustainable development of border and corridor towns. Engagement with ADB's Country Operations Business Plans (COBPs) for Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam is ongoing as CEP seeks opportunities to support sector diagnostics and project design to mainstream environment in energy, transport, and agriculture sectors. The energy sector in Viet Nam has been identified as a CEP priority and discussions are advanced with the Viet Nam Resident Mission and GMS energy group to identify collaborative opportunities.

CEP in consultation with member countries identified three of the seven transboundary biodiversity landscapes (TBLs) as priority regional learning sites. These are

- (i) Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape along the border between Guangxi, PRC, and Viet Nam;
- (ii) Mekong Headwater landscape along the border between Yunnan, PRC, Lao PDR and Myanmar;
- (iii) Cardamom Mountains landscape along the border between Cambodia and Thailand.

The MTR recommends that CEP move away from on-the-ground interventions and focus resources and effort on influencing improvements in strategic policy and institutional capacity. CEP has identified key national and subnational planning instruments in this regard, including the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) in Cambodia, the national pollution control strategy in Lao PDR, and provincial socioeconomic development plans in Viet Nam.

Also in response to the MTR, CEP completed performance and risk assessments of its activities and associated contracts to ensure remaining CEP resources maximize delivery efficiency through to the end of 2016. Non-performing contracts have been identified and corrective actions initiated, which include termination or variation of contracts. Terms of References (TOR) and work plans for EOC-based consultants are also being revised to generate clearer technical outputs and reduced administrative burdens.

As a result CEP has initiated major adjustments of its work program. Of the 26 activities outlined in the 2015 work plan, five activities have been cancelled and six activities re-scoped. These changes are explained in the component progress sections in this report but are generally due to

- (i) strategic consolidation;
- (ii) uncertainty of the funding due to delayed transfer of fund from Finland;
- (iii) delays in contract awarding (often due funding uncertainties) leaving insufficient time to implement these contracts by end of 2016.

Other significant post-MTR developments include plans to strengthen NSU capacity by relocating some EOC-based consultants into countries and hiring additional support for some NSUs. EOC has reshaped its contract management and accounting recordkeeping system to ensure real time financial monitoring and reporting. The system will be reconciled with the ADB project accounting system on a monthly basis.

Progress on the 2015 work plan is reported by component and activity in the following section. As some activities have been cancelled and others re-scoped, 2015 annual milestones for 11 activities are no longer relevant. Progress and results are still reported on, though not evaluated against, now-defunct milestones. For the 15 activities that have continued as planned, eight of these are on schedule to achieve their annual milestone while seven are behind schedule. One major new activity was initiated to support Cambodia in developing its NESAP.

By June 2015, ADB had engaged 10 consulting firms and 69 individual consultants, and signed 10 LOAs with government partners, in support of the CEP. Of these, 35 individual contracts have been completed. Following the MTR, an assessment of CEP planned activities against the available resources and remaining implementation period resulted in the cancellation of six consulting firm packages and five individual consultant selection processes. With the termination of the co-financing agreement with the Government of Finland in December 2015, an updated procurement plan will be prepared to reflect the revised consolidated CEP work plan and budget for 2015-2016.

## **Key Achievements and Cross-cutting Objectives**

Early in 2015 CEP secured ministerial-level support from all GMS countries to increase investments in natural capital and resources, to promote inclusive and sustainable development in the subregion.

During EMM4, environment leaders from member countries recognized the importance of investing in natural capital to harness the potential of the RIF. GMS countries directed CEP to align its activities to promote sustainability and inclusiveness in the RIF, the result of policy dialogues held on natural capital in 2014 as well as four side-events that preceded the formal EMM4 meeting. These included youth, business, and biodiversity landscape focused events as well as a natural capital dialogue.

CEP's role as a key regional environment knowledge hub with high-level influence was further demonstrated during EMM4. The knowledge product "Investing in Natural Capital for a Sustainable Future in the GMS" was produced by EOC for EMM4 with the inputs from more than 10 international and regional organizations, and was the key knowledge input into the Natural Capital Dialogue. New CEP knowledge products on climate change adaptation, SEA, green freight, ecotourism, and Payments for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) were also released during EMM4.

CEP continued expansion of its online knowledge services with new maps, data, and other resources. With the launch of the online Myanmar Environment Portal during EMM4, CEP demonstrated tangible progress in building country nodes providing stakeholders with better access to current environment data and knowledge.

CEP continued to build influence through policy and institutional support (See **Table 1**). Key areas of engagement included safeguards, pollution control and management of biodiversity landscapes in transboundary areas, payment for ecosystem services, and climate change risk assessments and adaptation. Furthering its policy and institutional support, in 2015 CEP initiated support for the Government of Cambodia to develop a National Environment Strategy and Action Plan and is planning to initiate two more policy support activities in the second half of the year:

- (i) preparation of the Environmental Protection Plan Guideline, a potentially important legal instrument to influence provincial socio-economic development plans in Viet Nam; and
- (ii) development of a pollution control strategy in Lao PDR.

CEP collaboration with GMS working groups, other sectors, and development partners yielded important results. Some examples included

- (i) development of Myanmar's first national ecotourism management strategy;
- (ii) strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of Viet Nam's revised power development plan; and
- (iii) collaboration with transport ministries and businesses to implement the Green Freight Initiative in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The program delivered significant results on technical and human resource capacity development. EOC and NSUs organized or co-organized 29 regional and national capacity-building activities (training and knowledge-sharing events). These involved nearly 2,000 participants across the GMS (**Appendix 3**).

CEP activities directly and indirectly contributed to cross-cutting objectives. CEP support to Myanmar's new ecotourism strategy is expected to indirectly benefit several hundreds of communities living in the vicinity of 12 protected areas in terms of livelihoods development, social inclusion, and gender equity. CEP work on agroforestry value chain development and climate risk financing has helped the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project investments by identifying better livelihoods development and climate resilient strategies for at least 13 communities. With the commencement of Green Freight Initiative activities, CEP engagement with business is tangible. Four regional and national business associations and approximately 23 transport companies are actively involved in the initiative.

CEP continued to give increased emphasis to gender and social inclusion in all its activities based on the strategy finalized last year. Implementation of the CEP Communications Strategy and Action plan

continues to result in a stronger brand identity for CEP and increased the communications and outreach capacity of both EOC and NSUs.

CEP achievements contributing to cross-cutting objectives during 2014 include regional collaboration, cross-sector integration, gender equity, social inclusion, and business sector participation. These are summarized in Table 1 and described in detail in the component sections.

**Table 1: CEP Achievements in Delivering Cross-cutting Objectives by end of December 2015**

Key Deliverables	Achievements and Beneficiaries by 30 June 2015	Contribution Towards Cross-cutting Objectives
<b>EOC as regional knowledge hub and resource center</b>	<p>CEP expanded its online GMS Environment Portal with updated indicators and new GIS maps, as well as services such as GMS Environment News e-news product.</p> <p>Monthly visitors to the CEP website January to June 2015 have increased 25% compared to 2014, with 3116 average monthly visitors exceeding the 20% increase target.</p> <p>Online Myanmar Environment Portal launched Communications Associates hired for PSUs in Guangxi and Yunnan.</p>	<p><b>Regional collaboration:</b> emerging as a regional platform for knowledge sharing</p> <p><b>Cross-sector integration:</b> knowledge hub increased housing sector information, serving environmental mainstreaming in these sectors</p>
<b>Knowledge transfer and exchange through international and regional events</b>	<p>CEP organized or co-organized 29 events involving nearly 2000 participants. Main events included</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EMM4 preceded by               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Youth Forum</li> <li>b. Business Form</li> <li>c. Transboundary Biodiversity Landscapes Forum</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Joint event with Working Group on Agriculture (WGA) on sustainable and inclusive agriculture value chain</li> <li>3. Two regional climate change adaptation roundtable events</li> <li>4. Three green freight related awareness raising and training events</li> <li>5. “International Conference on Ecotourism Policy and Practice: Strengthening Livelihoods, Conservation and Adaptation” in Myanmar</li> </ol>	<p><b>Regional collaboration:</b> increased regional collaboration and commitment to invest in natural capital</p> <p><b>Cross-sector integration:</b> engaged with other sectors, particularly energy, transport, agriculture and tourism</p> <p><b>Social and gender inclusion:</b> considerations core to several of the events, engagement with youth strengthened</p> <p><b>Private sector:</b> spurred engagement with tourism and transport companies and business involved in agro-processing</p>
<b>Policy and institutional reforms through mobilization of partnerships</b>	<p>CEP directly or indirectly contributed to three additional policy and institutional strengthening outcomes, and two initiatives to establish transboundary mechanism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalization of national environmental (emissions) guidelines in Myanmar.</li> <li>2. Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on management of Sino-Viet Nam Karst transboundary landscape</li> <li>3. Collaboration plan for PRC-Lao PDR transboundary protected areas</li> <li>4. Yunnan Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>5. Development of ecotourism management strategy in Myanmar</li> <li>6. Viet Nam’s PFES policy by improving its M&amp;E system</li> </ol>	<p><b>Regional collaboration:</b> strengthened regional and bilateral collaborative mechanisms</p> <p><b>Cross-sector integration:</b> supported policies with an objective of sectoral integration</p> <p><b>Social and gender inclusion:</b> policy initiatives on eco-tourism and PFES expected to indirectly benefit local communities</p>

Key Deliverables	Achievements and Beneficiaries by 30 June 2015	Contribution Towards Cross-cutting Objectives
<b>Environment mainstreamed in regional and national strategies</b>	CEP supporting mainstreaming of environment in two national strategies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SEA of provincial socioeconomic development plans in Lao PDR and Viet Nam</li> <li>2. SEA of Viet Nam’s revised Power Development Plan VII completed.</li> </ol>	<b>Cross-sector integration:</b> primary objective being environmental mainstreaming
<b>Additional investments leveraged to manage natural capital in TBLs and promote cleaner technologies</b>	Provided technical input to GIZ to develop a grant proposal on Sustainable Freight and Logistics in the Mekong Region (Submitted to European Commission SWITCH-Asia II; EU 2,400,000)	<b>Cross-sector integration:</b> uptake of energy efficient technologies in transport sector
<b>Partnerships mobilized in support of mainstreaming environment</b>	Development partners perceive CEP to be a credible regional partner with whom to combine resources to achieve common objectives. Some examples are <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on safeguards and climate change.</li> <li>2. GIZ on NAMAs and green freight.</li> <li>3. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Mechanism, and Conservation International on natural capital.</li> <li>4. ICIMOD on promotion of ecotourism.</li> <li>5. Federation of Thai Industries for Green Freight.</li> <li>6. General Electric, Global Mechanism, Trucost, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, and Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development on natural capital.</li> <li>7. Plan International, UNEP, and the Southeast Asia Youth Environment Network (SEAYAN) on youth engagement.</li> </ol>	Broad-based partnership is a strong foundation for CEP to achieve <b>all cross-cutting objectives</b>

## Component 1: Environmental Planning, Safeguards and Monitoring

The overall output of this component is “environmental planning systems, methods, and safeguards improved.” CEP aims to enable environmental considerations, including the value of natural capital, in GMS planning and investment decisions. Work in this area supports GMS countries to achieve international commitments, such as those under Rio+20—United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (specifically Sustainable Development Goals and the Natural Capital Declaration)—and those under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The component has the following sub-outputs

- (i) subregional and national strategic planning capacity strengthened;
- (ii) safeguards strengthened; and
- (iii) environmental monitoring processes strengthened.

Activities are structured under the subcomponents Strategic Planning, Safeguards, and Monitoring.

## Progress Towards 2015 Annual Milestones

Of the eight planned activities under this component, four are on track to achieve their annual milestones and one is behind schedule. Two activities have been cancelled and another is being re-scoped (Table 2). In addition, a new activity has been initiated to support Cambodia to develop a National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP).

The main deliverables for Component 1 during January to June included the following:

- (i) A natural capital forum was organized and natural capital report produced as key knowledge inputs for EMM4.
- (ii) An inception report for multisector planning activity was submitted.
- (iii) A SEA capacity building program to improve provincial socioeconomic development planning in Lao PDR was developed.
- (iv) A CEP-supported SEA report for Viet Nam's revised Power Development Plan VII was finalized.
- (v) A concept note for CEP support for Cambodia's NESAP was drafted and the recruitment of three consultants initiated.
- (vi) Software for a new land use change model was built and related training program developed.
- (vii) Legal and technical support was provided to revise Myanmar's draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedure.
- (viii) A safeguards-strengthening action plan was completed in Cambodia and priority EIA training activities identified.
- (ix) Technical support was provided to finalize national environmental (emissions) guidelines for Myanmar.
- (x) The online Myanmar Environment Portal was launched.
- (xi) Statistics and GIS data on the GMS Environment Portal were updated.
- (xii) The Industrial Pollution Projection System (IPPS) was successfully applied in Lao PDR and a training and awareness program prepared.
- (xiii) The Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) report for Xishuangbanna was produced.

**Table 2: Environmental Planning, Safeguards, and Monitoring**

Activity	2015 Milestones	Status (30 June)
<b>Output 1.1: Subregional and national strategic planning capacity strengthened</b>		
Conduct economic assessment of natural capital and valuation of ecosystem services	Economic value of natural capital and ecosystem services in the GMS established	Cancelled
Support multi-sector/area-based planning	Planning systems for multi-sector / area-based plans strengthened	Behind schedule
Support sector planning	Planning systems for sector plans strengthened	Re-scoped
Support formulation of National Environment Strategy and Action Plan in Cambodia	Through a series of consultations with national stakeholders to scope out the key contents of the NESAP and financing and policy options to support its implementation	New activity
<b>Output 1.2: Safeguards strengthened</b>		
Strengthen country environmental safeguard systems	Capacity for application of safeguards systems strengthened	On track
Strengthen safeguards application in ADB funded GMS projects	Safeguards application for ADB funded projects supported	On track

<b>Output 1.3: Environmental monitoring processes strengthened</b>		
Establish a GMS Environment Information System	Online GMS Environment Portal recognized as a key resource center for development practitioners in the GMS	Implementation
Strengthen subregional and national environmental monitoring database	National government agencies and ADB planning and environmental performance reporting documents supported by GMS Environment Portal data.	Implementation
Develop and implement a monitoring strategy for transboundary biodiversity landscapes	Landscape and site level information maintained and used by stakeholders (government, NGOs)	Cancelled

## Achievements

***Raised regional awareness on natural capital:*** CEP efforts during 2014 to build GMS awareness of natural capital approaches and tools culminated in early 2015 with the natural capital themed EMM4. More than 200 senior government officials attended as well as high-level representatives from ADB, international organizations, and business, while GMS youth representatives also participated. Discussions focused on increased investments in natural capital, with the need for such investments recognized by environment leaders in a Joint Ministerial Statement.

***Strengthened safeguards in Myanmar:*** CEP concluded current support for safeguards strengthening in Myanmar, having taken a lead role in supporting the preparation of an EIA Procedure and technical guidelines and development of national environmental (emissions) guidelines. CEP's safeguards support in Myanmar also leveraged a \$1.3 million ADB environmental safeguards capacity development TA which will commence implementation in the second half of 2015. The EIA Procedure is awaiting Cabinet approval while the Environmental quality guidelines have been approved and are being applied. The government is making some additional revisions to the EIA guidelines.

***Greatly increased uptake of CEP online statistic and maps services:*** CEP online knowledge services include a wide range of statistics, ready-made maps, and GIS downloads. During the reporting period, uptake of these services by GMS stakeholders improved, with a 72% increase in the use of the Statistics Portal, a 72% increase in the use of downloadable maps, and an 84% increase in the use of GIS data.

## Technical Challenges

A key constraint for SEAs to influence on the ground change is often poor alignment with sector planning processes. SEA teams often operate without close coordination with sector planning teams. In response, CEP is shifting its focus from supporting individual SEAs and onto strengthening SEA systems, including evaluating systems, improving technical guidelines, and promoting best practices.

Support of strategic environmental planning is emerging as a key area of CEP's work in the context of national and provincial social economic development planning (SEDP). Existing institutional protocols and coordination mechanisms pose barriers to environment agencies' engagement with planning and investment agencies. NSUs need to proactively cultivate these relationships, with the support of EOC and ADB's country resident missions.

While GMS stakeholders increasingly utilize CEP information services, a lack of reliable and accessible data remains. Much valuable data lays 'hidden' in environment (and other line agencies) within the countries. The establishment of centralized data, information, and knowledge units within environment ministries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar offers opportunities to support their mandates. The rollout of CEP-supported national environment portals in these countries, with

strengthened information service related capacity within NSUs, offers clear entry points for CEP to work closely with environment ministry knowledge units.

