UNDP-GEF Mid-Term Review of the Project: *Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas*

UNDP PIMS No: 5165
GEF Project ID: 5337

SRI LANKA

MTR Final Report

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Basic Report Information

Title of the Project	**Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem Services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas**
UNDP PIMS No. & Project ID No.	5165 5337
MTR Time Frame Date of MTR Report	10 September – 20 October 2015 30 September 2018
Region and Countries	Asia; Sri Lanka
UNDP Strategic Programme	Sustainable Development Pathways
National Implementing Partner/ Project Executing Partners	Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment
MTR Team Members	Balakrishna Pisupati, MTR International Consultant Ranjith Mahindapala, MTR National Consultant

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Many have provided very valuable information and data during the course of the MTR; in particular, the Secretary, MoMDE, staff of Forest Department, Wildlife Department, Land Use Policy Planning Department, Central Environmental Authority, the District Secretaries and their staff in Puttalam and Anuradhapura, provincial staff of Forest Department, Wildlife Department, Agricultural Department, Land Use Policy Planning, and Irrigation Department. The Divisional Secretaries provided valuable insights. The communities at Kandakuliya, Kalpitiya, Kandhabaranagama and Manewakanda were very helpful and provided their valuable perspectives.

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Table of Contents

Basic Report Information i
Acronyms and Abbreviations iii
1. **Executive Summary** 1
1.1 Project Information Table 1
1.2 Project Description 1
1.3 Project Progress Summary 2
1.4 MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table 3
1.5 Concise summary of conclusions 4
1.6 Recommendation Summary Table 5
2. **Introduction** 7
2.1 Purpose of the MTR and Objectives 7
2.2 Scope & Methodology 7
3. **Project Description and Background Context** 9
4.1. Project Strategy 15
4.2. Progress towards Results 16
4.3. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management 22
4.4. Sustainability 29
5. **Conclusions and Recommendations** 30
5.1 Conclusions 30
5.2 Recommendations 33
Annexes 36
Annex 2-A: Terms of Reference for MTR 37
Annex 2-B: List of Documents 40
Annex 2-C: List of Key Informants and Community Organisations met 41
Annex 2-D: Mid Term Review Itinerary 43
Annex 4-A: Summary of Progress (excerpted from PIR, 2018) 45
Annex 4-B: MTR Assessment Rating 46
Annex 4-C: Capacity Development Activities undertaken by the Project 51

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIS	Alien Invasive Species
AWP	Annual Work-plan
BDS	Biodiversity Secretariat (of MoMDE)
CCD	Coast Conservation Department
CEA	Central Environmental Authority
DFC	District Facilitation Committee
DS	Divisional Secretary
DWLC	Department of Wildlife Conservation
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Areas
FD	Forest Department (Dept. for Forest Conservation)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	*Deutsche Gessellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH* (German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation)
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
ha	Hectare
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka
LKR	Sri Lanka Rupee
LMC	Local Management Committee
LUPPD	Land Use Policy Planning Department
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MASL	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
MoMDE	Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment
MTR	Mid-term Review
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NSC	National Steering Committee (=Project Board)
PA	Protected Areas
PB	Project Board
PID	Provincial Irrigation Department
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PMU	Project Management Unit
ProDoc	Project Document
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	US dollar

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Project Information Table

Project Title	**Enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustenance of ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas**		
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #)	5165	PIF Approval date	14 June 2013
GEF Project ID	5337	CEO Endorsement Date	22 January 2015
ATLAS Award #	00079607	ProDoc Signature Dates	By GoSL: 23 May 2015 By UNDP: 25 Sept 2015
Country	Sri Lanka	Inception Workshop Date	28 January 2016[1]
Region	Asia	Mid-term Completion Date	20 October 2018
GEF Strategic Objective:	Environment and Sustainable Development	Planned Project Closing Date	30 September 2020
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment		

Project Financing (USD)	**At CEO endorsement**	**At Mid-Term Review[2]**
[1] GEF Funding TF	2,626,690	
[2] UNDP	6,500,000	
[3] Government	10,150,000	Remains unchanged
[4] Total co-financing [2+3]	16,650,000	
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS [1+4]	**19,276,690**	

1.2 Project Description

Sri Lanka is known to host globally noteworthy biological diversity, and the country has been identified as one of the 34 global "biodiversity hotspots". About 38% of the land area are under Protected Areas (PAs); in addition, there are Forest Reserves, Conservation Forests and National Heritage Wilderness Area under the Forest Department, which can also be considered as "protected" areas. However, many of the important ecosystems and globally significant species are outside of these protected areas where there are significant development efforts since the cessation of civil disturbances in 2009. Unless these development efforts are biodiversity-friendly, there is real threat for biodiversity outside the protected areas. The Project has been designed to strengthen Sri Lanka's ability to safeguard biodiversity outside protected areas in specially designed Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

The objective of this project is "*to operationalize Environment Sensitive Areas (ESA) as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance*". There are two Outcomes to achieve this Objective:

Outcome 1: National Enabling Framework Strengthened to Designate and Manage Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA).

[1] Source: PIR of 2018
[2] As per PIR of 2018

Outcome 2: Biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long term integrity and resilience ensured at two sites in the Kala Oya Region.

The Inception Report identified two sites: the **Kalawewa Site** in the upper reaches of the river basin and encompassing the Kala Wewa reservoir and covering Palagala, Galnewa, Kekirawa & Ipalogama Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions (Anuradhapura District) and the **Wilpattu Site** in the lower part of the basin and encompassing marine area including the Bar Reef and the estuary of the Kala Oya River covering Wanathawilluwa and Kaluwaragaswewa DS divisions (Puttalam District). In 2018, the Project identified 10 sites as ESAs of which three sites are in the Kurunegala district.

1.3 Project Progress Summary

Outcome 1: ***National Enabling Framework Strengthened to Designate and Manage Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)***

The Project has undertaken a review of the Wild Elephant Management and Conservation Policy and Strategy and has called for public comments, and a gap analysis of existing environment policies. It has drafted an 'ESA Policy'. In the meantime, the Project has prepared a Technical Paper[3] on the ESA concept. The concept of ESA has not been finalised yet; thus, ESA policy will be finalized after the ESA concept has been agreed upon, and the management strategy for ESA is established. Work on Inter-sectoral plans need review and perhaps re-direction after the ESAs are identified; likewise, Capacity Building of Biodiversity Secretariat and other agencies has been postponed until the ESA concept has been agreed upon. The Project has progressed in developing and validating national guidelines on how to integrate biodiversity in land use planning as a decision-support system; this too will be re-visited once the ESA concept has been agreed upon.

Outcome 2: Biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long term integrity and resilience ensured at two sites in the Kala Oya Region

Major part of the work remains to be done after the ESA concept has been agreed upon. The Project has undertaken awareness creation for about 1,800 individuals comprised of local level journalists, school teachers representing school eco-clubs, staff of stakeholder agencies and local communities have been trained or briefed on the subjects relating to ESA. The Project has completed strategic management frameworks for the Wilpattu complex, Kahalla-Pallekele sanctuary, and for the Bar Reef complex; the utility of these will be evidenced after ESAs are established. The critical biodiversity habitats identified within project areas also need to be re-visited once ESAs are identified as the purpose of the Project is to conserve critical habitats inside ESAs. Some home gardens *under biodiversity compatible agricultural production* have been established in Anuradhapura whereas these are under planning stage in Puttalam.

Capacity Development: The Project has conducted 24 capacity development programmes. These included: awareness creation amongst officials in partner state agencies to more technical training on integrating biodiversity in land use planning. The Project has carried out three sequential land-use planning trainings which are generally appreciated but provide lessons on some possible improvements in the future.

Outreach and Communications: The Communications Strategy of the Project has been prepared, which highlights uneven understanding of the project's objectives and integrating biodiversity in planning, need for better understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the

[3] Technical Paper on Environmentally Sensitive Areas (June, 2018); UNDP Colombo

Project, need for capacity to understand the project concept, and project needs to be more visible to the political authorities.

Gender considerations: The Project has commissioned a study on gender perspectives and notes that it has identified activities for women and men to participate and benefit. The need for capacity development for women in leadership and decision-making, and networking of women/women groups has been identified as one of the priority areas. The study also notes that outcome indicators could have been improved to include gender sensitivity more fully. The MTR notes the potential in addressing gender issues vis-à-vis project results in the newly-identified ESAs.

