

Management Response to the Terminal Evaluation

Project Title: Conserving Habitats for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscapes

Project PIMS #: 4839

GEF Project ID: 00091787

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Context, background and findings

This project aims to support Thailand to undertake conservation actions for globally important biodiversity hotspots that are currently outside the national system of protected areas. Many such areas exist, whose incorporation into the national PA system may be unfeasible to be managed effectively by the PA authorities either because they are small and disparately located in the landscape or because they overlap significantly with private lands. The approach of providing them with nationally recognized legal protection other than PA can ensure that their special values are legally recognized and respected both nationally and locally and that their values are effectively considered in landuse and local development planning. Such designation can also act as incentive for spurring local conservation actions. This project approach is consistent with the GEF BD-SO2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use; and the Outcomes 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation. Specifically, the project will be linked to Outputs 2. National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation and 3. Certified production Landscapes and seascapes (hectares).

Recommendation and Management Response

Recommendation 1: Technical and other support should continue to be provided to the communities with endangered species learning centers in Samut Sakhon, Ranong and Phang Nga				
Management Response: Agreed. The project board agreed that it is important to seek additional funding to support the community's conservation efforts both national and international sources of funds. However, it depends on available resources from the government agencies to support the learning centers in 3 provinces. Technically speaking, IUCN (as the Responsible Party) is willing to support the learning centers and its operation with limited resources. Silapakorn University, Petchaburi campus is coordinating with the target sites on research and further supports that they can provide to boost the operation of community-based tourism groups, including enhancing the capacity of local communities on markets and promotion of the centers.				
Key Actions	Timeframe (Due Date)	Responsible	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
UNDP Country Office will continue to support community-based tourism groups through anew partnership with the Tourism Authority of Thailand.	2020/12	Team Leaders of DGSA and IGSD, UNDP Thailand Country Office	To align with MOU between UDNP and TAT	Initiated
Recommendation 2: Communication channels that have been established between the three species components of the project should be maintained for learning and mutual support				
Management Response: Agreed. However, the ONEP (as an IP) need to consider means of maintaining the communication channel and main agency to facilitate the discussion and information sharing if needed. So far, LINE group is active.				
Key Actions	Timeframe (Due Date)	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
UNDP CO continues working with ONEP, IUCN, Thailand Environment Institute, Silapakorn University, TAT.	2020/12	Programme Analysts of UNDP Thailand Country Office	An important component of this project is the opportunities that have been created for project participants to share experiences and learn from others on approaches to ES conservation.	Initiated

			Participants have communicated actively through established channels, especially via a group on the social media platform LINE. Given that the three species conservation projects will continue beyond project completion, it is important that this sharing and learning environment is maintained.	
<p>Recommendation 3: The provincial committees in each province that have been guiding this project should continue and be strengthened beyond the project, to ensure integration of the species' requirements into provincial plans</p>				
<p>Management Response: Totally agreed. As for Water Onion in Ranong, it becomes a flagship species under the strategic plan of the province, which clearly reflected in the Provincial Decree. The Committee will be scaled up to the provincial level beyond the project and led by the Ranong Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (PONRE).</p> <p>Phang Nga and Petchaburi: there is the provincial committee for Environmental Protected Areas, which could embrace the provincial committee of Water Onion in Phang Nga and Spoonbill Sand Piper (SBS) in Petchaburi.</p> <p>Buriram and Samut Sakhon: There are working groups of City planning chaired by the provincial governor, therefore the provincial committee of Endangered Species and SBS could be integrated as a part of the working group of City planning through the lead of PONRE.</p>				
Key Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
Continue to follow up with PONRE	2020/12	ONEP	As BEDO is making a technical tool "Biodiversity Benefit/Health Index (BBI)" for Tambon Administrative Offices (TAOs) and Provincial Administrative Offices (PAOs), ONEP and PONRE should discuss with BEDO about the mechanism to regulate BBI in local government	Initiated

			offices through the National Biodiversity Management Committee, chaired by the MoNRE Minister. Then, the ES species conservation will be embedded in the planning and budgeting of the TAOs, PAOs. The BBI rating will present a performance of each TAOs, PAOs how good, moderate, poor of its biodiversity management.	
UNDP will keep a connection with the PRONE in the 3 provinces through other projects.	2020/12	Team Leaders and Programme Analyst of UNDP CO		Initiated
Recommendation 4: ONEP and PONRE should provide awareness-raising and training in the provinces to facilitate consideration of endangered species in provincial planning, using the learnings of this project				
<p>Management Response: Agreed. PONRE is the most practical governmental agency to prioritize and integrate endangered species into their provincial plan under PONRE to sure budget allocation for related activities at the local level, including awareness-raising and training courses to protect endangered species.</p> <p>PONRE will need to collaborate with Sub-district Administration Organization to leverage policy and conservation schemes at local level to ensure conservation efforts and synergy with PONRE.</p>				
Key Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
IUCN to continue communication with PoNRE	2020/12	ONEP	Provincial office and local authorities (Sub-district Administration Organization and/or Municipality) have the capacity to allocate some budget to continue financial supports to	Initiated