## Subcomponent 1.1 Strategic Planning

### **Output 1.1: Subregional and national strategic planning capacity strengthened**

CEP strategic planning activities aim to strengthen subregional and national strategic environmental planning capacity. Table 3 shows the status of procurements currently underway to deliver the three remaining activities under Output 1.1.

**Table 3: Environmental Planning, Safeguards, and Monitoring Contracts**

Activity	Tasks/Contracts	Scope	Status (30 June)
<b>Output 1.1: Subregional and national strategic planning capacity strengthened</b>			
Economic assessment of natural capital	Economic assessment of natural capital	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam	Cancelled
Support multisector and area-based planning	Strengthening multisector planning processes	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam	Implementation
	Land use change modeling capacity building	GMS	Implementation
	SEA of provincial socio-economic development plan	Lao PDR	Implementation
	SEA of provincial socioeconomic development planning	Viet Nam	Re-scoped
	Land use change modelling support for the SEA of Viet Nam's revised national land use plan (new sub-activity)	Viet Nam	Implementation
Support sector planning	Capacity building on integrated energy sector planning	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand	Re-scoped
Support the formulation of NESAP	Support the formulation of NESAP	Cambodia	Procurement

#### **Activity 1: Economic assessment of natural capital**

Due to funding uncertainties and related procurement delays, the time remaining in CEP Phase II to implement the economic assessment of natural capital has been deemed inadequate. Hence this activity has been cancelled.

However, during the reporting period CEP strengthened GMS awareness of natural capital approaches and tools and built high-level support for integrating these into planning processes and investment decisions. The natural capital themed EMM4 was a major awareness-raising effort, and included a Natural Capital Dialogue as the main knowledge event. In addition, a report on the status of, and means to increase investments in, natural capital in the GMS was produced by EOC in partnership with ADB, the WGE, and around 10 regional development partners.

CEP continued to support Viet Nam efforts to establish a national natural capital partnership, including co-organizing a workshop to promote natural capital investments as a means to meet sustainable development goals.

CEP will continue promoting the integration of natural capital values into GMS planning processes, including in its own areas of support such as the formulation of NESAP, transboundary landscape management, and climate change adaptation.

#### **Activity 2: Support multisector and area-based planning**

Five CEP sub-activities support multisector and area-based planning.

**Strengthening multisector planning process:** The Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) was procured in February to support the implementation of this activity in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. Lao Cai Province in Viet Nam was selected as the pilot province to demonstrate the application and benefits of multisector planning tools in the context of provincial socioeconomic development planning. An inception workshop was held in Ha Noi in May to introduce the activity to national and provincial stakeholders. The consultant team subsequently worked with Lao Cai provincial authorities to identify environmental and development issues to be addressed by the activity, and to establish an institutional setup to support implementation. For Cambodia and Lao PDR an activity implementation plan is still needed.

**Land use change simulation capacity building:** Implementation of this activity progressed as planned with land use modeling software (CLUMondo) selected and programmed, and a training program developed. The software will be finalized in July followed soon after by the training program, targeting government planners and academic institutions.

**SEA capacity building for provincial socioeconomic development planning in Lao PDR:** The inception workshop for this activity was held in May and a training program has been developed. This will be rolled out during the second half of 2015, targeting provincial and national environment and planning officials.

**SEA capacity building for provincial socioeconomic development planning in Viet Nam:** Due to procurement delays, the planned SEA capacity building support is no longer timely and has been re-scoped. The new focus will be to support the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) to produce national and provincial guidelines for the environmental protection planning section of the SEDP, which is required by a new environmental safeguards decree. Work on this will begin in the second half of 2015.

**Land use change modelling inputs to the SEA for Viet Nam's revised land use plan:** In May, ISPONRE requested that CEP provide technical support to the SEA for Viet Nam's revised *National Land Use Masterplan (2010–2020)*. Spatial data collection and development of land demand scenarios began soon after. The new CLUMondo modeling software will utilize this data in the coming months.

### **Activity 3: Support sector planning**

In early 2015, MONRE appraised and approved the final SEA report of the revised PDP VII. The report was produced by Viet Nam's Institute of Energy during 2014 with CEP support on impact valuation methodologies, which strongly informed the final report. The revised PDP VII plan is expected to be approved during the second half of 2015.

Procurement of a firm to build capacity for integrated energy planning was cancelled due to budget constraints. CEP is supporting the GMS Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC) and ADB to process a new ADB TA titled "Integrated Resource Planning with Strategic Environment Assessment for Sustainable Power Development in the GMS." CEP will fund an international energy specialist to be based in Ha Noi to support the implementation of this TA.

### **Activity 4: Support the formulation of Cambodia's NESAP**

Upon request from the Ministry of Environment in January, CEP has initiated a new activity to support the Government of Cambodia with the formulation of a NESAP. Required under the Law on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management, the NESAP is intended to identify priority policy mechanisms, tools and financing options for managing environment and natural resources across all economic and social sectors.

CEP will lead the data and information gathering and analysis, facilitate stakeholder consultations, and draft the NESAP document. An international consultant and two national consultants are currently being recruited to support this activity.

## **Subcomponent 1.2: Safeguards**

### ***Output 1.2: Safeguards strengthened***

CEP activities under this subcomponent aim to strengthen national safeguard systems and the application of safeguards to ADB-funded GMS projects. Table 4 shows the status of three sub-activities (under two broad activities).

**Table 4: Safeguards Contracts**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Tasks/Contracts</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Status (30 June)</b>
<b>Output 1.2: Safeguards strengthened</b>			
Strengthen country environmental safeguard systems	Environmental safeguard specialist and EOC specialist inputs	Cambodia	Implementation
	Resource person and EOC specialist inputs	Myanmar	Implementation
Strengthen safeguards application in ADB funded GMS projects	Responsive support to ADB safeguards application (EOC specialist inputs)	Lao PDR, Myanmar	Implementation

#### ***Activity 1: Strengthen Country Environmental Safeguard Systems***

In Cambodia, CEP finalized a safeguard strengthening action plan, and worked further with the MoE to prioritize potential capacity development activities for future CEP support. Two concept notes resulted, to train provincial officials in EIA report review and approval and to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of EIA required environmental management plans for national projects.

In Myanmar, additional support was provided by CEP to finalize the country's EIA Procedure, involving further consultations with development partners, civil society, and government ministries. CEP also provided legal and technical guidance to the government's EIA Procedure drafting team. CEP provided support for preparing environmental quality (emissions) guidelines including funding two public and ministerial consultation workshops, and finalization of the document. Preparation of ambient water quality guidelines commenced during the reporting period.

#### ***Activity 2: Strengthen Safeguards Application in ADB funded GMS Projects***

CEP continued to provide on-demand safeguard and environmental performance monitoring inputs to ADB country programming and ADB-funded GMS projects during the reporting period.

CEP provided ADB with inputs for the design of its new TA for safeguards capacity building in Myanmar. These inputs are expected to help ensure stronger complementarity between TA and the safeguards support being provided by CEP and other development partners.

Inputs were provided for the "Policies and Institutions for Environmental Sustainability" section of ADB's 2015 country performance assessment report for Myanmar. Contributions were made to the completion report for the ADB technical assistance on "Myanmar Strengthening and Use of Country Safeguard System."

## **Subcomponent 1.3: Monitoring**

### ***Output 1.3: Environmental monitoring processes strengthened***

CEP monitoring activities aim to establish a regional online GMS Environment Portal (maintained by EOC) linked with national online environment portals (maintained by NSUs). This network is expected to strengthen the development and maintenance of subregional and national environmental monitoring databases. In addition, work under this subcomponent includes developing and implementing a monitoring strategy for TBLs.

**Table 5** shows the status of the three activities and their seven sub-activities.

**Table 5: Monitoring Contracts**

Activity	Tasks/Contracts	Scope	Status (30 June)
<b>Output 1.3: Environmental monitoring processes strengthened</b>			
Establish a GMS Environmental Information System (EIS)	Develop Myanmar Environmental Information Portal	Myanmar	Completed
	Develop National Online Portals	GMS	Implementation
	Secure long term hosting, maintenance and web-development of regional and national portals	GMS	Implementation
Strengthen subregional and national environmental monitoring databases	Statistics and GIS data on the Regional Information System updated	GMS	Implementation
	IPPS implemented and capacity built in Lao PDR	Lao PDR	Completed
	Xishuangbanna prefecture level EPA report developed	Yunnan, PRC	Implementation
Develop and implement a monitoring strategy for TBLs and biodiversity corridor sites	Landscape and site level information maintained and used by stakeholders (government, NGOs)	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam	Cancelled

**Activity 1: Establish a GMS Environment Information System**

Development work and content population for the Myanmar Environment Portal was completed in January in time for launch at EMM4. This web-based portal provides key statistics, maps, and documents under 15 development themes. Hosted by the Ministry of Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF), the content can be viewed in both English and Burmese.

Based on the design of the Myanmar Environment Portal, design and programming of a template for other national portals began and launches are expected in late 2015, beginning with Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

A contract with QUO Global was signed in January for ongoing maintenance and development of the CEP website as well as development of the national portals.

**Activity 2: Strengthen Subregional and National Environmental Monitoring Databases**

Indicators and GIS data on the Statistics and Maps Portals of the CEP website were updated during the reporting period. The 37 indicators on the statistics portal were updated with the latest available data (2012 and 2013) while two new GIS layers were added covering road networks and railways.

In Lao PDR, the application of the IPPS was concluded and compilation and analysis of the results is ongoing. An interim report was produced in January, and a pollution specialist was procured to help analyze the model results and develop policy recommendations. Awareness raising and technical training events on applying IPPS are planned and CEP is in discussions with Cambodia on piloting IPPS there.

In Yunnan, the pilot application of EPA at the prefecture level in Xishuangbanna was completed with a final report produced. The EPA approach was used to track implementation progress for the 11th

*Five-Year Plan for Development of Ecological Construction and Environmental Protection in Xishuangbanna Prefecture.* EOC has since been in discussion with the Yunnan Environmental Protection Department (YEPD) on developing a knowledge brief on key lessons and findings from the process to inform the planned further uptake of prefecture EPA in Yunnan.

**Activity 3: Develop and implement a monitoring strategy for TBLs and biodiversity corridor sites**

Due to procurement delays, the plan to engage a firm to develop and implement a monitoring strategy for TBLs has been cancelled and re-scoped. Following MTR recommendations, CEP cancelled plans to conduct site level monitoring. Landscape level monitoring will be retained under the activity on biodiversity landscape assessment under Component 2.

## **Component 2: Biodiversity Landscapes and Livelihoods**

The overall output of Component 2 is “improved local livelihoods and management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes.” Activities support GMS countries to fulfill their commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and associated action plans, particularly with regard to reducing ecosystem fragmentation. CEP aims to enhance the connectivity, function and services of ecosystems through an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods development. The component sub-outputs are

- (i) transboundary biodiversity landscape (TBL) monitoring and management strengthened; and
- (ii) value chain development based on agro ecosystem goods and services supported.

In Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, CEP biodiversity conservation activities are designed to complement the \$70 million Biodiversity Conservation Corridors (BCC) project, the funding of which is a major achievement of CEP Phase I. In addition, pilot activities will continue in the biodiversity conservation sites not covered by the BCC project, namely Guangxi Province (PRC) and Cao-Bang Province (Viet Nam), and Yunnan Province (PRC). The corridor approach is also being introduced to the Eastern Forest Complex (Thailand) with CEP support.

Activities are structured under the subcomponents Biodiversity Landscape Management and Monitoring, and Value Chain Development.

### **Progress Towards 2015 Annual Milestones**

Of the five activities under this component, three are behind schedule, one has been re-scoped and one has been cancelled (Table 6).

The main deliverables for Component 1 during January to June included the following:

- (i) The second regional Biodiversity Landscapes Forum was organized as an EMM4 side-event and resulted in a 3-year action plan for regional collaboration for TBLs.
- (ii) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in May between Guangxi (PRC) and Cao Bang (Viet Nam) to strengthen collaboration for the management of Sino-Viet Nam Karst transboundary landscape.
- (iii) Biodiversity and socioeconomic assessments were conducted in biodiversity corridor areas in Xishuangbanna (Yunnan), Jingxi County (Guangxi) and Cao Bang.
- (iv) Management regulations and guidelines for Village Development Funds (VDF) were revised and updated for Yunnan, Guangxi, and Cao Bang.
- (v) CEP released approximately \$30,000 for livelihood support in two target villages in Yunnan (in Xishuangbanna and Deqin), focusing on bee keeping, seedling nurseries, tea processing, and eco-tea garden development.

- (vi) Impact assessments of CEP biodiversity corridors work in Cao Bang, Guangxi, and Yunnan were completed.
- (vii) An inception report for establishing biodiversity corridors in Thailand’s Eastern Forest Complex was produced.
- (viii) Assessments of potential agroforestry products in biodiversity corridor areas in Lao PDR and PRC were completed.
- (ix) Fieldwork was completed and a final report produced on the ecotourism potential of 12 protected areas in Myanmar as an input into the country’s new Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy.
- (x) ICIMOD produced an awareness-raising flyer on Myanmar’s new ecotourism strategy with CEP support.
- (xi) CEP supported the “International Conference on Ecotourism Policy and Practice: Strengthening Livelihoods, Conservation and Adaptation” held in May in Myanmar to launch the new ecotourism strategy.

**Table 6: Biodiversity Landscapes and Livelihoods**

Activity	2015 Milestone	Status (30 June)
<b>Sub-output 2.1 Transboundary biodiversity landscape monitoring and management strengthened</b>		
Conduct TBL assessment to inform management strategy	Biodiversity profile and monitoring database completed	Re-scoped
Strengthen management of transboundary biodiversity landscapes and corridors	Management and connectivity of high priority areas within TBLs strengthened	Behind schedule
Develop and test community-based conservation options	Community-based conservation practices improved	Behind schedule
<b>Sub-output 2.2 Value chain development</b>		
Identify ecosystem-based livelihood options	Capacity of GMS stakeholders to identify and implement cost-effective green value chain development improved	Behind schedule
Develop and test ecosystem-based livelihood options	Livelihoods development interventions successfully piloted	Cancelled

## Achievements

### ***Regional collaboration on transboundary biodiversity landscape management strengthened:***

CEP continued efforts to facilitate regional and bilateral cooperation for TBL management with some notable progress during the reporting period. A TBL Forum was held as a side-event at EMM4 and brought together a range of government, development, and other partners from the subregion and beyond to explore means to collaborate on TBL management. An action plan resulted with priority actions identified for 2015-2017.

Bilateral cooperation on specific TBLs gained momentum, with Guangxi and Cao Bang signing an MOU in May for collaboration in the management of the Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape. Under the MOU the two provinces will develop a joint management strategy and collaborate on research, monitoring, and capacity building. A MOU between Yunnan and Luang Namtha (Lao PDR) was drafted and signatures are expected in September. These MOUs provide a solid foundation and mandate for scaling up collaboration on TBL management.

***Biodiversity conservation corridors strengthened:*** In Yunnan, Guangxi, and Cao Bang, efforts to institutionalize and expand biodiversity conservation corridors gained traction. The new Yunnan Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was finalized with CEP input and included biodiversity

corridors as a strategic means to improve ecosystem connectivity. Biodiversity and socioeconomic assessments in Yunnan and Guangxi will be a key input into informing specific areas for new and expanded corridors, as well as the formulation of corridor management plans. In Xishuangbanna, the Environmental Protection Bureau formulated the first official rules for biodiversity corridor management in the GMS, with a draft for the Nabanhe-Mangao biodiversity corridor currently under review of the Xishuangbanna Prefecture Government. Endorsement of the rules is expected by the end of this year. In all three provinces, management regulations and technical guidelines for Village Development Funds were revised and updated.

In Thailand’s Eastern Forest Complex, CEP supports the Department of National Parks to establish the first biodiversity corridors on the Thai side of the Cardamom and Elephant Mountains landscape. Two corridors have been identified to link four protected areas, and the inception phase is now complete with key tasks to initiate these corridors planned and ready for implementation.

**Myanmar’s new ecotourism strategy influenced:** CEP has played an important role in the formulation of Myanmar’s new Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy, launched in May. CEP support included assessing the ecotourism potential of 12 protected areas. The assessment report will soon be published in partnership with ICIMOD as a resource for potential ecotourism investors, to understand the opportunities, challenges, and environmental and social considerations in regard to protected areas.

## Technical Challenges

Biodiversity landscape management often stretches beyond more than one administrative boundary. Assessments that meaningfully inform their management present a challenge in the absence of clear policy and institutional frameworks. CEP will focus on assessments that inform the implementation of national and provincial biodiversity strategy and action plans.

Progress with establishing biodiversity conservation corridors in Thailand’s Eastern Forest Complex is progressing slowly, due largely to a lack of technical human resources within the Department of National Parks. The Department has recently had high turnover of staff and it has been a challenge to find a qualified expert to provide technical support.