Project Management: Project management is mindful of the need to have clear conceptual clarity on ESA before full-blown activities are launched. The three full-time staff members of the Project and oversight staff of UNDP have provided more than adequate support both at the national level as well as at the provincial level. The Project's technical inputs are considered adequate and timely. MTR noted that the GoSL-funded PMU programmatic staff could be more effectively engaged, particularly in field interventions, engagement with other field projects, community discussions, and in work-planning to improve government ownership of the Project.

Reporting has been timely. However, some key assumptions need to be re-examined.

Finance: The expenditure up to 30 June 2018 is USD 937,690 (or about 36% of the total GEF budget); information on co-financing was not available. Monitoring and evaluation of project's activities and outcomes are uneven.

Stakeholder engagement: The Project has established a good rapport with the stakeholders, both at the national and provincial levels. Although the understanding of the ESA concept is uneven, the key stakeholders support the objectives of the Project. Some key stakeholders have no updated information on project progress.

1.4 MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table

Table 1.1 provides the summary MTR ratings.

Table 1.1 – MTR Ratings and Achievement Summary Table for the Project, *Enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustenance of ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas*

Measure	MTR Rating[4]	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress towards Results	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: **S/MS (4.5)**	Three out of the four components need re-focus after the ESA concept has been agreed upon. Capacity enhancement of BD Secretariat has not been demonstrated.
	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: **MS (4)**	In three components, indicators are ambitious and unlikely to be achieved (200,000 ha under inter-sectoral management, 160,000 ha PA).
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	**S (5)**	More active participation of MoMDE PMU staff; lack of co-finance information; weak M&E

[4] The rating used is as per MTR Ratings, vide MTR ToR Annex E (Guidance for Conducting mid-term reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed projects [GEF/UNDP] 2014

Measure	MTR Rating[4]	Achievement Description
Sustainability	**ML (3)**	The enthusiasm of the communities and provincial administrators is a positive sign; however, much depends on identification of ESAs and their management strategy that will be adopted.

1.5 Concise summary of conclusions

The Project is very relevant to Sri Lanka in the context of national policies and international commitments. However, there is a need for consistent understanding of the concept of ESA; thus, the focus on conserving biodiversity outside protected areas is diluted. The situation is expected to improve following the development of a Technical Paper and related papers outlining the methodology for identifying ESAs and their management. The performance indicators will have to be critically examined to reflect the new approach.

Overall, the progress towards outcomes is moderately satisfactory (4.5 for Outcome # 1 and 4 for Outcome # 2). The ESA Policy can only be finalized once ESA concept is clarified and agreed upon. The Project has progressed in developing and validating national guidelines on how to integrate biodiversity in land use planning.

The Project has undertaken some awareness activities on the subjects relating to ESA. The Project has completed three strategic management frameworks and the utility of these will be evidenced after ESAs are established. The critical biodiversity habitats identified so far needs to be re-visited to ensure that they are inside ESAs. The home gardening programme, whilst proven to improve household income, will need to be aligned to ESAs once they are identified.

The Project's publications have to ensure technical rigour and accuracy, and there is no clearing house mechanism to undertake peer review for this purpose. There is scope for better integration of gender concepts once ESAs are established, their activities identified and management options set out.

The Project's oversight structures (PB and NSC) have a larger responsibility of steering the project activities once ESA concept is agreed upon. Whilst the UNDP support and technical inputs are adequate and timely, the MoMDE PMU staff needs more exposure in the field to improve the visibility of government ownership.

The Project has spent 36% of the GEF contribution as at 30 June 2018. Co-financing details were not available.

The Project has established a good rapport with the stakeholders; however, their understanding of the ESA concept varied significantly. There is scope for their participation in project activities; the communities, whilst agreeing that conservation of biodiversity is a priority, request livelihoods support.

There are a number of projects addressing conservation and natural resources management operating in the districts; the project could benefit from better coordination among similar projects in the field.

1.6 Recommendation Summary Table

Table 1.2 provides recommendations in a summarized form.

Table 1.2 – Summary of Recommendations

Rec #	Recommendation	Entity Responsible
Project Design and the Results Framework		
(a)	Develop urgently a clear articulation of the ESA concept, and based on that identify a workable number of ESA sites.	PMU with NSC
(b)	Develop formal management plans for ESAs.	PMU with NSC
(c)	Secure dedicated and regular technical assistance for completing tasks (a) and (b).	PMU with NSC
(d)	Critically review Indicators in the Results Framework to align them to the new ESA concept; include indicators to evaluate gender sensitivity; revisit Theory of Change statement.	PMU with NSC
Programmatic Actions		
(e)	ESA Policy and inter-sectoral plans should be finalized after designating ESAs and their management options and partners agreed upon.	PMU
(f)	Critical biodiversity habitats within ESAs will have to be identified after ESAs are established.	PMU
Project Management		
(g)	Coordination: • Oversight bodies (PB; NSC) must meet more regularly and provide guidance to project implementation; • Using Divisional Agricultural Committee should be explored as an alternative to LMC; and • Establish a mechanism for closer collaboration of like-minded projects operational in the districts	MoMDE
(h)	The National Steering Committee should formalize: • A data sharing mechanism for ESA determination; • A mechanism to regularly review co-financing inputs; • Terms of Reference of MoMDE PMU programmatic staff to ensure their dedicated time for project implementation; and • Arrangements to review achievements of the Annual Work-plan at the end of the year	NSC/MoMDE
(i)	Monitoring and evaluation of project implementation should be systematized.	PMU
Outreach		
(j)	Outreach programme to be re-designed after ESA identification and their management modalities are firmed-up; special community mobilisation programmes focusing on key messages should be developed.	PMU/CEA
(k)	Publications to be target-oriented; establish a clearing house mechanism for ensuring technical rigour, branding standards etc.	PMU/CEA
(l)	Identify options for better visibility of field work.	PMU/CEA
Capacity Development		

Rec #	Recommendation	Entity Responsible
(m)	Undertake a capacity assessment after ESAs are established and their management strategies are agreed upon; ensure technical training programmes are evaluated post-event.	PMU
Other		
(n)	The inputs provided by the project partners and stakeholder groups for implementing the project need to be formally recognized	PMU
(o)	Project many consider seeking a no-cost extension after the ESAs are established to complete the balance work	MoMDE/UNDP

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the MTR and Objectives

The Project, *Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas* has completed three years of implementation. In line with the UNDP-GEF Guidance on MTRs[5], this MTR process was initiated by UNDP before the submission of the second Project Implementation Report (PIR).

The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) is as follows:

- Assess the project relevance and its strategy;
- Assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and updated in the Inception Report;
- Identify early signs of project successes or failures, and challenges for implementation, and identifying the necessary actions as needed in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results;
- Assess early signs of potential impacts and sustainability of results, including contribution to the capacity development and achievement of global environmental goals;
- Re-asses the project's risks and barriers.

The MTR is also expected to examine the opportunities for promoting learning, feedback and knowledge sharing on results and lessons learned, as a basis for decision-making on policies, strategies, and programme management.

2.2 Scope & Methodology

The Project is financed by GEF with substantial co-financing by UNDP and the Government of Sri Lanka. The scope of the MTR covers the entire project as well as the co-financed activities by project partners. The MTR includes the four categories of project progress in terms of: (a) Project design, (b) Progress towards results, (c) Project implementation and adaptive management, and (d) Sustainability. The Terms of Reference of the MTR is at Annex 2-A.

Methodology

MTR used a participatory approach to ensure close collaboration with all stakeholders.

The MTR provides evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The information and data required for the MTR were obtained as follows:

- Review of documents made available to the MTR Team, and additional materials obtained by the Team. The list of documents reviewed is at Annex 2-B.
- Information obtained from structured interviews with Key Informants (Annex 2-C));
- Site visits to gather first-hand information on the activities undertaken by the Project, as follows:
    - Kandakuliya, Kalpitiya (Women's Group);
    - Palavi (Tourist Foundation);
    - Khandhabarana Village (Anuradhapura district) – home gardens

[5] Guidance for conducting midterm reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects; UNDP-GEF Secretariat, 2014

- Manewakanda Eco-park (Ecotourism), Hapidiyagama, Maradankadawala
- Habarawatta Cascade System, Habarawatta

The MTR was undertaken from 11 – 19 September 2018. The itinerary is given in Annex 2-D.