			the project target areas, as well as improving, monitoring, and providing other types of supports to communities for the sustainability of project outcomes after it ended.	
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Recommendation 5: The policy recommendations that have been developed by the Chief Technical Advisor should be presented to the wetlands management subcommittee

Management Response: Agreed. ONEP, TEI, BCST, and IUCN worked together on policy recommendations by integrating recommendations from CTA into the policy paper finalized by ONEP. The policy recommendations had been proposed to the sub-national committee of wetland and received recommendations from the committee for the next steps of Cabinet’s approval.

Key Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
To follow up the recommendations for cabinet	2020/12	ONEP	A Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) has been engaged by UNDP to ensure ongoing adaptive management and technical development across the project and to ensure that project experiences are fed into any relevant legislation and planning framework development. To address these aims, the CTA has prepared a paper containing policy recommendations. Importantly, the work of the CTA has incorporated the experiences, findings and recommendations of partners from this project, especially IUCN and TEI. To maximise leverage from the	Initiated

			project's results, the CTA paper should be presented to the wetlands management subcommittee.	
Recommendation 6: The recommendations and knowledge from this project should be considered when developing the Draft Biodiversity Act				
Management Response: Agreed. ONEP has already integrated policy recommendations and project outputs and outcomes to the draft act of Biodiversity. The comments from UNDP CO have well-received by ONEP Biodiversity Management Bureau.				
Key Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
To seek for public consultation	2020/05	ONEP	UNDP CO has also encouraged Thailand Youth Biodiversity Network (TYBN) to provide construction comments to the draft Biodiversity Act. It has been submitted officially to ONEP.	Completed
Recommendation 7: Ensure that the 'legal framework and policy recommendations' consider whether listing ES and critical habitats should become a legislative 'trigger' to influence other statutory processes, such as planning at provincial and local levels and environmental impact assessment (EIA) mechanisms, as described in the project document.				
Management Response: Agreed. Conservation actions at the provincial level will be led by the Provincial Office of Natural Resource and Environment (PONRE), Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants (DNP), and local authorities, which require significant supports from ONEP and specialists in designing conservation plans and action. Status of selected 10 species under the project will be used as an example for improving the status of endangered species in the production landscape. ONEP (Thailand Red Data Division) is working on series on consultation workshops in 2020 to review the database of species in Thailand, including the conservation intervention needed to further protect the species at the national level.				
Key Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
To ensure coordination between relevant authorities and communities	2020/12	ONEP		Initiated

Recommendation 8: Establish a standard approach to endangered species conservation and recovery planning

Management Response: Agreed. Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST) has already completed conservation and recovery plan for Spoon Bill Sandpiper (SBS) and Water Onion in Samut Sakhon, Phang Nga and Ranong. However, it is only the endorsement for the principles of conservation. There is a need to further integrate the conservation and recovery plan in the PONRE's annual strategic plan, as well as helping local authorities to develop their own plan at local level based on the framework developed by BCST.

Key Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
ONEP to present the Species Recovery Plan to the Permanent Secretary of MoNRE.	2020/12	ONEP	The Chief of PoNRE reports to the Permanent Secretary of MoNRE.	Initiated

Recommendation 9: The community-based tourism management plan by Silpakorn University should be presented to the Provincial Advisory Committees and relevant sectoral agencies, such as the Provincial Office of Tourism and Sports and the Community Development Office, for consideration regarding support to the communities involved in the project

Management Response: Agreed. Community-based tourism works need continuous efforts to firmly established its operation. The synergy between community and provincial offices is needed to push the learning centers and its tourism activities forwards. Silpakorn University and IUCN can provide technical supports when the resources are available. Communities can jointly develop their strategic plans with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Department of Tourism, Sport, and Culture in the provinces. UNDP representative recommended connecting with the Biodiversity-Based Development Organization (BEDO)-Public Organization under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, for further conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources at the local level, which included the tourism approach led by communities.

Key Actions	Time Frame	Responsible Unit	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
To make a mutual understanding of the community-based tourism management plan among BEDO, TAT, and DOT and find collaboration area.	2020/12	UNDP and BEDO	To align with the project document for GEF-7 with BEDO	Initiated