CEP is scaling down its on-the-ground livelihoods work in response to the MTR recommendation that the program focus limited resources on upstream support to policy and planning processes. This has implications for the sustainability of past and current livelihoods work and CEP will need to leverage continuity by engaging with other initiatives such as the BCC project and those of the GMS Tourism Working Group.

## Subcomponent 2.1: Biodiversity Landscape Monitoring and Management

### **Output 2.1: TBL monitoring and management strengthened**

CEP activities under this output aim to develop strategic spatial plans for the management of TBLs, informed by conservation and economic assessments with respect to their natural capital and ecosystem services. The establishment of a common framework for monitoring the condition of biodiversity and local livelihoods is integral to their future management. **Table 7** shows the status of these activities.

**Table 7: Biodiversity Landscape Monitoring and Management Contracts**

Activity	Tasks/Contracts	Scope	Status (30 June)
<b>Output 2.1 TBL monitoring and management strengthened</b>			
Conduct biodiversity landscapes assessment to	TBL assessments	Regional	Procurement

inform management strategy			
Strengthen management of TBLs	Second TBL Forum (EOC input)	Regional	Implementation
Develop and test community based conservation options	Technical support to biodiversity corridors: four individual consultants two individual consultants two individual consultants	PRC, Viet Nam, Thailand	Implementation Implementation Procurement
	TBL and biodiversity corridors pilot project (LOAs)	PRC, Viet Nam, Thailand	Implementation

### **Activity 1: Conduct Biodiversity Landscapes Assessments to Inform Management Strategies**

The assessments were intended for six TBLs, but following challenges with procuring a qualified firm and recommendations from the MTR to focus analysis on fewer landscapes, this activity has been re-scoped. The assessments will consider the Sino Viet Karst and Mekong Headwater landscapes and individual consultants will be engaged to undertake the work. By concentrating CEP resources on two rather than six landscapes, more in-depth analyses, stronger engagement with stakeholders, and a greater likelihood of influencing change will result.

### **Activity 2: Strengthen Management of Biodiversity Landscapes**

A Biodiversity Landscapes Forum was held as a part of EMM4, continuing the sharing mechanism established by the first regional forum on TBLs held in May 2014. The Forum brought together a range of partners from GMS countries and further afield to consider the priority conditions and mechanisms necessary to address the challenges of securing and enhancing natural capital at landscape scales. An action plan resulted focusing on priority actions for 2015-2017, and included

- (i) developing biodiversity landscape databases and a strategy to leverage data collected to influence the RIF;
- (ii) developing visions and plans for all TBLs, identifying research and capacity building actions; and
- (iii) building collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to implement shared visions.

Progress was made on strengthening TBL collaboration and management in two landscapes where CEP activities are focused, the Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape and the Mekong Headwaters. In May, a MOU was signed by the environmental agencies of Viet Nam's Cao Bang Province and PRC's Guangxi Province. Under the MOU, the two provinces will

- (i) develop a joint management strategy for transboundary conservation in the Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape;
- (ii) work together on creating new biodiversity corridors;
- (iii) collaborate on research, assessments and monitoring; and
- (iv) conduct awareness-raising and capacity building activities.

Following meetings between environment officials from Yunnan, PRC, and counterparts in Luang Namtha, Lao PDR, a MOU is being drafted with the aim of increasing transboundary collaboration for border areas of the Mekong Headwaters landscape. It will build on achievements of the past five years in establishing joint protected areas and explore establishment of a "China-Lao Green Corridor." The MOU will specify priority actions for the next three years relating to biodiversity baseline surveys and assessments, awareness raising and knowledge exchange, and technical capacity building. September 2015 is targeted for the MOU signing.

### **Activity 3: Develop and Test Community-Based Conservation Options**

During the first six months of 2015 progress was made to establish and scale up the biodiversity corridors approach in the Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape. A consultant team mobilized by CEP has worked with environment officials in Guangxi and Cao Bang to conduct biodiversity and socioeconomic assessments, informing biodiversity corridor expansion and the creation of corridor management plans, including guidelines for ecosystem restoration. Similar assessments by another consultant team were initiated in Xishuangbanna,

YEPD, GEPD, and the Viet Nam Environment Agency (VEA) continued community-based forest restoration activities in existing corridor areas in Yunnan, Guangxi, and Cao Bang. Management regulations and technical guidelines for Village Development Funds were revised and updated for all three areas. Approximately \$30,000 was released to three target villages in Xishuangbanna and Deqin to support livelihoods and ecological restoration activities such as bee keeping, tea processing, and eco-tea garden and nursery development.

Impact assessments on CEP integrated conservation and livelihood activities in biodiversity corridors were completed for Guangxi, Cao Bang, and Yunnan. The assessments found some indications of positive changes regarding economic, social, and conservation impacts, but struggled to find evidence directly attributable to CEP work. For example, it was unclear whether VDFs made a demonstrable difference to the socioeconomic wellbeing of local communities. One recommendation was that participatory appraisal methods be employed to identify future interventions.

In Thailand, the Department of National Parks (DNP) made progress to establish new biodiversity corridors in the Eastern Forest Complex, on the Thailand side of the Cardamom and Elephant Mountains TBL. Two biodiversity conservation corridors have been identified. One will be between Khao Soi Dao Wildlife Sanctuary and Khlong Khrua Wai Chaloe Phra Kiat Wildlife Sanctuary. The other will be between Namtok Khlong Kaeo National Park and the Central Cardamom Protected Forest of Cambodia. DNP produced an inception report identifying key tasks to initiate these corridors during the next 18 months.

Also in Thailand, CEP is supporting the recruitment of a consultant team to conduct an impact assessment of CEP Phase 1 corridor activities in Tenasserim (Western Forest Complex TBL). This assessment will help inform the corridor design and conservation and livelihood activities in the Eastern Forest Complex.

## **Subcomponent 2.2: Value Chain Development**

### ***Output 2.2: Value chain development based on ecosystem goods and services supported***

Activities under this output are aimed at developing value chains to support local livelihoods within TBLs, focusing on corridors that connect protected areas. Two activities are being implemented and one has been cancelled. Table 8 shows the status of those activities.

**Table 8: Value Chain Development Contracts**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Tasks/Contracts</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Status (30 June)</b>
<b>Output 2.2: Value chain development based on agro-ecosystem goods and services supported</b>			
Identify ecosystem based livelihood options	Situational analysis of agroforestry product value chains	Cambodia, Yunnan Province (PRC), Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam	Implementation
	Value chain development (ecotourism and ecosystem-based products)	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam	TOR completed (proposed to exit)
Develop and test ecosystem based livelihood options	Assessment of potential protected areas for developing ecotourism	Myanmar	Implementation

	management strategy		
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### ***Activity 1: Identify Ecosystem Based Livelihood Options***

Following situational analyses of agroforestry products in Cambodia and Viet Nam in late 2014, similar analyses were completed in Lao PDR and Yunnan (PRC) during the first quarter of 2015. A consultation workshop held in Yunnan in late March shared findings and prioritized 18 agroforestry products identified.

Following MTR recommendations, CEP cancelled plans to demonstrate the commercial viability of priority agroforestry products in collaboration with the BCC project in biodiversity corridors in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. However in Viet Nam the BCC project is using the analytical findings to support its own piloting work for three agroforestry products in Quang Nam, Thua Thien Hue, and Quang Tri provinces.

### ***Activity 2: Develop and Test Ecosystem Based Livelihood Options***

During the first quarter 2015, the final two of 12 protected areas in Myanmar were assessed for their ecotourism potential and the final report was submitted. ICIMOD have since developed the report into a knowledge product to complement the country's new Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy and this will be published in the second half of 2015.

With ICIMOD, CEP supported the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and MOECAAF to organize the "International Conference on Ecotourism Policy and Practice: Strengthening Livelihoods, Conservation and Adaptation" in May, where the ecotourism strategy was formally launched. With CEP support, ICIMOD produced a flyer on the ecotourism strategy launched at EMM4.

## **Component 3: Climate Change**

The overall output of CEP climate change work is "climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies developed." CEP climate change activities support countries in achieving their commitments under international climate change agreements, including National Adaptation Plans of Actions and National Target Programs for climate change. The component has the following sub-outputs:

- (i) climate change risk mitigation and disaster preparedness capacity developed;
- (ii) national sustainable forest management (SFM) to enhance carbon stocks and REDD+ readiness improved; and
- (iii) low carbon strategies and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) technical capacity developed.

Climate change activities are structured under three subcomponents: Adaptation, REDD+/SFM, and Mitigation.

### **Progress Towards 2015 Annual Milestones**

Out of the eight activities under three sub components, two activities are on track to achieve the annual milestones. Four are being re-scoped based on MTR recommendations and two have been cancelled (**Table 9**).

The major deliverables during January-June 2015 included

- (i) The sixth and seventh roundtable discussions on climate change adaptation in the GMS were held in April and June.
- (ii) Two knowledge briefs were produced, distributed at EMM4 and subsequently published. The first was on Ecosystem-based Approaches (EBA) and the second on green freight.

- (iii) A regional inception meeting for the “Strengthening Capacity to Use Climate Change Data and Information for Planning” activity was held in March and inception report finalized.
- (iv) A climate risk financing assessment and report was completed in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam. A knowledge product based on this assessment was drafted.
- (v) Climate risk financing practices were integrated into new guidelines for Commune Development Funds in Viet Nam’s Quang Tri Province.
- (vi) A field assessment of village organization capacity to disburse REDD+ funds was completed in Attapeu Province in Lao PDR.
- (vii) A training course on participatory forest management was delivered for communities in Attapeu Province.
- (viii) The testing of fuel-efficient technologies and the development of an eco-driver curriculum under the Green Freight Initiative began in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

**Table 9: Climate Change**

Activity	2015 Milestones	Status (30 June)
<b>Sub-output 3.1 Climate change risk mitigation and disaster preparedness capacity developed</b>		
Strengthen capacity to use climate change data and information for planning	Improved online access to a regional knowledge base on climate change adaptation	Implementation
Strengthen capacity for risk assessments and identification of adaptation interventions	Capacity of GMS institutions and practitioners for assessment of climate vulnerability and identification of adaptation options strengthened	Re-scoped
Develop and pilot cost-effective adaptation options	Opportunities for pilot interventions identified Cost-effective local level adaptation options piloted	Cancelled
<b>Sub-output 3.2 National SFM to enhance carbon stocks and REDD+ readiness improved</b>		
Strengthen national REDD+ strategic planning and policy instruments	Activity still to be scoped	Re-scoped
Strengthen capacity for forest carbon monitoring and develop and test REDD+ systems with equitable and inclusive benefit sharing.	Capacity to monitor forest carbon stocks improved and role of community development funds (CDFs) in REDD+ benefit sharing evaluated	Re-scoped
<b>Sub-output 3.3 Low carbon strategies and NAMA technical capacity developed</b>		
Strengthen policy frameworks and raise awareness in support of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)	Sector climate change mitigation actions formulated	Re-scoped
Strengthen technical capacity for mitigation monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems	Capacity of GMS institutions to monitor GHG emissions for low carbon actions (e.g. NAMAs) improved	Cancelled
Develop and test low carbon interventions for transport and energy sectors	Benefits of carbon/green freight interventions demonstrated, and financing mechanism successfully piloted	Implementation

## Achievements

**CEP climate change work is informing investments:** Drawing on results from the CEP climate risk financing assessment, CEP developed with the BCC project team in Viet Nam a new guideline for the operation of CDFs that incorporates climate risk management practices, including the establishment of a contingency reserve fund in every CDF for climate-related and other shocks. The guideline was adopted by the BCC project in Viet Nam, and will be implemented in all BCC communities in Quang Tri Province.

**EOC continues to promote regional knowledge exchange on climate change adaptation through roundtable meetings:** CEP-led roundtable meetings are a platform for development organizations with adaptation programs in the GMS to collectively synthesize and share knowledge. The roundtable meeting partners collectively engaged in dialogues including for EMM4 where they raised awareness of high-level officials on the benefits of climate change adaptation and means of mainstreaming strategies in development planning.

**CEP produced two climate change adaptation knowledge briefs:** Two knowledge briefs on “Ecosystem-based Approaches to Address Climate Change Challenges in the Greater Mekong Subregion” and “Green Freight in the GMS” were produced and distributed at EMM4—raising awareness of high-level officials on relatively new but important topics. The EBA brief was developed through collaboration with the USAID-funded Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests (LEAF) program and the US Forest Service.

**Pilot projects to test green freight approaches are successfully underway:** Fuel efficiency technology testing and eco-driver curriculum development have begun in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam, in partnership with the GMS Business Forum, Lao International Freight Forwarders Association, Federation of Thai Industries, and the Viet Nam Automobile Transport Association. Twenty-three companies in Lao PDR and Viet Nam have been engaged in the initiative.

## Challenges

**Challenges in finding planning process entry points for adaptation:** CEP’s climate change adaptation work is site specific and the sustainability of mainstreaming adaptation strategies will depend on engaging with subnational planning processes (community, town, district, and province). It is challenging for a regional program such as CEP to directly engage with subnational planning processes; in response, CEP will work closely with local partners as well as establish national climate change roundtable meetings in select countries.

**Absence of the appropriate REDD+ policy conditions could hinder uptake at the local level:** While implementation of REDD+ readiness activities in Lao PDR is generating local level capacity, replication in other areas remains uncertain due to the absence of a clear national REDD+ policy framework. CEP is refocusing its REDD+ readiness activity to support national policy development in Lao PDR.

**Uptake of green freight technologies depends on technical, financial, and policy viability:** The SMEs involved in the green freight initiative see benefits of adopting energy efficiency technologies. Uptake is likely to be hindered by uncertainties associated with performance of the technologies, associated technology costs, and legal procedures to obtain government permits to retrofit trucks with energy efficient technologies. In response, the Green Freight Initiative will expand its technology testing phase to generate data to reduce uncertainties and build the confidence of the transport companies and the government.

## Subcomponent 3.1: Adaptation

### ***Output 3.1 Climate change risk mitigation and disaster preparedness capacity developed***

CEP adaptation activities aim to develop climate change risk mitigation and disaster preparedness capacity in GMS. To deliver the two activities under Output 3.1 (see **Table 10**), one contract is complete, one is implemented, and one has been canceled.

**Table 10: Adaptation Contracts**

Activity	Tasks/Contracts	Scope	Status (30 June)
Output 3.1 Climate change risk mitigation and disaster preparedness capacity developed			

Strengthen capacity to use climate change data and information for planning	Regional Capacity Building in Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment in GMS Biodiversity Conservation Landscapes (SEA START)	Regional	Implementation
Strengthen capacity for risk assessments and identification of adaptation interventions	Building Capacity to Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Communities in GMS Biodiversity Conservation Landscapes	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam	Canceled
	Climate Risk Financing Assessment		Completed

**Activity 1: Strengthen Capacity to Use Climate Change Data and Information for Planning**

The sixth and seventh climate change adaptation roundtable meetings were held in April and June. The partners shared experience on tools and processes to integrate climate change into development planning. It was agreed to jointly develop a knowledge product based on lessons learned to inform adaptation planning at subnational, watershed, and community scales.

SEA START organized an inception meeting with GMS countries in March to formally launch and gather country feedback on CEP plans to implement a program to support adaptation planning in the GMS. The training and tools will target sub-provincial and/or urban planning in GMS economic corridor areas. The inception report for SEA START was submitted and approved, and the design of communication materials and training curriculum begun.

Discussions were held between EOC and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to identify opportunities for knowledge sharing and learning on adaptation planning under the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme.

**Activity 2: Strengthen Capacity for Risk Assessments and Identification of Adaptation Interventions**

The climate risk financing assessment was completed in BCC sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam and the final report submitted. Based on the report, a knowledge product has been drafted and is under review. Recommendations from the assessment will inform BCC investments in regard to building better linkages between development and conservation goals, strengthening loan management practices, and improving climate risk management practices for CDFs by establishing a contingency reserve fund. The recommendations have been adopted by the BCC project in Viet Nam and will be initially implemented in 12 CDFs in Quang Tri Province.

The contract for “Building Capacity to Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Communities in GMS Biodiversity Conservation Landscapes” was cancelled based on MTR feedback. MTR recommended that CEP shifts focus from community-based climate change adaptation work to major development sectors to integrate adaptation considerations in planning. In response, EOC has re-scoped this activity to promote climate friendly agri-business value chain investments in partnership with the GMS Core Agriculture Support Program, with a draft concept paper prepared.

Discussions with UNEP’s World Conservation Monitoring Center were initiated to identify collaborative opportunities to apply EBA in Mekong Headwaters and Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape, and initial scoping was undertaken.

**Activity 3: Develop and test cost-effective adaptation options**

This activity had yet to be initiated and based on MTR recommendations it has been cancelled.