Given the current situation on lack of clarity on ESA, the MTR Team paid special attention to discuss with the key stakeholders on the need to bring clarity for the ESA Concept. The MTR was guided by the Technical Paper[6] (provided to the Team at the commencement of the MTR) and the Institutional arrangements for ESA management[7].

The Team reviewed the project logical framework including the indicators of success in achieving the Outcomes and Outputs, the baselines and targets. In so doing, an inventory of the activities and outputs was prepared by the Team to determine the progress of activities as planned and determining the reasons for delay or non-implementation. The progress in the accomplishments of expected Outcomes and Outputs as of 30 June 2018 was rated, per UNDP procedures[8]. Similarly, the seven (7) elements of project implementation and adaptive management as described in the TOR were also assessed and rated accordingly. The financial performance was also evaluated on the GEF-funded inputs to the project as of the same cut-off date (however, co-financing information was not available to the MTR Team). In consultation with the project participants, the identification of risks that affect the sustainability of the project during the implementation period as well as the likelihood of continuation of the project activities after the project closure have also been done vis-à-vis the project design and the project goals and objectives.

[6] Technical Paper on Environmentally Sensitive Areas, UNDP (June, 2018)

[7] Institutional Arrangements for Participatory Planning and Management in Environmentally Sensitive Areas, UNDP (Aug, 2018)

[8] Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects (2014)

3. Project Description and Background Context

3.1 Development context

Global and Regional Perspectives

During the last few decades, there has been growing evidence that environmental degradation in its many forms constitutes a threat of growing significance to economic development. Discussions on sustainable development have led to an increased understanding of the interdependence among economic activities and their environmental consequences.

There is now an urgent need for development of management programmes using a broad systems approach based on an increasingly sophisticated environmental and ecological understanding of ecosystem productivity, processes, and dynamics. Integrated approaches that combine management approaches with technical inputs are to be used to promote environmentally sound management of large ecosystems containing both natural and transformed habitats. While such programmes can make important contributions to conservation of biodiversity, they also contribute indirectly through stabilizing resource use in areas which are not biologically diverse. These activities focus upon maintaining, or restoring, natural ecosystems so that the ecological and hydrological processes which they support are maintained, and the benefits which they provide to human society are made available on a sustainable basis.

It is apparent that mechanisms need to be developed for identifying environmentally sensitive areas in a systematic manner and establishing minimum quality criteria for managing such areas.

National perspectives

Sri Lanka is known to host globally noteworthy biological diversity, and the country has been identified as one of the highest priority conservation areas in the world. Sri Lanka is one of the 34 global "biodiversity hotspots" and is one of the world's 356 endemic bird areas. There is regular discovery of new species.

About 38% of the land area are under Protected Areas (PAs). These include Strict Nature Reserves, Nature Reserves, National Parks, Jungle Corridors, Refuges, Marine Reserves, Buffer Zones and Sanctuaries under the administration of DWLC; in addition, there are Forest Reserves, Conservation Forests and National Heritage Wilderness Area under the Forest Department, which can also be considered as "protected" areas. However, many of the important ecosystems and globally significant species are outside of these protected areas. Since the cessation of civil disturbances in 2009, there have been massive development efforts including infrastructure development in these areas. Unless these development efforts are biodiversity-friendly, there is real threat for biodiversity outside the protected areas.

The Project has been designed to strengthen Sri Lanka's ability to safeguard biodiversity outside protected areas in specially designed Environemntally Sensitive Areas through a new land use governance framework.

At the time of project formulation, Sri Lanka Government's development context was embodied in *Mahinda Chintana*[9]. Its vision was "*a land that is in harmony with nature*", and embodied the principles of environmental sustainability in harmony with the living conditions of the people, and the biological diversity and productivity of the natural environment. In terms of this development vision, the project is very relevant. The Project is also in line with Sri Lanka

[9] *Mahinda Chintana*: Vision for a new Sri Lanka; A ten year horizon development framework 2006-2016; Department of National Planning, Sri Lanka.

Government's National Action Plan for *Haritha Lanka* (Green Lanka)[10]. It directly addresses a thrust area, namely, saving the fauna, flora and ecosystems. The environment-related Sustainable Development Goals are also intrinsically related to the *Haritha Lanka* programme.

The Project is also well aligned with the current national priorities. It addresses many targets in the National Biodiversity and Action Plan[11] where mention is made on 'bioregions' which have been proposed for protection as a high priority. Finally, it addresses several Aichi targets for which Sri Lanka is a signatory.

Poverty is one of the main causes of forest degradation. Shifting cultivation, cattle and buffalo damage, encroachments, illegal cultivation, and extraction of gravel, illegal settlements, metal and sand are some of the means through which communities gain income to oversome poverty. The approach adopted by the government is to involve local communities in forest management while ensuring conservation of forest through improvement of livelihoods.

In order to conserve biodiversity outside the protected areas, the current policies and laws need to be reviewed and strengthened.

There are a number of donor-funded projects aimed at addressing biodiversity and ecosystem concerns; these include Eco-Systems Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) [MoMDE], Supporting Wilpattu National Park and Influence Zone Management in Sri Lanka [Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs], and Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Marginalized Agricultural Communities Living in the Mahaweli River Basin of Sri Lanka [MoMDE].

3.2 Threats and barriers

The key threats to biodiversity conservation are habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation, alien invasive species, pollution, and natural disasters and climate change. In agriculture, there is *in situ* genetic erosion of traditional crop varieties, although the Plant Genetic Resources Centre of the Department of Agriculture has taken steps to preserve them.

The Project has identified the following barriers with mitigation actions:

- *Weak National Policy and capacity for cross-sectoral work to conserve biodiversity outside protected areas* – this barrier will be addressed through development of an ESA Policy, developing tools for integrating biodiversity in land-use planning; and mainstreaming of biodiversity into other sectors.
- *Limited know-how for biodiversity conservation friendly ESA management that secures the long term integrity and resilience of ESAs* – this barrier will be addressed through improving local level institutions in biodiversity mainstreaming at the local level land use planning, monitoring and enforcement; enhancing understanding of local stakeholders on biodiversity values; improving linkages between protected areas and surrounding lands; and providing incentives for farmers to promote effective agro-ecosystems management to strengthen livelihoods and biodiversity

[10] National Action Plan for *Haritha Lanka* Programme. National Council for Sustainable Development Presidential Secretariat, Colombo 01. Convener: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Battaramulla. January 2009.

[11] National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016-2022; Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE (ISBN – 978-956-8396-05-09) (2016)

3.3 Project description:

The Project addresses the need to secure biodiversity conservation outside protected areas, particularly in some special areas that cannot be made into a formal protected area, through biodiversity-friendly management in order to meet Sri Lanka's national targets and international obligations on biodiversity conservation.

The objective of this project is "*to operationalize Environment Sensitive Areas (ESA) as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance*". There are two Outcomes to achieve this Objective:

Outcome 1: National Enabling Framework Strengthened to Designate and Manage Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA).

Outcome 2: Biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long term integrity and resilience ensured at two sites in the Kala Oya Region.