**Subcomponent 3.2: REDD+/Sustainable Forest Management**

**Output 3.2: National SFM to enhance carbon stocks and REDD+ readiness improved**

CEP activities aim to improve national SFM and REDD+ readiness in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. One contract is being implemented and one is being re-scoped, to deliver the two activities under Output 3.2 (see **Table 11**).

**Table 11: REDD+/Sustainable Forest Management Contracts**

Activity	Tasks/Contracts	Scope	Status (30 June)
<b>Output 3.2: National SFM to enhance carbon stocks and REDD+ readiness improved</b>			
Strengthen national REDD+ strategic planning and policy instruments	REDD+ support in Thailand	Thailand	Not started
Strengthen capacity for forest carbon monitoring	REDD+ Readiness Capacity Building in Lao PDR	Lao PDR	Implementation
	REDD+ Readiness Capacity Building in Viet Nam	Viet Nam	Re-scoped

**Activity 1: Strengthen national REDD+ strategic planning and policy instruments**

EOC participated in Thailand's Forest Investment Program Expression of Interest (EOI) consultation workshop in February and offered technical support in preparing the EOI. However, DNP has since decided that Thailand will not submit an EOI for the Forest Investment Program. CEP is supporting national REDD+ strategic planning and policy instruments through re-scoped work under Activity 2 for Lao PDR.

**Activity 2: Strengthen capacity for forest carbon monitoring and develop and test REDD+ systems with equitable and inclusive benefit sharing.**

A revised interim report of the task on “Capacity Building for REDD+ Readiness for Lao PDR” and a field assessment of village organization capacity in Attapeu Province to disburse REDD+ funds were completed. Participatory forest management training for community members in Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province, was delivered in May. EOC is now re-scoping other tasks under this activity based on MTR recommendation to shift CEP’s focus from community-based engagement to influencing policy processes. CEP will support national REDD+ policy development in Lao PDR by facilitating policy dialogues and introducing case studies and good practice on benefit distribution and participatory monitoring.

Plans to undertake similar REDD+ readiness capacity building in Viet Nam as described above for Lao PDR have been abandoned in favor of re-scoping based on MTR recommendations. CEP will instead strengthen local capacity for forest monitoring in the context of PFES. This will build on the PFES monitoring and evaluation policy support work CEP is conducting under the Component 4 activity “Support Development of Sustainable Financing Mechanisms.” The focus will be communities in three BCC provinces of Viet Nam where forest watershed protection is being conducted under the country’s hydropower PFES scheme.

**Subcomponent 3.3: Mitigation**

**Output 3.3: Low carbon strategies and NAMA technical capacity developed**

CEP mitigation activities aim to strengthen policy frameworks and awareness of NAMAs, and test low carbon interventions within the transport and energy sectors. Five contracts are being implemented, one has been completed and two cancelled relating to the two activities under Output 3.3 (see **Table 12**).

**Table 12: Mitigation Contracts**

Activity	Tasks/Contracts	Scope	Status (30June)
<b>Output 3.3: Low carbon strategies and NAMA technical capacity developed</b>			

Strengthen policy frameworks and raise awareness in support of NAMAs	NAMA feasibility study for transport	Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam	Cancelled
Develop and test low carbon interventions for transport and energy sectors	Environmental policy analysis for freight sector (EOC specialist input)	Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam	Implementation
	SME financing study		Completed
	Technical advisory support for green freight national projects		Implementation
	Implementation of Green Freight project – Thailand	Thailand	Implementation
	Implementation of Green Freight project - Lao PDR and Viet Nam	Lao PDR, Viet Nam	Implementation
	Facilitation of green freight project in Lao PDR (LoA)	Lao PDR	Cancelled
	Facilitation of green freight project in Viet Nam (LoA)	Viet Nam	Implementation

### ***Activity 1: Strengthen Policy Frameworks and Raise Awareness in Support of NAMAs***

The procurement of a consulting firm to undertake this activity has been cancelled and EOC is currently re-scoping the activity. Instead of developing a NAMA program for the freight sector in three countries as originally planned, CEP will now focus on preparing NAMA readiness plans for Thailand and Viet Nam. The NAMA readiness plans will include policy and institutional context, a GHG emission baseline from the transport sector, potential opportunities for emissions reductions, sustainable development benefits of GHG emission reductions, NAMA objectives and activities, suggestions on a MRV system, and financing options.

### ***Activity 2: Strengthen technical capacity for mitigation monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems***

Due to procurement delays and funding uncertainties this activity has been cancelled.

### ***Activity 3: Develop and Test Low Carbon Interventions for Transport and Energy Sectors***

Implementation of the Green Freight Initiative started early in 2015 with the testing of fuel efficiency technologies and development of an eco-driver training curriculum in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Grutter Consulting is implementing this activity in Lao PDR and Cambodia and the Federation of Thai Industries in Thailand. A LOA was signed in March between ADB and the Ministry of Transport in Viet Nam to support implementation, while in Lao PDR a planned LOA was deemed unnecessary and instead will be replaced by an aide memoire with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, expected to be signed in September. Steering committees involving various government agencies have been established in Thailand and Viet Nam to coordinate government support for the initiative.

A study to identify financing models for the uptake of green freight technologies was completed and proposed an energy service company model as a potential financing solution.

## **Component 4: Institutions and Financing**

The overall aim of Component 4 is to improve institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management. The component has the following outputs: institutions strengthened, and financing leveraged.

Activities are structured under two subcomponents: Institutions and Financing.

## Progress Towards 2015 Annual Milestones

Component 4 has five activities and six annual milestones. Three milestones are on track to be achieved while three are behind schedule (Table 13).

The main deliverables for Component 4 during January to June 2015 included the following:

- (i) CEP engaged in the GMS Economic Cooperation Program (ECP) through participation in the 7th GMS Economic Corridors Forum.
- (ii) EMM4 was held on the theme of increasing investments in natural capital, and included four side-events (youth, business, TBLs, and a natural capital dialogue).
- (iii) WGE-AM 21 was held, followed by a joint knowledge event with the WGA on inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chains and a technical workshop on the institutional future of EOC.
- (iv) A LOA was signed with MOECAAF to establish an NSU in Myanmar
- (v) The CEP Midterm Review was conducted.
- (vi) An inception report for the institutional development strategy and EOC transition roadmap and process was produced.
- (vii) CEP organized or co-organized 29 events, involving more than 1,950 participants.
- (viii) The EMM4 Communications Plan was implemented.
- (ix) Two CEP National Communications Associates were recruited (Guangxi and Yunnan).
- (x) EOC co-published with ADB three awareness-raising briefs (EBA, Green Freight, SEA), a factsheet with ICIMOD (Myanmar's new ecotourism strategy) and a factsheet with CIFOR (PFES in Viet Nam), as well a natural capital report (currently being published). A total of 3,115 hard copies of CEP publications were disseminated in the GMS.
- (xi) The CEP twitter account was launched.
- (xii) The GMS Environment Update e-news product launched and three editions were produced.
- (xiii) Six editions of the GMS Monthly Environment Media Roundup were produced.
- (xiv) The CEP mailing list was created covering 700 program stakeholders.
- (xv) Fifty-six environment news items were uploaded onto the CEP website (24 CEP items and 32 ADB items) and 65 environment events listed (including 15 CEP event pages). Twenty publications were uploaded (16 ADB and 4 CEP).
- (xvi) CEP 2014 Annual Report was produced.
- (xvii) Two planning meetings were held and the inception report and work-plan produced for CEP support on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of Viet Nam's Payments for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) policy.
- (xviii) Field assessments for PFES support conducted in six provinces in Viet Nam.

**Table 13: Institutions and Financing**

Activity	2015 Milestone	Status (31 June)
<b>Sub-output 4.1 Institutions strengthened</b>		
Strengthen the role of WGE in promoting regional collaboration	Collaborative projects with other relevant sectors initiated	Implementation
Strengthen NSUs capacity for program implementation and sector coordination	Capacity of NSU staff to direct program activities strengthened	Behind schedule
Strengthen the role of EOC as a knowledge hub for environmental management	EOC role for capacity building and knowledge exchange strengthened	Implementation (Capacity Building) Implementation (Communications)

Sub-output 4.2 Financing / investment leveraged		
Support development of sustainable financing mechanisms	Awareness of the role and value of PES approach strengthened	Behind schedule
Develop investment projects and promote private sector partnerships	Concrete opportunities for private sector partnerships and investment identified	Behind schedule

## Achievements

**WGE continued its engagement with other sectors** through two important events. EMM4 resulted in high-level consensus to increase investments to protect and enhance natural capital to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in the subregion. A third joint knowledge event with the GMS Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) was held during WGE-AM21 to further collaboration between the two sectors and resulted in joint actions being identified for agricultural value chain interventions.

**NSUs increased their contribution to effective CEP implementation**, ensuring CEP activities are aligned with country priorities and key policy processes. New activities include support of the development of NESAP in Cambodia, a pollution control strategy in Lao PDR, and an environmental protection planning guideline in Viet Nam. The Viet Nam NSU has also been instrumental in facilitating a series of cross-sector national dialogues on investing in national capital.

**EOC continued to expand its regional knowledge services and stakeholder reach:**

- (i) CEP online knowledge services continue to attract greater stakeholder interest with monthly website page visits increasing 37% compared to 2014, and GMS country usage of the website up an average 20% per month.
- (ii) The new GMS Environment News e-news product has proved a popular resource, with over 800 opens on average for the initial three editions, and both opens and clicks on content links well above NGO industry standards.
- (iii) More than 10 development organizations partnered with EOC to produce a natural capital report.

## Technical Challenges

**Opportunities to influence the RIF at the strategic or macro level have proved challenging** due to the size and scale of the RIF, and the limitations of concrete entry points in the institutional set-up of the overall RIF design process. The most meaningful and realistic opportunities for CEP to leverage influence are likely to be at the design and implementation phase, particularly for ADB-supported projects, most of which have yet to secure funding or undertake detailed design. Due to the resources of CEP being unequal to the billions of dollars earmarked for hundreds of investments, CEP will have to find specific investments where most strategic value can be leveraged.

One approach may be to focus on geographic clusters where RIF investments are targeted and that will have bearing, directly and indirectly, on natural capital in the immediate and wider area. Special Economic Zones and sub-corridor segments are two such areas that are being studied for targeted CEP engagement in environmental assessment and planning support. Some of these areas are transboundary and nearby biodiversity landscapes and would potentially be suitable for the program. These opportunities are being sought through discussions with ADB country resident missions and sector working groups such as energy, urban, and agriculture.

**Much NSU potential is still to be realized:** while NSUs have been resourced in all GMS countries and are making contributions to CEP implementation, overall capacity needs strengthening and requires long-term support. Cross-sector coordination, project development, reporting, and work planning remain challenges in some countries. In response to a MTR recommendation in this regard,

CEP will relocate some EOC-based specialists to provide in-country support, advice, and mentoring to NSUs.

## Subcomponent 4.1: Institutions

### Output 4.1: Institutions strengthened

Activities under this subcomponent aim to strengthen GMS institutions with a focus on the WGE, N/PSUs and EOC. The status of the LOAs for N/PSUs and other contracts or EOC-led tasks for this subcomponent is shown in **Table 14**.

**Table 14: Institutional Contracts**

Activity	Tasks/Contracts	Scope	Status (30 June)
<b>Sub-output 4.1: Institutions strengthened</b>			
Strengthen the role of WGE in promoting regional collaboration	No specific contracts		
Strengthen NSUs to be capable of program implementation	Cambodia NSU (LOA)	Cambodia	Implementation
	PRC NSU, Guangxi PSU, Yunnan PSU (3 LOAs)	PRC	Implementation
	Lao PDR NSU (LOA)	Lao PDR	Implementation
	Myanmar NSU (LOA)	Myanmar	Implementation
	Myanmar Program Advisor	Myanmar	Implementation
	Thailand CEP coordinator	Thailand	Implementation
	Viet Nam NSU (LOA)	Viet Nam	Implementation
Build EOC as a knowledge hub on environment – capacity building	Institutional Development (EOC)	Regional	Implementation
Build EOC as a knowledge hub on environment –communications	CEP website content and communication support (EOC specialist input)	Regional	Implementation
	Knowledge management and national communications support	Cambodia, PRC, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam	Procurement (4) Implementation (2)

#### **Activity 1: Strengthen the Role of WGE in Promoting Regional Collaboration**

Two WGE meetings were successfully organized during the first half of the year: the 4th GMS Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM4) in January and the 21st Annual Meeting of the WGE (WGE-AM21) in June.

EMM4 was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 27–29 January and brought together more than 200 participants from the GMS countries, including government delegates, co-financing partners, and representatives from private sector, youth, the ADB, and international organizations. The aim was to solicit high-level consensus and support from GMS countries and stakeholders to scale up efforts to protect and enhance natural capital to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in the subregion. Four knowledge events preceded the formal EMM4 meeting, including a Biodiversity Landscapes Forum, a Natural Capital Business Forum, a Youth Environment Meeting, and a Natural Capital Dialogue. EMM4 concluded with the formal meeting of ministers and the holding of the first Environment Ministers' Retreat.

WGE-AM21 was held in Bangkok on 23 June and focused on strategizing the future direction for CEP implementation post-MTR. On 24 June, a third regional knowledge event was jointly organized with the WGA on the theme "Developing Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion." The event engaged agriculture and environment stakeholders to build understanding of, and identify opportunities for, multisector planning and management approaches for developing inclusive and sustainable agriculture value chains.

CEP continued to support the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF) process. Detailed planning of investments in priority economic corridor subsections is underway as the RIF implementation plan is operationalized. CEP provided hands-on training to provincial stakeholders to apply SMCA for the Svey Rieng-Anh Thinh sub-corridor in Cambodia.

At the 7th GMS Economic Corridors Forum in June 2015, support for innovative approaches to sub-corridor concept planning (spatial planning) and advisory support on the design and maintenance of related databases and knowledge portals were presented. Both areas have been identified by the MTR as priorities for CEP. Awareness-raising materials were distributed to showcase CEP's transport-related work.

Updates on RIF environment projects were provided for the First Progress Report of the RIF Implementation Plan, which will be presented at the 20th GMS Ministerial Conference in September 2015. CEP also provided inputs to the formulation of the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework.

### ***Activity 2: Establish NSUs Capable of Program Implementation and Sector Coordination***

A LOA was signed with MOECAAF in January to establish an NSU in Myanmar. National Communications Associates to support NSU teams were hired in Yunnan and Guangxi provinces (PRC). Training on CEP's administrative procedures was provided to the Cambodia NSU in May. NSU representatives participated in a CEP regional annual reporting and MTR findings workshop held in March. NSUs produced country CEP progress reports that were integrated into the CEP 2014 Annual Progress Report.

### ***Activity 3: Strengthen the Role of EOC as a Knowledge Hub for Environmental Management***

#### ***EOC Staffing and Administration***

Cumulatively in CEP Phase II, as of end-June, ADB had engaged 10 consulting firms and 69 individual consultants, as well as signed 10 LOAs with government partners in support of CEP. Of these, 35 individual contracts were completed by end June 2015. Following the MTR, an assessment of all CEP planned activities against the available resources and remaining implementation period resulted in the cancelation of six consulting firm packages and five individual consultant selection processes. With the termination of the co-financing agreement with the Government of Finland in December 2015, an updated procurement plan will be prepared to reflect the revised consolidated CEP work plan and budget for the remainder of the 2015–2016 period.

The MTR was conducted as planned during March through to May and major findings were presented at WGE-AM21. Reporting requirements for the first six months were met with the 2014 Annual Progress Report produced at the end of March.

#### ***CEP Capacity Building***

In March, an Institutional Development Specialist was recruited to prepare an institutional development strategy and EOC transition roadmap and process in consultation with GMS countries and development partners.

The project inception report was completed in April and consultations with several countries and development partners took place prior to the WGE-AM21 in June. A workshop dedicated to the institutional development initiative was held adjacent with the annual meeting. GMS country representatives and development partners provided input on related issues, including lessons from the implementation of the CEP, potential core and program functions for a regional institution, and how best to advance the process.

An important outcome of the workshop was consensus that a GMS country-led task force should be established. Establishing the task force and refining options and a transition guide are priorities in the lead up to the next WGE meeting in November.

During January–June, CEP organized or co-organized 29 events, involving nearly 1,970 participants. These events included workshops, trainings, conferences, study tours, and planning meetings. There were 13 regional events and 16 national events. CEP representatives participated at one GMS Program event and 18 external events. See **Appendix 3** for the full listing.

### ***CEP Communications***

January saw the implementation of the EMM4 Communications Plan that ensured outreach opportunities were maximized for this flagship CEP event. Three awareness-raising briefs and a report on natural capital were developed for EMM4 in partnership with ADB staff, the WGE, and an array of regional organizations. The briefs were subsequently published through ADB while the natural capital report is being prepared for publishing.