The expected main targets are as follows:

- At least 5% of Sri Lanka's land area identified for Environmentally Sensitive Area designation;
- Maintaining the current populations of globally threatened species within Wilpattu and Kala Wewa (e.g. *Elephas maximus*; *Panthera pardus; Sousa chinensis*, and *Dugong dugon)*;
- Maintaining areas of critical habitats under management within Wilpattu and Kala Wewa ESAs for connectivity and resilience (Salt Marsh - 250 ha; Mangrove forests -620 ha; Riverine forests – 400 ha; Moist Mixed Evergreen Forest – 2,000 ha & Scrub on floodplains -100 ha);
- Development of a National Policy and Strategy on ESA; a National ESA Scale Up Plan, and updated policy to address human-wildlife conflicts;
- Development of at least two ESA land-use plans;
- Twenty per cent increase in the capacity scorecard of Biodiversity Secretariat to act as the national lead agency to promote effective ESA implementation;
- Development of a Decision Support System for practitioners for managing multiple land uses in ESAs including national guidelines to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into land use planning; field guides in local languages to aid field practitioners on how to integrate biodiversity conservation into sectoral plans and actions, (agriculture, forestry, coastal development and tourism), and an online integrated biodiversity assessment tool to identify biodiversity hotspots nationwide, building on national and international data;
- Twenty-thousand hectares under management with inter-sectoral partnership and quantifiable biodiversity conservation targets;
- Enhancing the Stakeholders' capacities to implement ESA's land use/ seascape plans for conservation (general awareness amongst school children, peri-urban dwellers, and local leaders increased by 100% over baseline; at least 2,300 people trained, based on their training needs assessment; and at least 20 women's development organizations' capacities increased and involved in ESA management activities);
- At least 20% increase in funding to support biodiversity-friendly ESA management activities;

- About 160,000 ha of protected areas where management is integrated with wider landscapes/ seascapes to minimize threats from outside PA and to mitigate land and resource use conflicts at ESAs
- About 25,000 ha of critical biodiversity habitats outside protected areas brought under effective management regimes within the ESA for habitat connectivity, integrity and resilience; and
- About 25,000 ha of land brought under biodiversity compatible agricultural production practices (including paddy, *chen*a land and homesteads)

Project sites

The Inception Report identified two sites: the **Kalawewa Site** in the upper reaches of the river basin and encompassing the Kala Wewa reservoir and covering Palagala, Galnewa, Kakirawa & Ipalogama Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions (Anuradhapura District) and the **Wilpattu Site** in the lower part of the basin and encompassing marine area including the Bar Reef and the estuary of the Kala Oya River covering Wanathawilluwa and Kaluwaragaswewa DS divisions (Puttalam District). In 2018, the Project identified 10 sites as ESAs (Fig. 3.1), of which three sites are in the Kurunegala district.

KOB ESA1	Kala oya River Mouth ESA	KOB ESA6	Ehatuwewa
KOB ESA2	Munamalgaswewa ESA	KOB ESA7	Galnewa- Ipalogama ESA
KOB ESA3	Eastern Wilpattu ESA	KOB ESA8	Manewakanda ESA
KOB ESA4	Lower Rajanganaya ESA	KOB ESA9	Palagala ESA
KOB ESA5	Siyabalangamuwa ESA	KOB ESA10	Kekirawa

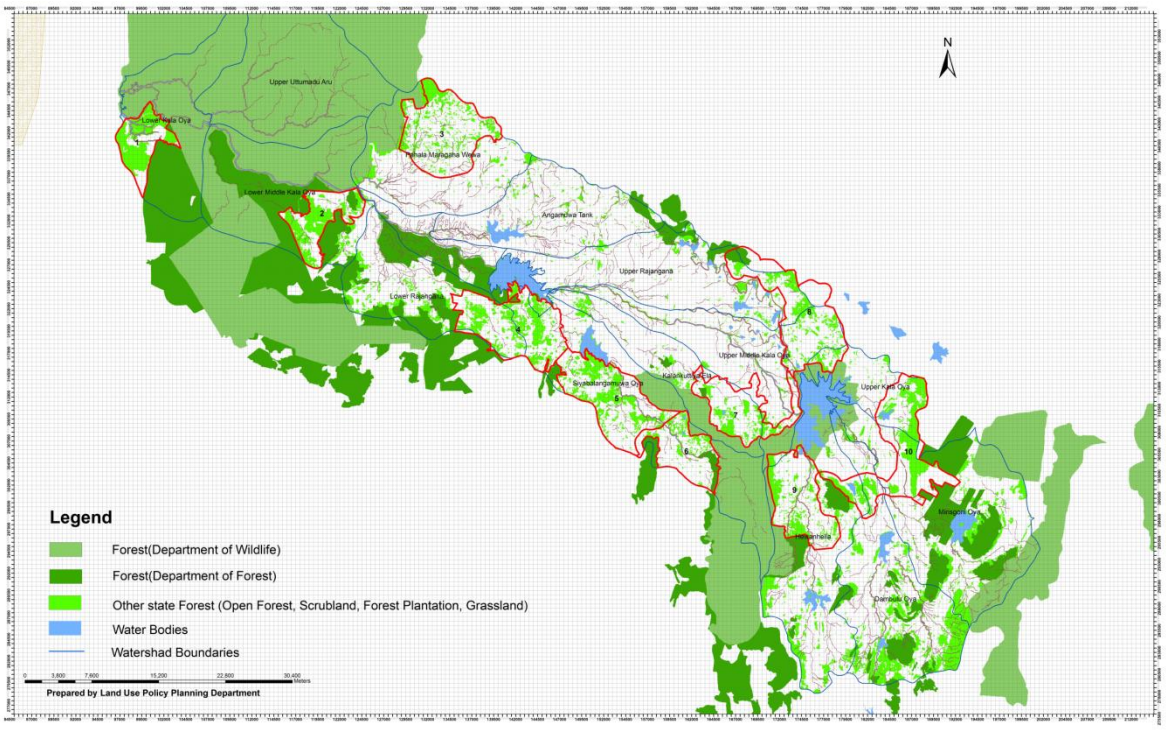


Fig. 3.1 – Project sites (red areas)

3.4 Project Implementation Arrangements

The Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment (MoMDE) is the lead Executing Agency of the Project. The **Local Project Appraisal Committee** (LPAC) met on 30 March and 9 April, 2015 to agree on management arrangements and structures. The main arrangements are as follows:

The Project Board (PB): The Project Board is chaired by the Secretary, MoMDE who serves as the **Executive** with the ultimate responsibility of project implementation. The key functions of the **Executive** include approving and signing the Annual Work-plans and approving the Combined Delivery report at the end of the year. The second member of the Board is the Deputy Country Director (Programme) of UNDP who functions as the **Senior Supplier** and is responsible for oversight and quality assurance of deliverables, and monitoring project implementation. The **Senior Supplier** is also responsible for ensuring that progress towards achieving outputs remains consistent. The third member of the Board is the Director of the Environment, Planning & Economics Division of MoMDE who functions as the **Senior Beneficiary.** Key responsibilities of the S**enior Beneficiary** include monitoring of implementation of activities, providing critiques on project implementation changes, and resolving priority conflicts.

Implementation oversight is provided by the **ESA National Steering Committee (NSC)**, chaired by the Secretary, MoMDE. At its first meeting, NSC also decided on staffing of the PMU[12]. Although the Project's Inception Report does not clearly set out the Terms of Reference of the NSC, a perusal of minutes show that the NSC reviewed physical and financial progress and provided oversight for the preparation of the Annual Work-plan.

In addition, **District Facilitation Committees (DFC)**, chaired by the District Secretary have been set up in Puttalam and Anuradhapura districts. The DFCs are responsible for 'implementation of the management plan for each district', resolving coordination and inter-sectoral issues, and monitoring and evaluation of ESA management actions. In the field, active engagement of the DFC was not evident, largely due to lack of clarity on the ESA concept. The DFCs are represented in the NSC.

The **Local Management Committees (LMC)**, chaired by the Divisional Secretary have been established to coordinate field work at the Divisional Secretariat level. The LMCs are tasked with 'development of management and zoning plans', 'formulate permitted actions at the ESA sites', and resolving inter-institutional conflicts.

3.1 *Project timing and milestones*

The history, milestones and timelines of the project are given in Table 3.1.

3.5 Main Stakeholders

The main stakeholders are as follows:

- Department of Forest Conservation
- Coast Conservation Department
- Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
- Land Use Policy Planning Department
- Provincial Irrigation Department (Anuradhapura)
- District Secretaries
- Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Central Environmental Authority
- Department of National Planning
- Provincial Departments of Agriculture
- Communities and Community-based Organisations
- Divisional Secretaries

Table 3.1 – Project Timing

[12] The current composition of the PMU is different from the agreed arrangements (*vide* Section 2 of the minutes of the 1st NSC meeting held on 23 November 2015).