The EOC communications team was also responsible for arranging the Youth Environment Meeting. This EMM4 side event established new CEP partnerships with international organizations working on youth issues such as CARE, and with rural and urban youth representatives from the six countries. The meeting identified opportunities to give youth a greater role in GMS cooperation on environment. The team also organized a successful ‘marketplace’ for participating organizations and governments to share knowledge products.

In time for EMM4, a systematic and integrated approach to disseminate CEP knowledge services online was developed. A “GMS Environment” Twitter account was initiated, a GMS environment e-news product launched, and a consolidated mailing list of CEP stakeholders was created. These have been integrated with CEP’s existing platforms and dissemination channels, including the CEP website, GMS Monthly Environment Media Roundup product, and existing partner distribution channels and networks.

By end June, three issues of the GMS Environment News were produced as well as six issues of the GMS Environment Media Monthly Roundup. These products, along with extensive new content on the CEP website and the improved dissemination system, contributed to the program being on track to exceed its annual target of increased stakeholder usage. Monthly page views are up 37% from 2014, well above the 20% increase target. GMS country usage of the CEP website also continues to rise. Further detail on CEP website statistics is in **Appendix 5**.

CEP continued to progress, albeit behind schedule, with establishing national communications capacity in the GMS countries. National Communications Associates began work in Yunnan (January) and Guangxi (June). These consultants have developed work plans and a range of initiatives to build the profile of CEP in-country, and contribute to national and regional knowledge generation and sharing.

MTR feedback on CEP’s communications was largely positive. Some of the broader MTR recommendations and visioning work on the future of the EOC institution are likely to have significant implications for the communications program. This includes increasing resources and emphasis on

developing EOC and NSUs as data, information, and knowledge hubs and strengthening the role of the communications program in leading this growth.

## **Subcomponent 4.2: Financing**

### ***Output 4.2: Finance leveraged***

Financing activities aim to leverage additional investments in natural capital from public and private sources. All activities except the first are in various stage of implementation, as shown in **Table 15**.

**Table 15: Financing Contracts**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Tasks/Contracts</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Status (30 June)</b>
<b>Sub-output 4.2: Finance leveraged</b>			
Support development of sustainable financing mechanisms	Support the transparent, effective and efficient implementation of PFES	Viet Nam	Implementation

### ***Activity 1: Support Development of Sustainable Financing Mechanisms***

#### **Payments for ecosystem services (PES)**

This activity aims to support the transparent, effective, and efficient implementation of Viet Nam’s Payments for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) policy by improving its M&E system. CEP efforts focus on developing an official M&E policy and framework. Progress during January–June included:

- (i) Two consultation meetings were held with the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development and other stakeholders to agree on the methodology and approach for reviewing the PFES scheme’s current M&E practices.
- (ii) An inception report including a detailed work plan was prepared.

Field assessments were conducted in six provinces to inform the development of the M&E policy and framework, with drafting of these documents expected to begin within the next month.

Once the M&E policy and framework are officially approved by the Ministry, CEP will pilot the M&E framework in BCC sites as part of the re-scoped CEP climate change activity “Strengthen Capacity for Forest Carbon Monitoring,” as reported on under Component 3.

#### **Business Sector Partnerships**

A Natural Capital Business Forum was held as an EMM4 side-event in collaboration with an array of businesses. These included: the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Federation of Thai Industries, Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development, General Electric, Global Mechanism, and Trucost. The forum theme was “Investing in Natural Capital: Public Private Cooperation for Future Prosperity in the GMS.” Three parallel sessions at the Forum were held to explore instruments for natural capital investments, triggering investments via value chains, and green freight. Business representatives also engaged the joint knowledge event held during the WGE-AM21 co-organized with CASP.

The Green Freight Initiative leads CEP efforts to engage with business. As reported under Component 3, there are 23 companies involved in implementation, and four business associations are key partners. These are the GMS Business Forum, Lao International Freight Forwarders Association, Federation of Thai Industries, and the Viet Nam Automobile Transport Association.

### 3. Critical Issues

Informed by MTR recommendations, CEP continues to strengthen its planning, monitoring, administrative, and financial systems to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of program delivery.

CEP implementation has been constrained in part by procurement modalities. The use of individual contracting enabled flexibility but came at a significant cost in terms of administrative workload and overheads. Post-MTR adjustments to the work plan and re-scoping of activities resulted in many additional contract variations. ADB is recommending that a consulting firm be engaged to manage EOC operations, which is expected to increase implementation efficiency.

Benefits of this new arrangement are expected to be:

- (i) A reduction of approximately 40 contracts directly managed by ADB, including the regular variations required for each contract.
- (ii) Simplified disbursement of CEP funding for field-based activities through the consulting firm managing EOC operations.

In order to further streamline EOC's contract management system and ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangement, a program management specialist was hired to

- (i) resolve any outstanding contractual issues;
- (ii) analyze the CEP financial status as expected end-2015, when the Government of Finland co-financing agreement ends, and create a CEP work plan through to end-2016 based on expected funding;
- (iii) further strengthen EOC's administrative and financial management and monitoring systems; and
- (iv) rationalize the EOC structure and conduct preparations for transitioning EOC operations to a firm.

Following expiration of the Technical Program Head contract, direct responsibilities have been entrusted to the Deputy Technical Program Head as well as to component leads in EOC. Some EOC team members will be increasingly based in-country to assume oversight of project implementation.

### 4. Financial Resources

Of the \$29.317 million<sup>3</sup> funds committed to CEP, \$19.418 million had been received by ADB as of 30 June 2015. However due to the delayed transfer of funds and termination of the co-financing agreement with the Government of Finland, as well as changes in currency values, co-financing contributions are currently estimated at \$23.72 million. Approximately \$4.3 million (19%) remains to be received from co-financiers. Details are provided in **Table 16**.

Of the \$19.418 million received, contracts awarded account for \$16.540 million (85%), of which \$8.398 million has been disbursed. The disbursement ratio against contracts awarded is 51% while disbursement against funds received is 43%. Disbursements have gained momentum as activities across the four components were completed and additional consulting firms and individual consultants were mobilized.

**Table 16: Status of Cofinancing Contributions (as of 30 June 2015)**

	Total Commitment	Funds Received by ADB			
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<sup>3</sup> Based on the exchange rates at the time of co-financing agreements.

Financing Partners	Original Currency	US\$ Equivalent	Original Currency	Actual US\$ Equivalent	Date	Funds Receivable (\$)	Total Contracts Awarded (\$) <sup>4</sup>	Cumulative Disbursement (\$) <sup>5</sup>
Finland <sup>6</sup>	EUR 10,000,000	14,000,000	EUR 1,400,000	1,797,600	12 Oct 2012	0	3,334,007	1,711,631
Finland			EUR 6,026,000	6,753,338	18 Jun 2015			
Sweden	SEK 55,000,000	8,300,000	SEK 7,200,000	1,067,442	14 Dec 2012	3,736,675	6,818,484	3,950,794
Sweden			SEK 11,067,014.44	1,673,000	16 May 2014			
Sweden			SEK 8,100,000	1,070,547	05 Dec 2014			
Sweden			SEK 6,420,000	752,336	03 Jun 2015			
NDF	EUR 4,000,000	5,300,000	EUR 4,000,000	5,150,000	31 May 2013	0	4,754,858	2,119,492
GEF	US\$ 917,431	917,431	US\$ 353,803	353,803		563,628	419,696	151,426
TASF	US\$ 800,000	800,000	US\$ 800,000	800,000	01 Mar 2012	0	734,521	464,939
Unclassified pending fund allocations							478,295	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>29,317,431</b>		<b>19,418,066</b>		<b>4,300,303</b>	<b>16,539,860</b>	<b>8,398,282</b>

The balance of \$10,309,363 remains in the ADB account (Table 17).

**Table 17: RETA 7987 - Commitment Balance as of 30 June 2015**

Contributions received	\$19,418,067
Less Disbursement:	
Cumulative Expenditure Liquidated	(\$8,398,282)
Outstanding Advance	(\$710,421)
<b>Balance of funds</b>	<b>\$10,309,363</b>

A breakdown is provided of cumulative liquidated disbursement (\$8.398 million) as of 30 June 2015 by CEP components (Table 17a) and TA categories (Table 17b).

Actual expenditure liquidated is \$8.398 million as of 30 June 2015. It should also be noted that liquidated disbursement is a conservative indicator of financial progress and always lags behind

<sup>4</sup> Because of the delayed transfer of funds by the Government of Finland, a reallocation of the contracts awarded for 2014 to end June 2015 will be undertaken to correctly represent the respective shares of the financing partners. The late replenishment of funds has necessitated the utilization of funds from the Government of Sweden and NDF to ensure that there will be no significant negative impacts on the implementation of work plan activities across the four CEP components. The reallocation exercise will not affect the cumulative total as reflected in the table.

<sup>5</sup> Similarly, disbursements against each funding source will be adjusted but will not change the total disbursement as of end June 2015.

<sup>6</sup> The CEP co-financing agreement between the Government of Finland and ADB will end on 30 December 2015. Thus, the Government of Finland's actual committed amount totals \$8.55 million, which is 61% of the EUR 10 million (approximately \$14 million at the time of TA grant approval in 2012).

actual disbursement (i.e. liquidated and outstanding advance). An additional \$710,421 is the outstanding advance, which when fully liquidated will increase total disbursement to \$9.108 million, which represents 31% of the total budget (\$29.387 million).

Importantly, although financial progress is slow in terms of disbursement, the program is on track with respect to committed funds,<sup>7</sup> which total \$16.540 million or 56% of the \$29.317 million total donors' commitment (Table 19). This total commitment represents 85% of received funds.

Disbursement for 2015 is conservatively estimated to be \$5.5 million. It will be particularly important to disburse this amount during 2015 because the financing agreement between ADB and the Government of Finland ends in December of that year. Finland has already indicated it is unwilling to consider a one-year no cost extension to the end of 2016 due to its shifting development priorities. Thus CEP will inevitably experience a severe cut in its budget, as it will not be possible to disburse all of Finland's contribution by the end of 2015. This will need to be taken into account during work planning through to the end of 2016.

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<sup>7</sup> Committed funds are funds allocated for EOC operations, as well as active contracts (EOC-based consultants, short term individual consultants, LOAs, and firms).

**Table 17a: RETA 7987 – Disbursements by Sub-Component at 30 June 2015**

Activity Code	Activity Description	Cumulative Disbursements by Sub-Component					
		1100	1200	1300	1400	1600	Total
<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Environmental Monitoring, Planning and Safeguards</b>	<b>2,360,733.63</b>	<b>1,591.54</b>	<b>391,042.80</b>	<b>42,539.71</b>	<b>215,659.95</b>	<b>3,011,567.62</b>
110	1.1 Strategic planning	1,206,104.15	873.77	210,661.37	23,354.79	118,399.79	1,559,393.87
120	1.2 Safeguards strengthening	396,778.77	249.66	73,154.79	6,673.11	33,830.10	510,686.44
130	1.3 Monitoring	757,850.70	468.10	107,226.63	12,511.81	63,430.05	941,487.30
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Biodiversity Landscapes and Livelihoods</b>	<b>990,702.01</b>	<b>919.07</b>	<b>210,527.53</b>	<b>24,565.54</b>	<b>124,537.83</b>	<b>1,351,251.98</b>
210	2.1 Transboundary landscape management	547,682.28	545.71	125,002.93	14,586.05	73,945.64	761,762.60
220	2.2 Value chain development	443,019.74	373.36	85,524.61	9,979.49	50,592.19	589,489.39
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>1,157,046.57</b>	<b>1,490.66</b>	<b>341,459.03</b>	<b>39,843.37</b>	<b>201,990.52</b>	<b>1,741,830.14</b>
310	3.1 Adaptation	520,184.61	647.47	148,312.86	17,305.98	87,734.66	774,185.58
320	3.2 REDD	176,708.26	240.90	55,181.26	6,438.86	32,642.54	271,211.82
330	3.3 Mitigation	460,153.70	602.29	137,964.90	16,098.52	81,613.31	696,432.74
<b>Component 4</b>	<b>Institutions and Financing</b>	<b>1,441,545.71</b>	<b>54,813.51</b>	<b>474,754.65</b>	<b>44,917.39</b>	<b>277,601.25</b>	<b>2,293,632.50</b>
411	4.1 Institutions strengthened - WGE	154,934.89	192.89	44,184.50	5,155.70	26,137.40	230,605.38
412	4.2 Institutions strengthened - NSU	543,743.69	53,997.41	260,696.71	23,104.15	166,369.13	1,047,911.10
413	4.3 Institutions strengthened - EOC capacity support	223,328.35	148.37	61,104.71	3,965.79	20,752.45	309,299.67
414	4.4 Institutions strengthened - EOC Strategic communications	382,246.34	356.10	81,570.66	9,518.13	48,253.23	521,944.46
420	4.2 Finance / investment leveraged & Institutions strengthened	137,292.43	118.73	27,198.06	3,173.62	16,089.04	183,871.89
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,950,027.92</b>	<b>58,814.77</b>	<b>1,417,784.00</b>	<b>151,866.01</b>	<b>819,789.54</b>	<b>8,398,282.24</b>

**Table 17b: RETA 7987 - Disbursements by Source of Funds at 30 June 2015**

Activity Code	Activity Description	02 ADB TASF	24 FINLAND	34 SWEDEN	75 NDF <sup>1/</sup>	GEF-5F	ALL SOURCES
<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Environmental Monitoring, Planning and Safeguards</b>	<b>146,140.07</b>	<b>692,770.69</b>	<b>1,531,193.57</b>	<b>544,602.30</b>	<b>96,860.98</b>	<b>3,011,567.62</b>
110	1.1 Strategic planning	76,419.75	334,321.66	798,388.03	281,166.86	72,097.58	1,559,393.87
120	1.2 Safeguards strengthening	26,758.71	120,197.23	254,946.46	101,502.90	7,281.15	510,686.44
130	1.3 Monitoring	42,961.62	238,251.80	480,859.09	161,932.54	17,482.26	941,487.30
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Biodiversity Landscapes and Livelihoods</b>	<b>97,936.67</b>	<b>242,476.07</b>	<b>729,980.73</b>	<b>242,234.51</b>	<b>38,624.00</b>	<b>1,351,251.98</b>
210	2.1 Transboundary landscape management	46,698.50	144,094.45	413,934.68	139,119.62	17,915.35	761,762.60
220	2.2 Value chain development	51,238.17	98,381.62	316,046.05	103,114.89	20,708.65	589,489.39
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>67,146.26</b>	<b>295,666.82</b>	<b>463,986.45</b>	<b>913,638.03</b>	<b>1,392.59</b>	<b>1,741,830.14</b>
310	3.1 Adaptation	29,165.00	126,303.98	200,276.43	417,835.29	604.87	774,185.58
320	3.2 REDD <sup>2/</sup>	10,851.12	46,992.49	74,514.71	138,628.45	225.05	271,211.82
330	3.3 Mitigation	27,130.13	122,370.35	189,195.31	357,174.28	562.67	696,432.74
<b>Component 4</b>	<b>Institutions and Financing<sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>153,715.99</b>	<b>480,717.48</b>	<b>1,225,633.74</b>	<b>419,017.27</b>	<b>14,548.01</b>	<b>2,293,632.50</b>
411	4.1 Institutions strengthened - WGE	15,318.97	47,729.49	123,170.59	43,215.89	1,170.44	230,605.38
412	4.2 Institutions strengthened - NSU	68,633.41	182,308.44	580,267.10	207,624.74	9,077.40	1,047,911.10
413	4.3 Institutions strengthened - EOC capacity support	24,056.52	99,008.70	144,703.28	40,630.86	900.32	309,299.67
414	4.4 Institutions strengthened - EOC Strategic communications	34,187.31	121,433.08	271,395.99	92,248.71	2,679.37	521,944.46
420	4.2 Finance / investment leveraged & Institutions strengthened	11,519.79	30,237.78	106,096.77	35,297.07	720.49	183,871.89
	<b>Total</b>	<b>464,939.00</b>	<b>1,711,631.06</b>	<b>3,950,794.49</b>	<b>2,119,492.11</b>	<b>151,425.58</b>	<b>8,398,282.24</b>

1/ The amounts charged to NDF for a total of \$737,815.59 (Components 1, 2 & 3) will be reclassified in the next reporting period.

2/ The amount of \$19,763 charged to NDF will be reclassified in the next reporting period.

3/ Cross-cutting expenditures charged to NDF on pro rata basis, i. e. support staff costs, EOC operating expenses, etc.

## Appendix 1: Progress against CEP 2015 Work Plan

Progress and achievements measured against planned 2015 milestones and deliverables

Activity	Timeline	2015 milestones and deliverables	Indicative progress against 2015 milestones <sup>8</sup>
<b>OUTPUT 1 - PLANNING, SAFEGUARDS AND MONITORING</b>			
<b>Output 1.1 Subregional and national strategic planning capacity strengthened</b>			
Conduct economic assessment of natural capital and valuation of ecosystem services	2013–2016 (firm recruitment is cancelled)	<b>Economic value of natural capital and ecosystem services in the GMS established</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional and national maps on economic value of natural capital and ecosystem services available interactively online and in publications</li> </ul>	<b>Cancelled</b> <i>(Due to procurement delays and MTR recommendations, this activity and the firm procurement was cancelled, however some related progress on natural capital awareness raising was conducted and listed below)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four events under the theme 'increasing investments in natural capital' were organized as part of the Fourth GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting (EMM4) in late January.</li> <li>Knowledge product on "Investing in Natural Capital for a Sustainable Future in the GMS" was produced for EMM4.</li> <li>* Viet Nam workshop in May on the role of natural capital in meeting sustainable development goals supported.</li> </ul>
Support multisector/ area-based planning	2013–2016	<b>Planning systems for multi-sector / area-based plans strengthened</b>	<b>Behind schedule</b> <i>(Planned SEA capacity building support for provincial</i>

<sup>8</sup> Scale for measuring progress against milestones is as follows: Not achieved = no significant/meaningful progress towards milestone; Partly achieved = some significant/substantial/meaningful progress (<50% of milestone); Mostly achieved = most but not all targets met (>50% of milestone); Fully achieved = milestone(s) all met; Exceeded = achieved more than planned

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEA guidelines adopted and followed by concerned sector line agencies</li> <li>• Pilot planning support tools and procedures on three area-based plans</li> </ul>	<p><i>socioeconomic development planning (SEDP) in Viet Nam was re-scoped and will now focus on supporting official guidelines for ensuring environmental protection features in SEDP plans)</i></p> <p>* A contract with a firm to implement the multisector planning activity was signed in February and an inception report was submitted in May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An inception workshop was held in May, an inception report produced, and a training program developed for capacity building support for SEAs for provincial SEDP in Lao PDR</li> <li>• Software for a new land use change model built and related training program developed.</li> </ul>
Support sector planning	2013–2016	<p><b>Planning systems for sector plans strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot planning support tools and procedures on two energy / power development plans</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-scoped</b></p> <p><i>(Due to funding uncertainties, the planned work program and main procurement package for the integrated energy planning activity was cancelled. It is being re-scoped to provide technical support for a new ADB technical assistance 'Integrated Resource Planning with Strategic Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Power Development in the GMS')</i></p> <p>* A SEA report for Viet Nam's revised Power Development Plan VII was finalized by the Institute of Energy following CEP support on impact valuation methodologies.</p>
Support formulation of National Environment Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) in Cambodia	2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A concept note for CEP support for Cambodia's NESAP was drafted.</li> <li>• Recruitment for three consultants to support NESAP development was initiated.</li> </ul>	<p><b>This is a new activity</b></p>

<b>Output 1.2 Safeguards strengthening</b>			
Strengthen country environmental safeguard systems	2013–2016	<p><b>Capacity for application of safeguard systems strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support for application of safeguards practice in at least three countries</li> <li>• One regional exchange event on safeguards good practice delivered</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A safeguards strengthening action plan was completed and priority EIA training activities identified (Cambodia).</li> <li>• A ministerial consultation workshop was held, and the EIA Procedure submitted for Parliamentary approval (Myanmar).</li> <li>• Public consultations held, and environmental quality (emissions) guidelines adopted (Myanmar).</li> <li>• Preparation of ambient water quality guidelines commenced (Myanmar)</li> </ul>
Strengthen safeguards application in ADB-funded GMS projects	2013–2016	<p><b>Safeguard application for ADB-funded projects supported</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support provided for safeguards application in ADB projects in at least one additional GMS country</li> <li>• Country programming supported in at least one additional GMS country</li> <li>• Technical contribution to at least one guideline on safeguards good practice</li> <li>• At least 150 practitioners trained</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inputs provided for the design of a new ADB capacity development technical assistance for safeguards strengthening (Myanmar).</li> <li>• Prepared Policies and Institutions content for the Environmental Sustainability section of ADB's 2015 Country Performance Assessment report (Myanmar).</li> <li>• Provided inputs to ADB Strengthening and Use of Country Safeguard System in Myanmar technical assistance completion report.</li> <li>• Consultation meetings with ADB and USEPA on potential safeguard related support to the development of the Environment Code (Cambodia).</li> </ul>
<b>Output 1.3 Environmental monitoring processes strengthened</b>			

Establish a GMS Environmental Information System	2013–2016	<p><b>Online GMS Environment Portal recognized as a key resource center for development practitioners in the GMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Indicator portal receives at least 200 hits per month</li> <li>•Map portal receives at least 200 hits per month</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myanmar online Environment Portal launched at EMM4.</li> <li>• National online environment portal website template designed and programmed.</li> <li>• Website hosting and design firm procured.</li> </ul>
Strengthen subregional and national environmental monitoring database	2013–2016	<p><b>National government agencies and ADB planning and environmental performance reporting documents supported by GMS Environment Portal data.</b></p> <p>Specialist support for pilot application of environmental performance assessment in Xishuangbanna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•At least ten plans and publications make use of GMS Environment Portal data</li> <li>•At least three geographic layers of regional importance developed in-house</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37 national and regional indicators updated and road network and railways GIS layers added on GMS Statistics and Maps portals.</li> <li>• Interim results report produced from the application of the Industrial Pollution Projection System in Lao PDR and a pollution expert recruited to analyze results and produce policy recommendations.</li> <li>• Draft EPA report for Xishuangbanna Prefecture (Yunnan) produced.</li> </ul>
Develop and implement a monitoring strategy for TBLs	2013–2016	<p><b>Landscape and site level information maintained and used by stakeholders (government, NGOs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Village surveys data recorded in GMS Environment Portal and readily accessible</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cancelled</b></p> <p><i>(Due to procurement delays, the plan to engage a firm to develop and implement a monitoring strategy for TBLs has been cancelled and the activity is being re-scoped. Following MTR recommendations, CEP cancelled plans to conduct site level monitoring, however the landscape level monitoring will be retained under the biodiversity landscapes assessment under component 2)</i></p>

<b>OUTPUT 2 - BIODIVERSITY LANDSCAPES AND LIVELIHOODS</b>			
<b>Output 2.1 Transboundary biodiversity landscape monitoring and management strengthened</b>			
Conduct biodiversity landscapes assessment to inform management strategy	Jan 2014– Dec 2016	<p><b>Biodiversity profile and monitoring database completed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Biodiversity profiles for at least three landscapes available through GMS Environment Portal and other platforms</li> <li>•Biodiversity profiles updated for at least three GMS TBLs</li> <li>•Draft biodiversity landscape strategy and management plan (regional and landscape levels) prepared</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-scoped</b></p> <p><i>(Following difficulties procuring a suitably qualified firm, this activity is now being re-scoped based on MTR recommendations. Biodiversity assessments will be conducted for two TBLs and the work undertaken by individual consultants).</i></p>
Strengthen management of transboundary biodiversity landscapes and corridors	Mar 2014– Dec 2016	<p><b>Management and connectivity of high priority areas within TBLs strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•TBL management guidelines developed for and applied in at least three landscapes</li> <li>•Guidelines to apply climate-smart conservation strategies developed</li> <li>•MoU to improve management of high priority areas within at least three TBLs signed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behind schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A biodiversity landscapes forum was held during EMM4 and 3-year action plan for regional collaboration on TBLs was drafted.</li> <li>• A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Guangxi (PRC) and Cao Bang (Viet Nam) was signed in May to strengthen collaboration for managing the Sino-Viet Nam Karst landscape.</li> <li>• A MOU between Yunnan (PRC) and Luang Namtha (Lao PDR) for collaboration in the Mekong Headwaters landscape was drafted.</li> </ul>
Develop and test community based conservation options	Mar 2014– Dec 2016	<p><b>Community based conservation practices improved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Guidelines for ecosystem restoration in</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behind schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and socioeconomic surveys for biodiversity corridor areas in Cao Bang, Guangxi and Xishuangbanna</li> </ul>

		<p>place in three biodiversity corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Restoration / rehabilitation methodology tested and applied / expanded in at least three biodiversity corridors</li> <li>•Role of CDF as a financing mechanism to promote biodiversity conservation demonstrated in at least three biodiversity corridors</li> </ul>	<p>well advanced.</p> <p>Community-based ecosystem restoration activities conducted in Cao Bang, Yunnan, and Guangxi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Development Fund management plans and guidelines developed in Cao Bang, Guangxi, and Yunnan.</li> </ul> <p>\$30,000 funding provided to corridor villages in Xishuangbanna and Deqin for livelihood development support.</p> <p>Biodiversity corridor management rules for the Nabanhe-Mangao corridor in Xishuangbanna drafted.</p> <p>Impact assessments completed for CEP integrated conservation and livelihood activities in Cao Bang, Guangxi, and Yunnan.</p> <p>Inception report and work plan for establishing biodiversity corridors in Thailand's Eastern Forest Complex produced.</p>
<b>Output 2.2 Value chain development</b>			
Identify ecosystem-based livelihood options	Nov 2013– Mar 2014	<p><b>Capacity of GMS stakeholders to identify and implement cost-effective green value chain development improved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity gaps for implementation of green value chains analysed</li> <li>• Capacity of national and provincial government stakeholders / actors for value chain implementation strengthened</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behind schedule</b></p> <p><i>(Following MTR recommendations, CEP cancelled plans to demonstrate the commercial viability of select agroforestry products in biodiversity corridors in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situational analyses of agroforestry products were in biodiversity corridor areas in Lao PDR and Yunnan (PRC) were completed.</li> </ul> <p>* A consultation workshop to share and discuss situational</p>

			<p>analysis findings was held in Xishuangbanna in March.</p> <p>The assessment of the eco-tourism potential of 12 protected areas in Myanmar was completed and the final report submitted as a key input into the new Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy.</p> <p>An awareness-raising flyer on Myanmar's new ecotourism strategy was produced by ICIMOD with CEP support.</p> <p>CEP supported the "International Conference on Ecotourism Policy and Practice: Strengthening Livelihoods, Conservation and Adaptation" held in May in Myanmar to launch the new ecotourism strategy.</p> <p>A knowledge product on the ecotourism potential of protected areas in Myanmar drafted by ICIMOD with CEP support.</p>
Develop and test ecosystem-based livelihood options	Apr 2014– Sept 2016	<p><b>Livelihoods development interventions successfully piloted</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green value chain interventions piloted in at least three biodiversity corridors</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cancelled</b></p> <p>This activity is not initiated yet</p>
<b>OUTPUT 3 - CLIMATE CHANGE</b>			
<b>Output 3.1 Climate change risk mitigation and disaster preparedness capacity developed</b>			
Strengthen capacity to use climate change data and information for planning	2013–2015	<p><b>Improved online access to a regional knowledge base on climate change adaptation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•An online technical support system established, and up-to-date climate risk analytical tools, guidelines and knowledge products developed</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track</b></p> <p>'The sixth and seventh roundtable discussions on climate change adaptation in the GMS were held in April and June.</p> <p>A knowledge brief on Ecosystem Based Adaptation in the GMS was produced for EMM4 and subsequently published through ADB.</p>

			<p>Regional inception meeting for the “Strengthening Capacity to Use Climate Change Data and Information for Planning” activity was held in March and inception report finalized.</p> <p>Initial discussions held with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to identify collaborative opportunities for knowledge sharing on adaptation planning under the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme.</p>
Strengthen capacity for risk assessments and identification of adaptation interventions	2013–2015	<p><b>Capacity of GMS institutions and practitioners for assessment of climate vulnerability and identification of adaptation options strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cost-effective adaptation options, including ecosystem based adaptation and EbA, identified through participatory process for at least 30 communities in BCC sites</li> <li>•At least two existing and pipeline environmental and development investments incorporate adaptation interventions</li> <li>•Guidelines developed to integrate climate smart conservation in landscape management</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-scoped</b></p> <p><i>(Following MTR recommendations, CEP cancelled plans to conduct climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessments in BCC sites in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam)</i></p> <p>Climate risk financing assessments was completed in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam BCC sites and the final report submitted.</p> <p>A knowledge product based on the risk assessment was drafted.</p> <p>Recommendations from the assessment have been integrated into Commune Development Fund guidelines in BCC sites in Viet Nam.</p> <p>Discussions held with UNEP’s World Conservation Monitoring Center to identify collaborative opportunities to apply EBA in Mekong Headwaters and Sino-Viet Nam Karst.</p>

Develop and test cost-effective adaptation options	2014–2016	<p><b>Opportunities for pilot interventions identified</b></p> <p><b>Cost-effective local level adaptation options piloted</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Climate change coping strategies identified for at least 50 community groups, with at least 35% women beneficiaries</li> <li>•Where applicable, CDF and community conservation agreements serve as instruments to implement climate change adaptation interventions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cancelled</b></p> <p><i>(Based on MTR recommendations, plans to support local level adaptation interventions have been cancelled.)</i></p>
<b>Output 3.2 National SFM to enhance carbon stocks and REDD+ readiness improved</b>			
Strengthen national REDD+ strategic planning and policy instruments	Mar 2014– Aug 2015	<p><b>Activity still to be scoped</b></p> <p>Deliverables to be determined</p>	<p><b>Re-scoped</b></p> <p><i>(This activity is being re-scoped based on MTR recommendations).</i></p> <p>EOC participated in Thailand's Forest Investment Program Expression of Interest (EOI) consultation workshop in February</p>

Strengthen capacity for forest carbon monitoring and develop and develop and test REDD+ systems with equitable and inclusive benefit sharing	Sep 2013– Dec 2014	<p><b>Capacity to monitor forest carbon stocks improved and role of community development funds in REDD+ benefit sharing evaluated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•PFM/PCM tested in at least 30 communities in biodiversity corridors</li> <li>•Demonstrated improvement in capacity to apply PFM/PCM methods in at least 30 communities</li> <li>•Evaluation of CDF and community conservation agreements as potential REDD+ BDS in at least two countries</li> <li>•Equitable and inclusive BDS piloted in at least ten communities in biodiversity corridors</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-scoped</b></p> <p><i>(Based on MTR recommendations, future support for REDD+ capacity building will be re-scoped. In Lao PDR, the emphasis will be on strengthening REDD+ policy, while in Viet Nam, support will strengthen local forest monitoring in the context of the country's PFES scheme).</i></p> <p>The revised Interim Report for the "Capacity Building for REDD+ Readiness" activity for Lao PDR was submitted.</p> <p>A training course on participatory forest management was delivered for communities in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR.</p> <p>A field assessment of village organization capacity to disburse REDD+ funds was completed in Attapeu Province in Lao PDR.</p> <p>Contract signed with WWF in May 2015 for implementation of "Capacity Building for REDD+ Readiness in Viet Nam"</p>
<b>Output 3.3 Low carbon strategies and NAMA technical capacity developed</b>			
Strengthen policy frameworks and raise awareness in support of NAMAs	Jan 2014– Jan 2015	<p><b>Sector climate change mitigation actions formulated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•NAMA feasibility for one sector / sub-sector identified for two countries</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-scoped</b></p> <p><i>Considering uncertainty of availability of fund, delayed procurement and availability of limited amount of time to deliver meaningful result, this activity is downscaled</i></p>
Strengthen technical capacity for mitigation MRV systems	Jan 2014– Jan 2015	<p><b>Capacity of GMS institutions to monitor GHG emissions for low carbon actions (e.g. NAMAs) improved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•At least 30 GMS officials trained in scenario development and GHG inventory tools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cancelled</b></p> <p><i>(Due to procurement delays and funding uncertainties this activity has been cancelled.)</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MRV system in support of NAMAs designed for sector / sub-sector development plan / investment in at least two GMS countries</li> </ul>	
Develop and test low carbon interventions for transport and energy sectors	Sep 2013– Dec 2015	<p><b>Benefits of carbon / green freight interventions demonstrated, and financing mechanism successfully piloted</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Fuel consumption of at least 300 trucks reduced by 10%</li> <li>•Financing leveraged for green freight interventions in at least six companies</li> <li>•Investment plan prepared for low carbon / green freight in at least two countries</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track</b></p> <p>Contracting completed and Green Freight Initiative commenced in Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Thailand; Inception completed in Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam Launch event held in Viet Nam and Thailand</p> <p>A Letter of Agreement was signed in March between ADB and the Ministry of Transport in Viet Nam to support implementation of the Green Freight Initiative.</p> <p>Project implementation and coordination mechanism established with formation of steering committees in Thailand and Viet Nam.</p> <p>The testing of fuel-efficient technologies and the development of an eco-driver curriculum began in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.</p> <p>A study to identify financing models for the uptake of green freight technologies was completed.</p>
<b>OUTPUT 4 - INSTITUTIONS AND FINANCING</b>			
<b>Output 4.1 Institutions strengthened</b>			
Strengthen WGE's role in promoting regional collaboration	2013–2015	<p><b>Collaborative projects with other relevant sectors initiated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Increased integration of WGE into GMS sector group meetings compared to 2014</li> <li>•At least two projects initiated with other</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track</b></p> <p>CEP participated in the 7th GMS Economic Corridors Forum, raising awareness about spatial planning tools and data and information portals.</p> <p>Environment inputs provided to support the formulation of</p>