Activity/Milestone	Date
PIF Approval	14 June 2013
CEO Endorsement	22 January 2015
Signing of the Project Agreement	25 September 2015
Inception Workshop	28 January 2016[13]
Approval of the Inception Report	31 January 2017
Mid-Term Review	• Planned: January, 2018 • Actual: September 2018
Finalized implementation and PMU arrangements (LPAC approval)	9 April, 2015
Project Oversight Meetings	
Project Board	**ESA National Steering Committee**
# 1 26 February 2016	#1 23 November 2015
#2 25 August 2016	#2 29 November 2016
#3 19 January 2017	#3 19 January 2017
#4 10 August 2017	#4 19 September 2017
#5 25 January 2018	#5 21 December 2017
Completion of Project Implementation Reports	# 1: August 2017 # 2: September 2018
Project Completion (Planned)	23 September 2020

Key Implementing Partners

The Project has identified 'Responsible Partners' with the mandate of implementing project activities. These are: Department of Wildlife Conservation; Forest Department; Land Use Policy Planning Department; Central Environmental Authority; Coast Conservation Department; Provincial Departments of Agriculture; Provincial Department of Irrigation, Anuradhapura. Implementation via central government departments and agencies is through direct disbursement of funds by MoMDE whilst implementation through provincial structures is via a Memorandum of Agreement.

[13] Source: PIR of 2018

4. Findings

4.1. Project Strategy

4.1.1. *Project Design*

The Project has significant potential to demonstrate the novel concept of ESA; depending on the success, here is scope for replication nationally as well as elsewhere in the world.

Although three years have elapsed, the concept of ESA is not grounded well amongst the stakeholders and Partners. Originally, two sites, viz., Kalawewa and Wilpattu have been identified. Subsequently, 10 ESAs have been identified. The design has almost exclusively used biodiversity richness as a criterion to identify ESAs outside protected areas. Many stakeholders felt that other considerations such as human threats, land degradation and suitability etc. should also be considered in identifying ESAs. A somewhat similar approach has been proposed now in a Technical Paper developed by the Project. By using the relevant multiple criteria, it is expected that representative ESAs could be identified for project interventions.

4.1.2. *Results Framework/Logframe*

The original Results Framework has been developed when the ESA concept was in a nascent stage. From the original two sites, the project has progressed to identify 10 sites.

Some of the Indicators in the Results Framework are very ambitious. For example, at the Objective level, it is expected to have at least 5% of Sri Lanka's land area (approximately 328,000 ha) designated as ESAs. Related to that is the additional large area of nearly 3,500 ha of 'critical habitats' expected to be under ESA management.

Whilst the main Results Framework can be maintained, a critical review of the Indicators to align these to the new ESA approach is needed.

Theory of Change

The Theory of Change (ToC) used in the Project Design is based on two 'Prioritised Root Causes', viz.:

- Need for stronger National Policy and capacity for cross-sectoral work to conserve biodiversity outside protected areas; and
- Enhanced know-how and more examples within the country of applying land use planning and regulatory frameworks to manage different sectors' actions to secure positive biodiversity conservation outcomes.

The ToC will need to be revisited in the light of new approach proposed for ESA identification which will take into account root causes. In particular, the threat criteria involving anthropogenic and natural drivers of land use change and extinction[14].

Indicators to evaluate gender sensitivity

The Project's Gender Analysis[15] comments as follows:

[14] Please see Section on Mapping ESAs in larger landscapes (Survey and mapping of target elements in the landscape – Tier 2): Technical Paper on Environmentally Sensitive Areas (June, 2018)

[15] Report of the Study on Gender and Social Inclusiveness in the Project of Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem Services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas; Dissanayake D M S B; UNDP (2017)

"There are five indicators for the objective, but with weak gender sensitivity. Both the outcomes and the indicators of the Project need to show gender sensitivity by the way which they have been written. There are four outputs and none of them sound gender sensitive. This does not mean that they are not really gender sensitive; when objective, outcome, and outputs are presented in the technical perspective, and when community perspective is missing, gender sensitivity is not reflected. There are 15 expected Project results and some of them are very gender responsive". (Executive Summary – penultimate page)

It is necessary to include appropriate indicators to evaluate gender sensitivity. The areas to be covered may include:

- Increased number of women participating in the new design phase and project implementation;
- Improved access for women for resources;
- Number of women's organisations; number of women holding responsible positions in organisations dealing with ESAs; and recognition of women's decision-making power;
- Increased participation of men in household chores;
- etc.

Paragraph 59 of the Gender Analysis Report has also provided some directions on new Indicators, which project could consider.

4.2. Progress towards Results

4.2.1. *Progress towards Outcome Analysis*

A narrative on progress towards achieving the Outputs and Activities is presented in Annex 4-A, and the mid-term assessment is at Annex 4-B. A summary of progress is presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 – Summary of Progress

INDICATOR	COMMENTS
Objective **To operationalize Environment Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance**	
1. % of land area identified nationally for Environmentally Sensitive Area designation	This indicator may need revision with the concept and criteria for ESA better defined and sites identified.
2. Populations of globally threatened species within Wilpattu and Kalawewa ESAs	There is a need to review the species-based indicators given that new areas are to be designated as ESAs.
3. Areas of critical habitats under management within Wilpattu and Kala Wewa ESAs for connectivity and resilience	To be reviewed after ESAs are identified
Outcome 1 **National Enabling Framework Strengthened to Designate and Manage Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)**	
1.1. Appropriate Policy and legislative mechanisms developed to guide identification, declaration management, conflict mitigation and monitoring of ESAs	ESA Policy can only be completed after ESA concept has been understood and put into practice

INDICATOR	COMMENTS
1.2. Number of inter-sectoral plans approved and financed by cross-sectoral National ESA Committee	To be considered after ESAs are established
1.3. Capacity of the Biodiversity Secretariat to act as the national lead agency to promote effective ESA implementation	Suggest that the score card be self-applied to assess the trends in capacity enhancement; also, there is a need to include other key partners' capacities, as needed
1.4. Decision Support System available to practitioners for managing multiple land uses in ESAs	A tool has been developed and tested. However, this may have to be re-visted after the ESA concept is agreed upon.
Outcome 2 **Biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long term integrity and resilience ensured at two sites in the Kala Oya Region**	
2.1 Area under management with inter-sectoral partnership and quantifiable biodiversity conservation targets	To be reviewed after ESAs are established; given the current status of the project, this appears somewhat ambitious
2.2 Stakeholders' capacities to implement ESA's land use/ seascape plans for conservation	This should be a part of the management strategy to be used in ESA management and can only be realistically assessed once the ESAs and stakeholders are identified, and management options reviewed.
2.3 Increase in funding available to support biodiversity-friendly ESA management activities	The status given (e.g. GIZ Project) need to be sharpened to focus on *support biodiversity-friendly ESA management activities*
2.4 Area of protected areas whose management is integrated with wider landscapes/ seascapes to minimize threats from outside PA and to mitigate land and resource use conflicts at ESAs	To be reviewed; this gives the impression that ESAs are immediately outside the PAs. To be re-visited once ESAs are established.
2.5 Critical biodiversity habitats outside protected areas under effective management regimes within the ESA for habitat connectivity, integrity and resilience	To be re-visited once ESAs are established; there needs clarity and common understanding of the difference between ESA and these '*critical biodiversity habitats outside PAs*'.
2.6 Extent of land brought under biodiversity compatible agricultural production practices	Conceptual clarity on '*biodiversity compatible agricultural production practices'* is needed at the ground level. These require linkages to the proposed ESAs.

A brief commentary on outcome-wise findings is presented below:

Outcome 1: ***National Enabling Framework Strengthened to Designate and Manage Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)***

There are several components under this Outcome:

(a) *Policy and legislative mechanisms*: The Project have undertaken the following tasks:

- Reviewing the Wild Elephant Management & Conservation Policy & Strategy and calling for public comments (in progress);
- A gap analysis of existing environment policies; and

- The 'ESA Policy' has been drafted, and the comments of the Policy Committee are being incorporated. In the meantime, the Project has prepared a Technical Paper[16] on the ESA concept.

The purpose of this output was to guide identification, declaration, management, conflict mitigation and monitoring of ESAs. The activities and outcomes need to be aligned appropriately. Nonetheless, some studies (e.g. wild-elephant management) may contribute towards this component, it is best that the ESA Policy is developed after ESA identification has been completed.