		<p>sector groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Future direction for CEP supported by Environment Ministers</li> </ul>	<p>the GMS Urban Development Strategic Framework.</p> <p>EMM4 was held on the theme of increasing investments in natural capital, and included four side-events (youth, business, TBLs, and a natural capital dialogue). The Joint Ministerial Statement endorsed at EMM4 recognized the importance of, and supported efforts to, increase investments in natural capital in the GMS.</p> <p>WGE-AM 21 was held, followed by a joint knowledge event with the WGA on inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chains and a technical workshop on the institutional future of EOC.</p>
Strengthen NSU capabilities in program implementation and sector coordination	2013–2014	<p><b>Capacity of NSU staff to direct program activities strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•NSU staff trained in technical aspects of program implementation at regional and national levels</li> <li>•NSU staff engaging in procurement and recruitment for CEP activities</li> <li>•NSU staff leading field missions for CEP activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behind schedule</b></p> <p>A Letter of Agreement was signed with MOECAAF in January to operationalize the CEP National Support Unit in Myanmar.</p> <p>Financial and administrative training provided to the Cambodia NSU in May.</p> <p>Regional WGE/NSU annual reporting workshop held back-to-back with MTR briefing in March.</p> <p>Country 2014 progress reports produced by NSUs as input into CEP 2014 Annual Progress Report.</p> <p>Two communications associates recruited to support NSU communication efforts (Guangxi and Yunnan).</p>
Strengthen EOC's role as a knowledge hub for environmental management	2013–2015	<p><b>EOC role for capacity building and knowledge exchange strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Establish loose network of practitioners</li> </ul>	<p><b>On track (Capacity Building)</b> <b>On track (Communications)</b></p> <p>EMM4 organized with four side events on natural capital</p>

		<p>(with thematic areas) trained through CEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•At least one additional regional training and three additional regional knowledge events held</li> <li>•Future role of EOC in subregional environmental cooperation identified</li> <li>•COMMS: Website visitors increased by 20% over previous year</li> <li>•COMMS: At least 3 publications produced</li> <li>•COMMS: GMS Environment News e-news product launched and GMS Monthly Media Roundups produced</li> <li>•COMMS: CEP progress reports and updates produced</li> </ul>	<p>held focusing on youth, business, TBLS, and natural capital investments.</p> <p>CEP organized or co-organized 29 events, involving nearly 1,970 participants. These included 13 regional events and 16 national events. In addition, CEP representatives participated at one GMS Program event and 18 external events.</p> <p>Institutional Development Specialised recruited, the inception report produced, and process and plan discussed during the technical workshop as part of WGE AM-21.</p> <p>Six knowledge products produced. Three awareness-raising briefs and a natural capital report led by EOC were launched at EMM4 and the briefs subsequently co-published with ADB. A Viet Nam PFES factsheet co-published with CIFOR and also distributed at EMM4. A brief on Myanmar's new ecotourism strategy was published by ICIMOD with CEP support. A GMS Statistics and Maps Notebook was produced by EOC.</p> <p>Yunnan PSU based communications associate joined in January and a Guangxi associate at the end of June.</p> <p>CEP Twitter launched in January in time to promote EMM4. The account has reached sixty-eight followers, with 119 tweets since made.</p> <p>2014 CEP Annual Progress Report and one quarterly update were produced.</p> <p>56 news articles (24 CEP specific, 31 ADB, and 1 other) uploaded to CEP website. 63 events were added to the</p>
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			<p>online GMS Environment Event Calendar, with 16 CEP event pages created. Two new activity pages added, around 22 existing activity pages refined/updated during the period.</p> <p>6x GMS Monthly Media Roundups produced.</p> <p>First issue of GMS Environment Update E-news product was launched in March, and Issues 2 and 3 produced in April and June.</p>
<b>Output 4.2 Finance / investment leveraged</b>			
Support development of sustainable financing mechanisms	2014–2016	<p><b>Awareness of the role and value of PES approach strengthened</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PES enabling conditions defined and pilot undertaken in at least one additional GMS country</li> <li>•Capacity building for PES delivered to 30 stakeholders</li> <li>•Pilot PES lessons shared through at least two regional / national events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behind schedule</b></p> <p>Two planning meetings were held and the inception report and work plan produced for CEP support on monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) of Viet Nam's Payments for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) policy.</p> <p>Field assessments conducted in six provinces in Viet Nam.</p> <p>PFES in Viet Nam factsheet published by CIFOR with CEP support.</p>
Develop investment projects and promote private sector partnerships	2013–2017	<p><b>Concrete opportunities for private sector partnerships and investment identified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•At least one additional collaborative activity with a private sector partner initiated</li> <li>•Three investment frameworks prepared</li> <li>•Potential funding sources identified</li> </ul>	<p><b>Behind schedule</b></p> <p>A Natural Capital Business Forum held during EMM4 to discuss potential economic opportunities for businesses in regards to investing in natural capital. More than eight business partners presented.</p>

## Appendix 2: Summary of country progress

### Cambodia

Cambodia has made the following developments in the first half of 2015 under its environmental governance reform strategy:

- (i) **The restructuring of the Ministry of Environment (MoE)** was implemented in May through the adoption of Royal Sub-Decree;
- (ii) **The National Council of Sustainable Development (NCSD)** was established in May through the adoption of a Royal Decree to facilitate inter-ministerial political dialogue and decisions to achieve sustainable development.
- (iii) **A National Environmental Code** is being developed to provide overarching legal guidance and direction to achieve sustainable development. This includes specifying jurisdictions and mandates among ministries to ensure efficiency, and effectiveness in achieving the goal.
- (iv) **A National Environment Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP)** was initiated to provide a road map for identifying priority policy tools and financing options to sustainably protect and invest in natural resources and the environment.

#### CEP Activities in Cambodia in 2015

- Strengthen subregional and national strategic planning capacity (subcomponent 1.1)
- Strengthen country environmental safeguard systems (subcomponent 1.2)
- Strengthen country capacity in EIA preparation (subcomponent 1.2)
- Identify ecosystem-based livelihood options (subcomponent 2.2)
- Strengthen capacity for risk assessments and identification of adaptation interventions (subcomponent 3.1)
- Establish an NSU capable of effective program implementation and sector coordination (subcomponent 4.1)
- Support development of sustainable financing mechanisms (subcomponent 4.2)

### Core Environment Program Progress (January–June 2015)

During the last six months, CEP support has focused on assessing the current situation, needs, and priority actions to improve environmental policies in Cambodia. Highlights include:

- A country environmental safeguard-strengthening action plan was finalized and concept notes for CEP support developed. One concept is to train provincial officials in EIA report review and approval, and the other to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of EIA required environmental management plans with national EIA focal departments.
- A situational analysis for identifying potential agroforestry products for CEP support was conducted in Phnom Penh and Mondulkiri province;
- A concept note on enabling condition on PES implementation in Cambodia was drafted.

In addition, CEP has committed both technical and financial support to MoE in formulating its NESAP. Terms of References have been prepared for both international and national consultants to lead NESAP formulation and recruitment is currently underway. The NSU and EOC have also interacted with development partners and stakeholders who are supporting the formulation of the Environment Code in Cambodia for better coordination and to build synergies between these two policy processes.

### Challenges and Opportunities for CEP Implementation

The appointment of Mr. Sopheap Sao, advisor and chief of cabinet at MoE, as the Coordinator of Working Group of Environment (WGE) allows CEP direct access to the highest decision making body of the MoE. This provides CEP with an excellent opportunity to leverage influence with

decision makers in Cambodia. CEP support to NESAP will also introduce a new organizational approach to support GMS countries by bringing all aspects of CEP work together under the one package.

## People's Republic of China

### Context

The amended Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China (PRC) was enacted on 1 January. The amended law provides greater powers for environmental authorities and strengthened penalties for polluters. In the first half of 2015, a trial plan on compensation for damages to the ecological environment has been drafted. At the end of March, the Ministry of Environmental Protection reinitiated the utilization of natural resources, environmental damage, and ecological benefits into the socioeconomic development accounting system.

### Core Environment Program Progress from January to June 2015

In the first half of 2015, the Yunnan Environmental Protection Department (YEDP) carried out an investigation of the status of Asian elephants in border areas with Lao PDR. The YEPD also organized a mission to Luang Namtha and Luang Prabang provinces of Lao PDR and developed a cooperation framework between Yunnan Province and the two Lao provinces. In May, the Guangxi EPD, together with delegates from Cao Bang and Ha Noi, Viet Nam, exchanged experience and knowledge on the establishment of biodiversity corridors, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Guangxi and Cao Bang on transboundary landscape management.

The NSU and Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO) of MEP put considerable effort into integrating the priorities of MEP and the PRC Government with the implementation of CEP activities, focusing on improving cooperation among the GMS countries on biodiversity conservation and landscape management. Some highlight activities included:

- (i) A workshop was organized on the development of a biodiversity conservation action plan, and survey conducted for the development of a conservation plan for wild elephants in the Mekong Headwaters border area between Yunnan and Lao PDR.
- (ii) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for transboundary biodiversity conservation collaboration between PRC and Viet Nam was signed and a MOU between PRC and Lao PDR drafted.
- (iii) A regional knowledge-sharing event was organized on biodiversity corridor lessons.
- (iv) An array of capacity-building activities was carried out as part of project implementation.

### Challenges and Opportunities for CEP Implementation

Sustainable management of natural resources and mainstreaming natural resources in economic and sector planning are high priorities for PRC. Many development projects embedded in the One Belt and Road Initiative with significant geographical connections and economic implications for GMS countries will provide opportunities for CEP to help strengthen transboundary environmental cooperation between PRC and other GMS countries.

#### CEP Activities in PRC in 2015

- Strengthen transboundary biodiversity landscape monitoring and management (subcomponent 2.1)
- Identify ecosystem-based livelihood options (subcomponent 2.2)
- Establish NSUs capable of program implementation and sector coordination (subcomponent 4.1)

## Lao PDR

### Context

In early 2015, Government of Lao PDR released two Ministerial Instructions on Pollution Control and Hazardous Waste Management to implement the newly revised Environmental Protection Law. Preparation of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020) is underway. MONRE's 10-year Strategy on Natural Resources and Environment (2016-2025) and related 5-year Action Plan (2016-2020) are awaiting endorsement. MONRE is undertaking internal restructuring of departments and senior leadership.

### CEP Progress from January to June 2015

The LOA for Lao PDR has been extended through December 2016 to allow continuity of CEP activities in the country.

Some highlights from CEP implementation during the first half of 2015 included:

- (i) Industrial Pollution Project System modeling was completed for all provinces to estimate pollution loads from industrial sectors.
- (ii) Inception meetings were held with central and provincial governments on building capacity to apply strategic environmental assessment for Provincial Socioeconomic Development Plans.
- (iii) Fuel efficiency technology testing and eco-driver curriculum development was begun under the Green Freight Initiative.
- (iv) REDD+ capacity building for community and local government in three southern provinces of Lao PDR.

### CEP Activities in Lao PDR in 2015

- Strengthen subregional and national strategic planning capacity (Subcomponent 1.1)
- Strengthen environmental monitoring process (Subcomponent 1.3)
- Strengthen transboundary biodiversity landscape monitoring and management (Subcomponent 2.1)
- Identify ecosystem-based livelihood options (Subcomponent 2.2)
- Strengthen capacity for risk assessments and identification of adaptation interventions (Subcomponent 3.1)
- Improve national REDD+ readiness (subcomponent 3.2)
- Develop and test low carbon interventions for transport and energy sectors (Subcomponent 3.3)
- Establish an NSU capable of effective program implementation and sector coordination (Subcomponent 4.1)
- Support development of sustainable financing mechanisms (Subcomponent 4.2)

### Challenges and Opportunities for CEP Implementation

There were some delays in CEP activity implementation due to ongoing technical capacity challenges and financial obstacles.

# Myanmar

## Context

The Myanmar government continues to strengthen its policies, laws, and regulations for sustainably managing its natural resources. A National Environmental Management Framework and Action Plan is under preparation. The government is in the process of putting into place environmental regulatory requirements for project investments. The Myanmar Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy was launched in May to use ecotourism to strengthen the management of Myanmar's expanding protected area network.

## Core Environment Progress from January to June 2015

Since early 2013 CEP has been supporting MOECAF in developing a country environmental safeguard system. During this reporting period, additional technical inputs were provided to finalize EIA Procedure, including consultations with the development community, civil society, and government ministries. The Procedure is currently awaiting approval and issuance. Environmental Quality (Emission) Guidelines were also finalized, including a final stakeholder consultation. Following approval in December 2014 of an ADB \$1.3 million safeguard strengthening capacity development technical assistance, CEP supported recruitment of a consultant team. A Myanmar Environment Portal developed for MOECAF's Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) was launched in January.

In collaboration with Myanmar's Working Group on Tourism, CEP supported the development of the new Ecotourism Policy and Management Strategy. CEP led an assessment of 12 protected areas for their ecotourism potential, completed in the first quarter 2015.

A LOA to establish a NSU embedded within the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) of MOECAF was signed in January and an international advisory position to support CEP implementation and coordination with ADB and development partners was filled in May. ECD hosted the Fourth GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in January.

## Challenges and Opportunities for CEP Implementation

MOECAF has limited experience and capacity to implement CEP activities and lacks familiarity with ADB financial procedures. A priority for the next reporting period is to provide substantial technical and financial support to form a NSU that is fully capable of program implementation and coordination. This will entail recruitment and training of NSU staff and putting into place stronger management and financial systems.

### CEP Activities in Myanmar in 2015

- Strengthen country environmental safeguard systems (Subcomponent 1.2)
- Strengthen safeguards application in ADB-funded GMS projects (Subcomponent 1.2)
- Establish a GMS Online Environmental Portal (Subcomponent 1.3)
- Strengthen subregional and national environmental monitoring databases (Subcomponent 1.3)
- Identify ecosystem-based livelihood options (Subcomponent 2.2)
- Establish an NSU capable of effective program implementation and sector coordination (Subcomponent 4.1)

## Thailand

In early 2015, Thailand drafted new legislation on waste management and e-waste, expected to be considered by the National Legislative Assembly in the latter half of 2015. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) strengthened its enforcement of ivory trade and possession registration with a deadline set for the end of April. MNRE also focused efforts on drought alleviation by establishing an early warning system and improving marine national park management by monitoring coral bleaching and coastal erosion. Moreover, MNRE played a key role in implementing a priority national policy to allocate more than 1,000 hectares of national forest areas in Chiang Mai to approximately 1,000 landless households for subsistence farming and participatory conservation. National forest areas of more than 8,000 hectares in an additional eight provinces have been identified for further allocation in late 2015 and onwards.

### CEP Activities in Thailand in 2014

- Strengthen transboundary biodiversity landscape monitoring and management (subcomponent 2.1)
- Develop and test low carbon interventions for transport and energy sectors (subcomponent 3.3)
- Develop and test low carbon interventions for transport and energy sectors (subcomponent 3.3)
- Establish NSU capable of program implementation and sector coordination (subcomponent 4.1)

### CEP Progress from January – June 2015

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and the Environment Operations Center consulted with local stakeholders in the Eastern Forest Complex to secure support for establishing biodiversity conservation corridors.

Subsequently, two potential corridors have been identified: one between Khao Soidao Wildlife Sanctuary and Klong Krua Wai Chalermprakiat Wildlife Sanctuary and the other between Namtok Klong Kaew National Park of Thailand and Central Cardamom Protected Forest of Cambodia. Preliminary discussion with Cambodia has also been initiated.

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) has continued working closely with the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning on the Green Freight Initiative, including organizing a public launch event in March.

Since the launch, FTI has completed an inception report and begun identifying and testing energy efficiency technologies for small-medium truck freight companies as well as reviewing existing eco-driver training resources, and developing practical computer software to reduce backhauls for improved logistics.

Thailand is finalizing the establishment of a Steering Committee to enhance cross-sector and in-country coordination for CEP implementation.

### Challenges and Opportunities for CEP Implementation

There is a small number of staff fully dedicated to CEP, which has caused implementation delays of certain activities. Furthermore, there is a need to foster greater exchange and discussion between EOC and MNRE on data, information and knowledge.