In terms of management of ESAs, there is a need to engage with communities in respective ESA sites to make them understand the management practices and impacts thereof. The concerns such as potential restrictions to access to areas in case such areas, including the forests lie within ESAs, and fall in value of private lands inside ESAs need to be considered and addressed appropriately by the project. While management by legislation could be a less-than ideal option, a more community-based management with the participation of all agencies would be preferred.

(b) *Inter-sectoral plans:* The purpose of these plans is to provide agency coordination in managing ESAs. Currently, land-use maps are under preparation, but these need to be re-looked based on the finalisation of specific sites to be designated as ESAs.

(c) *Capacity Building of Biodiversity Secretariat[17]:* Capacity assessment has been postponed until the ESA concept has been agreed upon.

(d) *Decision support System:* National guidelines on how to integrate biodiversity in land use planning have been developed and validated. The guidelines have been translated in to Sinhalese and Tamil, primarily to aid field practitioners. However, these Guidelines will need to be revisited once the ESA concept has been agreed upon.

MTR Rating: Satisfactory/Moderately Satisfactory (4.5)

Outcome 2: Biodiversity-friendly ESA management for long term integrity and resilience ensured at two sites in the Kala Oya Region

The current situation relating to outputs under this component is briefly given below:

(e) *Area under inter-sectoral partnership:* This is an activity that should be undertaken after ESA concept has been agreed upon and sites identified

(f) *Enhancement of stakeholder capacities to implement ESAs:* The Project has developed a stakeholder engagement strategy, and about 1,800 individuals comprised of local level journalists, school teachers representing school eco-clubs, staff of stakeholder agencies and local communities have been trained or briefed on the subjects relating to ESA management. This is progressive and impressive. In the future, a more focussed approach to improving stakeholder capacity will be needed once the ESA concept has been agreed upon.

(g) *Increased funding for ESA Management:* The achievements include (i) investment of EUR 2 million by GIZ on protected area management, and (ii) provision of bee-keeping facilities to

[16] Technical Paper on Environmentally Sensitive Areas (June, 2018); UNDP Colombo

[17] The Project has decided to include other 'Responsible Partners' also in the capacity development programme.

home garden beneficiaries. These achievements need revisiting as the narrative provided should include such opportunities availed and available.

(h) *Integrating protected areas with wider landscapes/seascapes:* The Project has completed (i) strategic management framework for Wilpattu complex, (ii) a management plan for Kahalla-Pallekele sanctuary, and (iii) a management strategy for Bar Reef complex. The three management strategies/plans, whilst may serve a purpose[18], could have been attempted after ESA identification to address threats from ESA areas to the protected areas.

The Project has also reported the establishment of *a joint community monitoring mechanism'* for the Bar Reef. However, the MTR found this to be an informal group needing endorsement by the relevant authorities and further support.

(i) *Identification of critical biodiversity habitats within ESAs for habitat connectivity*: The Project has reported 'rehabilitation and management of an additional 10,522 ha' including Manewakanda, Nelliyakanda, and Habarawatta cascade system. However, MTR finds that activities relating to these are yet on-going; an eco-tourism facility has been set-up at Manewakanda, and three small tanks in the Habarawatta Cascade System have been rehabilitated (improvements to the watershed area will commence with north-east monsoon). These will have to be re-visited once ESAs are identified as the purpose of the Project is to conserve critical habitats inside ESAs.

(j) *Extent of land brought under biodiversity compatible agricultural production*: Some home-gardens have been identified in DS divisions in Anuradhapura whereas these are under planning stage in Puttalam. It would be better if there is enhanced conceptual clarity on linking the home-gardens with ESA establishment and management. Such links exist but they need to be articulated better, both for project management and for communities.

MTR Rating: Moderately Satisfactory (4)

Cross-cutting areas

- *Capacity Development:* The Project has conducted 24 capacity development programmes (Table 4.2 and Annex 4-C).

Table 4.2 – Summary of Capacity Development Programmes

Event	M	F	Total
Awareness building for officials (4 programmes)	118	153	271
Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Land Use Planning (Step # 1)	12	19	31
Prioritisation, conservation gap analysis and integration of biodiversity into spatial planning (Step #2)	14	20	34
Biodiversity and landscape planning -GIS modelling using Maxent (Step # 3)	8	22	30
GPS Training	36	8	44
General awareness and Ecological farming practices (11 programmes)	522	626	1148
GIS & Remote Sensing	10	18	28
Journalist Training (2 events)	57	25	82
Teachers training on ESA Concept (2 programmes)	61	80	141

[18] The Management Strategic Framework for Wilpattu Complex is of limited use as GIZ Project is now preparing a full-fledged management plan for the Complex.

Event	M	F	Total
TOTAL	838	971	1,809

The training programmes varied from awareness creation amongst officials in partners state agencies to more technical training on integrating biodiversity in land use planning. Only some capacity development programmes have been evaluated.

As with other capacity development programmes in similar projects, the project faces the challenge of repeating the same programme due to changing individuals representing key stakeholder agencies. This seem to have resulted in dis-connected understanding of issues and approaches relevant to the project. Being an issue of governance, MoMDE should ensure appropriate participation and providing clarity to participants on ESAs.

The Project has carried out three sequential land-use planning trainings; although quite technical, these trainings have been generally appreciated by the participants, as reflected in the evaluations of training. However, the evaluations of trainings also indicate that some participants have expressed reservations in skills enhancements[19]; MTR examined these concerns and find that these are likely to de due to (a) participants not having the required basic knowledge (in spite of the fact that such knowledge was a pre-requisite), and (b) the same trainee not participating in all the sequential training resulting from new trainees coming mid-course in the series and unable to follow the full programme.

The methodology to be used in the trainings is also published in all three languages[20].

A capacity development strategy will be developed once the ESA concept has been agreed upon.

- *Outreach and Communications:* The Central Environmental Authority has been contracted to carry out communications and outreach; it has conducted training of journalists (in Anuradhapura), teacher training, and has produced a teacher Guidebook[21]. In addition, CEA has conducted a street drama on the project and its benefits. It has not implemented its entire programme of outreach activities as the ESA concept lacks clarity. Once the concept is clear to all parties, CEA will commence its balance activities. In addition, CEA has been entrusted with printing project-related materials from other agencies.

  The MTR notes the need to ensure technical rigour in project publications. At the moment, all publications are cleared by the Project Director prior to publication; there is no clearing house mechanism to ensure technical rigour and accepted publications standards in project publications.

  Visibility: The Project has undertaken only a limited number of on-the-ground activities. These include rehabilitation of the Habarawatta Cascade System, some home-gardens in Anuradhapura district and the eco-park in Manewakanda. Some of these activities have project signage; the Project needs to ensure that its activities are visible to all.

- *Gender considerations*

[19] For example see: *Report on Capacity Building*; 20th and 21st of October, 2016 at Wayamba Training Centre, Wariyapola – Section 2.1.3

[20] Training Manual for Integrating Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Land Use Planning in Environmentally Sensitive Areas – Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE (2017)

[21] Kala Oya Environmentally Sensitive Area – A Teachers Guidebook (undated); Central Environmental Authority

The Project has commissioned a study on gender perspectives[22]. The study assessed the socioeconomic and environmental context of project locations that denotes the relationship between the people and environment, the level of gender sensitivity of the ESA Project, and how gender and social Inclusiveness are strategically important in enhancing the ESA Project outcomes.

The study examined the ProDoc and noted that data on community relationships to environmental degradation were lacking and that the threat analysis was inadequate. It concluded that 'the Project does not show its commitment of gender and social inclusion'.

The project has identified activities for women and men to participate and benefit. Capacity development for women in leadership and decision-making, and networking of women/women groups have been identified as priority areas. The study also notes that outcome indicators could have been improved to include gender sensitivity more fully.

At the moment, consideration of gender in the Results is uneven, aside from recording gender disaggregated data in the training programmes.

Given that ESA identification process is to be re-examined, there is much potential in addressing gender issues vis-à-vis project results in the newly-identified ESAs. Concomitantly, it will be necessary to identify better indicators for evaluating gender sensitivity.

In regard to Project Implementation, the Project has focussed on delivery of benefits to women and differently-abled persons. Although field activities are limited, one of the criteria adopted by the Provincial Department of Agriculture in Anuradhapura is to identify women-headed families and differently-abled families for the home gardening component. A similar approach will be adopted by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Puttalam.

The PMU's MoMDE staff number seven (7) and all are women; the UNDP staff of three (3) consist of two women.

4.2.2. *Analysis of the current status of barriers*

The current situation with regard to barriers[23] are summarised in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 – Barrier analysis

Barrier	Current situation
Weak National Policy and capacity for cross-sectoral work to conserve biodiversity outside protected areas	
Current policies on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation are very general and does not identify particular areas of high sensitivity nor has national mechanisms to support inter-sectoral issues	Preliminary work on Policy attempted, but this will have to be completed once the ESA's are identified.
Land use planning efforts have remained as land use mapping at best and biodiversity considerations are not reflected in such	This barrier has been effectively addressed; the tool prepared by the Project is well accepted. This is ready to be used once the new ESA's are identified. A remaining concern is the issues

[22] Report of the Study on Gender and Social Inclusiveness in the Project of Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem Services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas; Dissanayake D M S B; UNDP (2017)
[23] See Section 1.7 of the Project Inception Report

Barrier	Current situation
plans. No tool exists to collect, collate and share current biodiversity information ….	relating to data-sharing; if the tool is to be effectively used, all relevant data and information must be provided to LUPPD.
Limited MoMDE mechanisms to coordinate and facilitate mainstreaming of biodiversity into other sectors	Though MoMDE is attempting to deal with coordination and mainstreaming, the outcomes need to be more visible and effective. MoMDE needs to undertake the capacity assessment and ensure better inter-sectoral coordination
Barrier 2: Limited know-how for biodiversity conservation friendly ESA management that secures the long-term integrity and resilience of ESAs	
No effective local mechanisms to coordinate BD mainstreaming at local level land use planning, monitoring and enforcement	Some actions have been initiated (e.g. District-level facilitation; Divisional level management committees); these need to be further strengthened once the ESA identification protocol is agreed upon and ESA management mechanisms are agreed upon.
Limited experience of mainstreaming biodiversity in land use planning at local levels	This is being addressed effectively through the involvement of various government and non-governmental agenices.
Limited understanding of local stakeholders on BD values of their lands and landscapes and limited capacities of all stakeholders to promote conservation actions	This is being addressed; as indicated elsewhere, outreach activities are yet to be fully implemented.
Inadequate linkages between PA and surrounding landscape/ seascapes to address conservation concerns at a wider landscape/ seascape level	Preliminery work (e.g. PA strategic management frameworks) has been completed, and this is expected to be addressed once the ESA's are identified.
Limited incentives for farmers to promote effective agro-ecosystems management to strengthen livelihoods and biodiversity	Although identification of ESA's is yet to be done, a home-gardening programme has commenced in Anuradhapura district to popularise wise-use of chemicals. The programme is Puttalam is in planning stage.

4.3. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

4.3.1. *Management Arrangements*

The Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment (MoMDE) is the lead Executing Agency of the Project. The Project's focus lies directly within the mandate of this Ministry. There are a number of agencies with key responsibilities for implementation. Aside from the various Divisions of MoMDE, the other key partners are: Department of Forest Conservation, Central Environment Authority, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (these agencies work under the MoMDE), Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Land Use Policy Planning, Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department, Marine Environment Protection Authority, Department of Agrarian Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, National Aquaculture Development Authority, and the National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency.

<u>Management Structures</u>

The **Local Project Appraisal Committee** (LPAC) met on 30 March and 9 April, 2015 to agree on management arrangements and structures. The main arrangements are as follows:

The Project Board: Since the commencement of the Project, the Project Board has met five (5) times and has attended to the duties entrusted to it. It has approved the work-plans.

ESA National Steering Committee, chaired by the Secretary, MoMDE. has met five (5) times with the last meeting in December 2017. NSC has reviewed progress, and made observations on field activities. It has not met in 2018, and is yet to discuss the Technical Paper which provides guidance for identification of ESAs.

The **District Facilitation Committees (DFC)**, chaired by the District Secretary has not met regularly.

The **Local Management Committees (LMC)** are yet to be fully functional as on-the-ground activities are yet in a nascent stage.

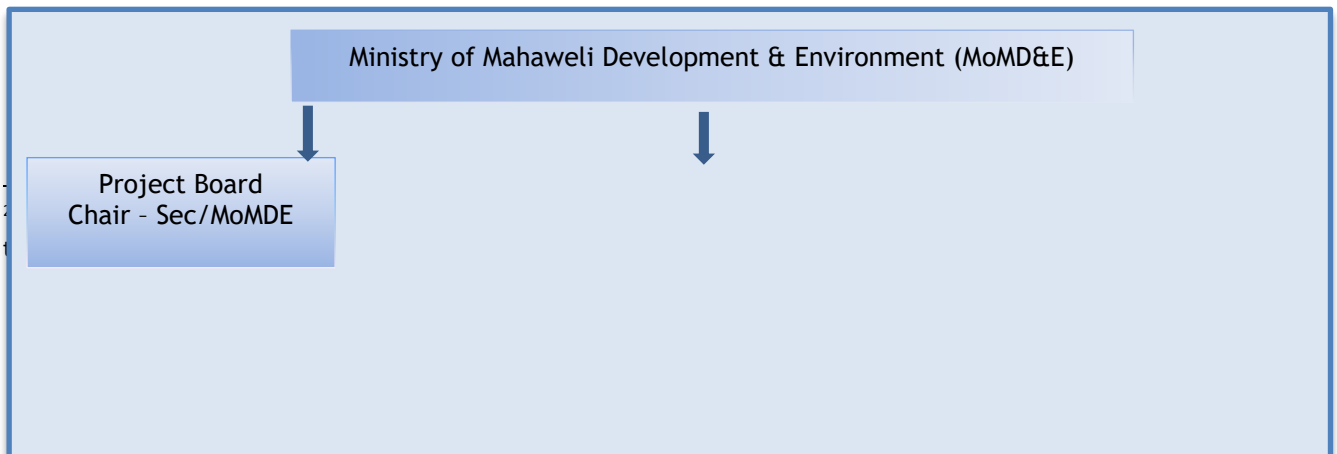
The LPAC decided that the project should be executed under UNDP's assisted-National Implementation Modality (NIM) agreed between the UNDP and the Government of Sri Lanka, which include direct UNDP payment modality. An important decision of the LPAC is to coordinate all environmental projects in the district so that each build on others' experiences. The situation in the districts does not show that this recommendation has been followed-up.

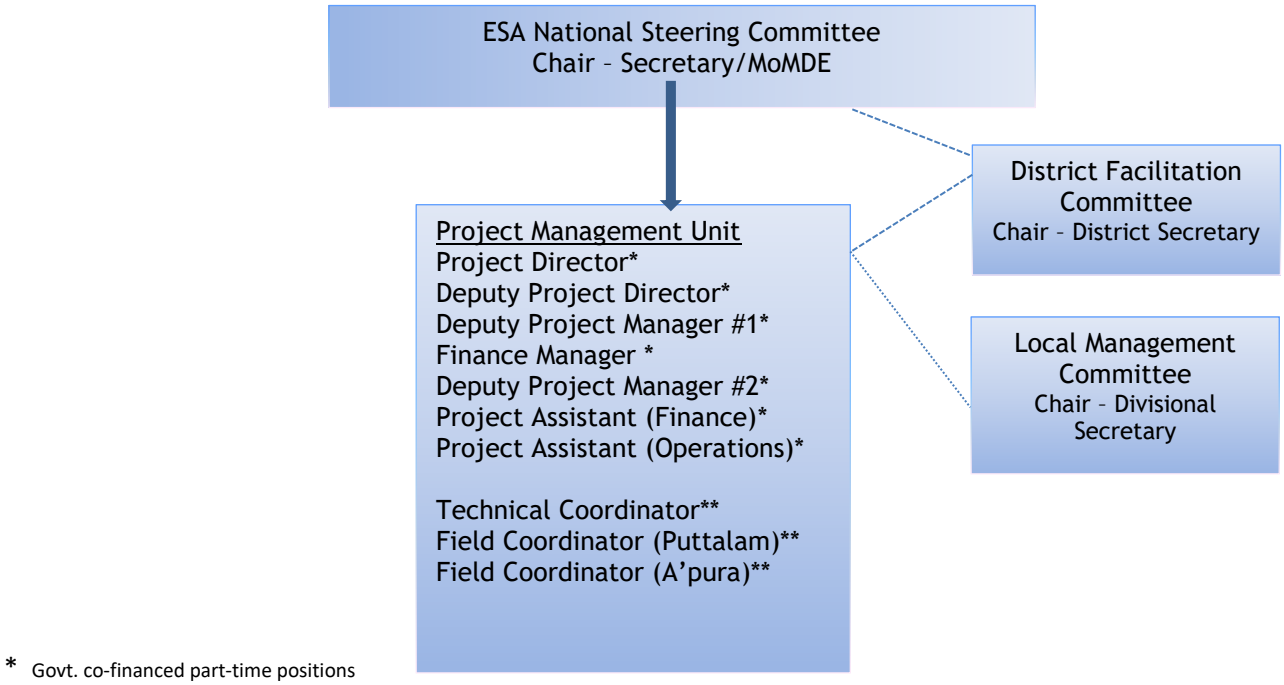
The Project's Organogram is in Fig. 4.1.