Key opportunities to be explored are support for capacity building on strategic environmental assessment and low carbon strategies, especially for areas within Special Economic Zone in border provinces, which MNRE have indicated as a work priority.

## Viet Nam

### Context

The Government of Viet Nam has increasingly focused on enhancing environmental governance to promote inclusive and sustainable development as a priority. This effort has resulted in three recent key strategic documents:

- (i) Revised Law on Environmental Protection, effective January 2015. Circulars of this law have been distributed accordingly.
- (ii) Decree No 18/2015/NĐ-CP on regulating Environment Protection Master Plan, Strategic Environment Assessment, Environment Impact Assessment, and Action Plan on Environment Protection, approved by Prime Minister in February.
- (iii) The Circular on Strategic Environment Assessment, Environment Impact

Assessment and Action Plan on Environment Protection No. 27/2015/TT-BTNMT, approved in May. It aims to provide detailed instructions and guidance for implementation of the Decree mentioned above.

### CEP Sub-components covered in Viet Nam in 2015

- Support multi-sector and area-based planning (subcomponent 1.1)
- Strengthen transboundary biodiversity landscape monitoring and management (subcomponent 2.1)
- Identify ecosystem-based livelihood options (subcomponent 2.2)
- Strengthen capacity for risk assessments and identification of adaptation interventions (subcomponent 3.1)
- Develop and test low carbon interventions for transport and energy sectors (subcomponent 3.3)
- Establish NSU capable of program implementation and sector coordination (subcomponent 4.1)

### Core Environment Program Progress (January to June 2015)

With CEP support on impact valuation methodologies, the Institute of Energy of Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) successfully applied SEA for Viet Nam's national Power Development Plan VII (PDP7). The SEA report was appraised and approved by MONRE in March.

An inter-ministerial workshop on mainstreaming the value of natural capital in Regional Investment Framework (RIF) Implementation Plan (2014-2018) was held in January in Ha Noi,. With support from CEP and other development partners, the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) organized a regional workshop on "Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bringing Natural Capital into Center Stage" in May. The workshop promoted GMS cooperation, and discussed sustainable development challenges and how to apply lessons learnt for effectively implementing SDGs.

The NSU also supported the organization of consultations and workshops on multisector planning and land use planning as part of CEP activity implementation.

Guangxi Province, PRC, and Cao Bang Province, Viet Nam, signed a MOU to strengthen transboundary biodiversity conservation collaboration in May. In addition, an impact assessment of CEP Phase integrated livelihood and conservation activities was conducted.

A Climate change risk financing assessment was completed in the BCC sites of Viet Nam in March. The Directorate for Roads of Vietnam (DRVN) under the Ministry of Transport is currently implementing the Green Freight Initiative. In February, an inception workshop was held and since then technology testing has begun.

The activity to support transparent, effective and efficient implementation of the Payments for Forestry Environmental Services (PFES) was initiated. An assessment of the monitoring and

evaluation (M&E) systems of PFES in six provinces was conducted to provide recommendations for an M&E Policy on PFES.

### **Challenges and Opportunities for CEP Implementation**

Viet Nam WGE and NSU face challenges at the regional scale to closely follow up and monitor CEP activities. Reporting mechanisms are necessary to ensure WGE and NSU have timely access to implementation information and so the NSU can fulfill its coordination role effectively.

A delay in receiving the second tranche of LOA payments has negatively impacted the implementation of some country activities.

Viet Nam's intention of establishing a national natural capital partnership and pursuing ecosystem valuation and accounting, as well as the priority of developing environmental protection planning guidelines, are new opportunities for CEP to support.

## Appendix 3: Summary of CEP 2015 Events (January to June)

### Internal Events

Title	Start	End	Location	Event Type	Component	Participants		
						Total	No. GMS	No. of women
Stakeholders consultation workshop on Environmental Quality Guidelines (draft)	6/1/2015	6/1/2015	Yangon, Myanmar	Workshop	1	104	102	31
Meeting with line Ministries on Natural Capital Partnership Network	16/1/2015	16/1/2015	Ha Noi, Viet Nam	Meeting	1	43	0	23
Myanmar Environmental Information Portal (MEIP) meeting and training	23/1/2015	25/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Training	1	8	8	2
Senior Officials' Meeting	27/1/2015	27/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Meeting	All	35	24	13
Natural Capital Business Forum	27/1/2015	27/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Meeting	2,3	94	74	30
Biodiversity Landscapes Forum	27/1/2015	27/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Meeting	2	65	43	16
Youth Environment Meeting	27/1/2015	27/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Meeting	All	49	36	23
Natural Capital Dialogue	28/1/2015	28/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Meeting	All	261	191	81
Fourth Greater Mekong Subregion Environment Ministers' Meeting (EMM4)	29/1/2015	29/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Meeting	All	210	148	67
LoA signing ceremony of NSU between MOECAAF and ADB	30/1/2015	30/1/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Meeting	4	10	7	3
Mid-Term Review of CEP	5/3/2015	5/3/2015	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Workshop	All	17	17	11
2nd stakeholder draft Environmental Quality (Emission) Guidelines consultation workshop	14/3/2015	14/3/2015	Yangon, Myanmar	Workshop	1	114	110	41
WGE/NSU Regional Meeting for CEP Mid-Term Review and Annual Report	9/3/2015	11/3/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	Workshop	All	2	2	1
CEP II Technical Meeting to Consult about Implementation, Progress and Workplan Improvement	18/3/2015	18/3/2015	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Meeting	All	25	25	9
Discussion on "Value Chain" Workshop organization	19/3/2015	19/3/2015	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Workshop	2	25	25	2
Agroforestry and NTFP Value Chain Consultation Workshop	30/3/2015	30/3/2015	Jinhong, PRC	Workshop	2	39	39	9

Multi-sector Planning and Land-Use Planning	24/4/2015	24/4/2015	Ha Noi, Viet Nam	Workshop	1	105	0	51
SEA Support Provincial in Land Use Planning and Social Economic Development	28/4/2015	28/4/2015	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Workshop	1	45	45	10
Consultation Meeting on SEA with Luang Nam Tha Provincial Team at DONRE	30/4/2015	30/4/2015	Louang Nam Tha, Lao PDR	Workshop	All	20	20	2
Thailand CEP Phase II Orientation DNP, EOC	12/3/2015	12/3/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting	2	14	13	4
Land Use Change Simulation Capacity	08/5/2015	16/5/2015	Ha Noi, Viet Nam	Workshop	1	32	0	17
Workshop on Transboundary Cooperation between Cao Bang and Guangxi	12/5/2015	13/5/2015	Cao Bang, Viet Nam	Workshop	2	58	56	14
Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals – Bringing Natural Capital into Center Stage	14/5/2015	16/5/2015	Ha Noi, Viet Nam	Workshop	1	185	9	65
Discussion on Work plan implementation with EOC	25/5/2015	25/5/2015	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Workshop	1	4	4	1
Inception Workshop on Multisector Planning in Viet Nam	27/5/2015	28/5/2015	Ha Noi, Viet Nam	Workshop	1	72	0	31
Consultation Workshop on Workplan 2015 implementation and workplan 2016 planning and Workshop on Strengthening multisector planning process	18/6/2015	18/6/2015	Vientiane, Lao PDR	Workshop	3	29	29	12
GMS Working Group on Environment 21st Annual Meeting	23/6/2015	23/6/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting	All	93	84	38
Developing Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion	24/6/2015	24/6/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting	All	137	107	54
Technical Workshop WGE/NSU	25/6/2015	25/6/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	Meeting	All	75	60	37
<b>Total (events)</b>						<b>1970</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>35%</b>

## External Events

Title	Start	End	Location	Event Type	Component <sup>9</sup>	EOC / WGE role
<b>GMS EVENTS</b>						
7th GMS Economic Corridors Forum	11/6/2015	11/6/2015	Kunming, PRC	GMS	All	EOC participated
<b>EXTERNAL EVENTS</b>						
Thailand EMM4 Delegation Meeting	23/1/2015	23/1/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	All	EOC participated

<sup>9</sup> 1 – Planning, safeguards and monitoring; 2 – Biodiversity Landscapes and Livelihoods; 3 – Climate Change; 4 – Institutions and Financing

Official meeting with Thailand's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment	23/1/2015	23/1/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	All	EOC participated
Thailand Green Freight - Steering Committee Meeting	28/1/2015	28/1/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	3	EOC participated
GEF-6 Informal Consultation	16/2/2015	16/2/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	All	EOC participated
GMS Green Freight Initiative - Coordination meeting	2/2/2015	3/2/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	3	EOC participated
Green Freight Initiative Inception Workshop in Lao PDR	9/2/2015	9/2/2015	Vientiane, Lao PDR	External	3	EOC participated
Consultation on Forest Investment Program (FIP)	23/2/2015	23/2/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	3	EOC participated
Thailand Country Progress Meeting	24/2/2015	24/2/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	All	EOC participated
Environment Performance Assessment Consultation and Training Workshop	17/3/2015	18/3/2015	Xishuangbanna-PRC	External	1	EOC provided technical inputs
Open ceremony of Green Freight Interventions among SMEs	6/3/2015	6/3/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	3	EOC participated
Thailand Biodiversity Conservation Corridor in Eastern Forest Complex –orientation	12/3/2015	12/3/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	2	EOC participated
Environmental Working Group Meeting	20/3/2015	20/3/2015	Yangon, Myanmar	External	1	EOC participated
Technical training on biodiversity profiling and assessment methodology	14/4/2015	14/4/2015	Cao Bang, Viet Nam	External	2	National Consultant participated
The Sixth Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change Adaptation in the GMS	28/4/2015	28/4/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	3	EOC participated
Regional workshop on Impact Assessment and the ASEAN Economic Community: A Way Forward for Regional Collaboration	12/5/2015	13/5/2015	Ha Noi, Viet Nam	External	3	EOC participated
Eco-tourism workshop in Nay Pyi Taw	19/5/2015	21/5/2015	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	External	2	EOC participated
China (Guangxi) – Viet Nam (Cao Bang) Transboundary Conservation Collaboration Meeting and MOU Signing Ceremony	10/6/2015	14/6/2015	Cao Bang, Viet Nam	External	2	EOC participated
The Seventh Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change in the GMS	19/6/2015	19/6/2015	Bangkok, Thailand	External	3	EOC participated

## Appendix 4: Publications Disseminated and Media Coverage

### Core Environment Program Knowledge Products Dissemination in January-June 2015

Title	Year of Publication	Amount Distributed January–June
Reducing Risks: Adaptation to Climate Change Among Local Communities – policy brief	2010	20
Climate Change Vulnerability, Adaptation and Mitigation in the GMS	2011	20
Policy Brief – SEA Power Development in Viet Nam	2011	10
GMS Atlas of the Environment 2nd edition	2012	8
GMS Atlas thumb drive	2012	2
GMS 2020 International Conference – Proceeding	2012	10
Core Environment Program brochure in English	2012	115
Stats and Maps brochure	2013	80
Planning Sustainable Investment in the GMS (RIF)	2013	120
Climate Change and Rural Communities in the Greater Mekong Subregion: A Framework for Assessing Vulnerability and Adaptation Options	2014	150
CEP animation film in 7 languages (English, Burmese, Chinese, Khmer, Lao, Vietnamese, Thai)	2014	Online/events
CEP folders	2014	260
2015 GMS Stats and Maps notebook	2015	460
Core Environment Program thumb drives	2015	500
Green Freight in the Greater Mekong Subregion	2015	600
Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Greater Mekong Subregion	2015	600
Ecosystem Based Approaches to Address Climate Change Challenges in the Greater Mekong Subregion	2015	600
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2955</b>

Note: CEP knowledge products are disseminated nationally by GMS environment ministries (via NSUs) and ADB Resident Missions in the GMS countries. Regional dissemination is undertaken by EOC and ADB.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CEP = Core Environment Program, EOC = Environment Operations Center, GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion, NSU = national support unit, RIF = Regional Investment Framework, SEA = strategic environmental assessment

## National Media Coverage of CEP January–June 2015

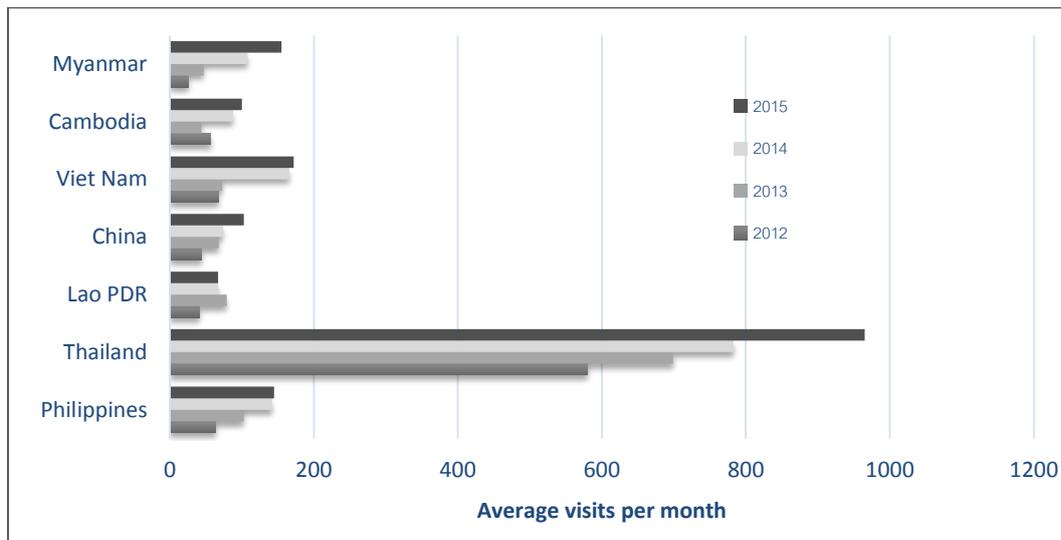
Subject/Event	Country	Date of Publication	Media Outlet	Type	Link
Medal awarding ceremony to Mr. Javed Hussein Mir and Mr. Sanath Sanawara	Viet Nam	15 Jan	Vietnam Breaking News	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/4Q4jLB">http://goo.gl/4Q4jLB</a>
			Talkvietnam	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/vu4FLI">http://goo.gl/vu4FLI</a>
4th GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw	Myanmar	27-29 Jan	Vietnam Breaking News	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/8qsl6V">http://goo.gl/8qsl6V</a>
			Talkvietnam	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/bQGzmV">http://goo.gl/bQGzmV</a>
			Global New Light of Myanmar	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/PK9IL8">http://goo.gl/PK9IL8</a>
			MRTV English Channel	Online TV news	<a href="http://goo.gl/ln4RZ1">http://goo.gl/ln4RZ1</a>
			Facebook	Facebook	<a href="http://goo.gl/vOimsQ">http://goo.gl/vOimsQ</a>
Double efforts to protect the natural resources		4 February	Viet Nam Breaking News	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/50Y15e">http://goo.gl/50Y15e</a>
Cao Bang & Guangxi MOU signing ceremony		12 May	Cao Bang TVonline	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/GCXupz">http://goo.gl/GCXupz</a>
			Baomoi.com (Vietnamese)	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/ExJIRR">http://goo.gl/ExJIRR</a>
			Baomoi.com	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/YxFVPz">http://goo.gl/YxFVPz</a>
			Thiennhien.net (Vietnames)	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/UuP9Yr">http://goo.gl/UuP9Yr</a>
			VOV online Newspaper	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/Y0sJaf">http://goo.gl/Y0sJaf</a>
			Vietnam Breaking News	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/upYYfx">http://goo.gl/upYYfx</a>
			Talk Vietnam	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/t2ArHv">http://goo.gl/t2ArHv</a>
			Vietnamnet	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/t2ArHv">http://goo.gl/t2ArHv</a>
GMS Workshop on Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: Bringing Natural Capital into Center Stage		14-15 May	VTC	Television	
			The Voice of Vietnam (Vietnamese)	Radio	<a href="https://goo.gl/cM7E4I">https://goo.gl/cM7E4I</a>
			Vietnam News	Online news	<a href="http://goo.gl/MLa7Ek">http://goo.gl/MLa7Ek</a>

## Appendix 5: Website Usage and Content Statistics January to June 2015

### Average Page Views and Visits per Month

	2014	2015	Change
Page Views	8183	11270	37%
Visits	2480	3116	25%

### Average Visits per Month by Selected Countries



### Popular Web Content Average Page Views per Month

Content	2014	2015	Change
GMS Events Calendar	196	176	-10%
GIS Data	184	340	84%
Map Portal	181	300	65%
Statistics Portal	152	263	72%
Online Library	107	127	19%

### E-news Products Average Opens per Month\*

Content	2015
GMS Monthly Media Round-up	884
GMS Environment News Update	801

\*Statistics start from January 2015 as no comparable 2014 data available