Project Management

A Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established under the MoMDE. The Ministry has provided pleasant work-stations to staff in its office, *Sobadaham Piyasa*. The PMU is headed by the Project Director who functions part-time in addition to her duties as Director, Environment Management of MoMDE. The current incumbent is the 3rd Project Director, and has been in this position for four months. Aside from the Project Director, there are several other part-time positions[24] funded by GoSL (Table 4.4). UNDP has provided three full-time staff, representing MoMDE for the project implementation; the Technical Coordinator is based in MoMDE for most part, and two Field Coordinators in Puttalam (based in the District Secretariat) and Anuradhapura (based in the District Forest Department).

Fig. 4.1 – Project Organogram





* Govt. co-financed part-time positions

** UNDP full-time staff

Table 4.4 - Current Staffing of the Project

Position	Incumbent/Substantive post in MoMDE	Location
Part-time MoMDE Staff		
Project Director	Ms Dhammika Wijayasinghe (Director, Environment Planning)	MoMDE, Battaramulla
Deputy Project Director	Ms Nalini Kohowala (Asst. Director)	MoMDE, Battaramulla
Finance Manager	Ms Nandani Abeyrathna (Accountant)	MoMDE, Battaramulla
Deputy Project Manager #1	Ms Nirosha Kumari (Environment Management Officer)	MoMDE, Battaramulla
Deputy Project Manager #2	Ms Kema Kasthuriarachchi (Environment Management Officer)	MoMDE, Battaramulla
Project Assistant (Finance)	Ms Ganga Pallearachchi (Programme Assistant)	MoMDE, Battaramulla
Project Assistant (Operations)	Ms J A Hasini Prabodha (Development Officer)	MoMDE, Battaramulla
Full-time Staff - UNDP		
Technical Coordinator	Ms Sugandhi Samarasinghe	MoMDE, Battaramulla and

Position	Incumbent/Substantive post in MoMDE	Location
		UNDP Compound, Colombo
Field Coordinator (Puttalam)	Mr Manjula Bandara	District Secretariat, Puttalam
Field Coordinator (Anuradhapura)	Ms Geethika Wijesundera	Forest Department Office, Anuradhapura

MTR Observations:

GEF Partner Agency – UNDP

- Focus on Results: UNDP has been mindful in regard to achievement of Results. Towards this end, they, together with MoMDE, commissioned a technical study to provide clarifications on the ESA concept. Although quite belated, the technical study will be helpful in bringing about clarity on the ESA concept, and thereby implementation of the Project during the balance period.
- Support: The Project finances three full-time staff members who essentially are representative of the MoMDE, and have provided more than adequate support both at the national level as well as at the provincial level.
- Technical Inputs: The Project's technical inputs are considered adequate and timely.
- Reporting has been timely; both PIRs and the Tracking Tool have been submitted. However, reporting should be more focussed and project-based.
- Risks and mitigation: An assessment of the risks is given in (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5 – Risks and mitigation

Risk	Current situation
Institutionalization of ESAs will be hindered by complexity of institutional roles, and interests at national, provincial, district and local levels	The risk remains; a proper assessment can only be made after there is agreement on the ESA concept and consequent institutional roles. Some institutional conflicts were observed during MTR in Puttalam district.
Policy and regulatory framework for ESA may not receive adequate support	The risk remains; some stakeholders were of the view that a regulatory framework would be a disadvantage.
Local communities may not participate in ESA management because they fear this will lead to reduced access to use of natural resources	Originally, this risk was classified 'medium to high'; the risk is accentuated as the communities feel that, in addition to reduced access, the value of lands within an ESA may drop (due to restricted access etc.)
Climate change impacts may endanger project benefits	The risk remains; some of the project areas have not received the expected rainfall during the project period. An example is the Habarawatta Cascade System where tanks have been rehabilitated and their capacities increased. However, the communities fear lower than

	expected rainfall during the upcoming *Maha* season, which would not be adequate to fill-up the tanks. The community is now requesting additional water sources from a nearby irrigation system for the cascade system.

- Project duration: There are a number of implementation delays in the AWP, 2018. For example, both the Project Board and the ESA NSC are expected to meet quarterly; yet both these entities have not met in 2018. The implementation delays may not be considered negatively as the ESA concept is yet to be finalised; however, the remaining period may not be adequate for achieving the results.
- Mitigation and management of environmental and social risks: The PIR of 2018 addresses the social and environmental safeguards. Once the ESAs are re-identified, social and environmental safeguards will have to be re-evaluated. Given the characteristics of the river basin, it will be necessary to examine a number of standards by applying the UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards[25] (e.g. biodiversity, climate change, community aspects, cultural heritage, and displacement and resettlements).

  Based on MTR findings, it is suggested that the Project closely examines the following assumptions[26] once the ESAs are in place:

  - Improved protected areas management will limit access to forest and marine area resources for poor families, increasing their hardship
  - Increased wildlife populations resulting from improved PA management may cause more human wildlife conflicts

Executing Agency – Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment

- Focus on Results: The need for clarity on the concept and criteria to be used for designating and managing ESAs has been identified by the Project Director also, especially since the concept itself being new to the country. Implementation of activities should be after the ESA concept has been agreed upon.
- Management inputs: The Terms of Reference of the part-time project staff supported by GoSL do not specify the time allocation of each staff member. MTR noted the need for more dedicated time particularly for field presence of the staff to ensure government ownership and visibility of the project.
- Reporting: MoMDE has produced one annual report (2016) and provided inputs for GEF report.

4.3.2. *Work-planning*

The Project has prepared a five-year work-plan at the commencement, but this has not been updated. The Annual work-plans are approved by the Project Board, but there was no evidence of their review, as seen from the delayed actions in AWP of 2018 (e.g. no Project Board Meeting or NSC meetings in 2018; identification of research needs; wild elephant management policy etc.).

[25] Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, UNDP (2016)
[26] PIR of 2018 (page 34)

The AWP together with the Results Framework should be used in monitoring of project implementation. The Project Board may consider it useful to review, at the end of the year, whether or not AWP has been achieved, and if not the reasons for not achieving.

A new work-plan is needed once the ESA concept has been agreed upon and activities identified.

4.3.3. *Finance and Co-finance*

Financial management is by both UNDP and MoMDE under the assisted-NIM protocol. The budget and expenditure up to 30 June 2018 is in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 - Budget and Expenditure (USD) (up to 30 June 2018)

Outcome	2015/16			2017			2018		
	Budget	Exp	Exp as %	Budget	Exp	Exp as %	Budget	Exp	Exp as %
Outcome # 1	86,233	86,232	100	97,905	79,960	82	145,578	13,618	9
Outcome # 2	180,519	125,981	70	572,260	490,704	86	517,341	95,583	18
Project Management	18,386	18,386	100	23,795	23,795	100	28,551	3,701	13
Total	285,138	230,599	81	693,960	594,459	86	691,470	112,902	16

The total expenditure up to 30 June 2018 is USD 937,690 (or about 36% of the total GEF budget of USD 2,626,690). This is due to the Project not implementing the full portfolio of activities awaiting clarification on ESA concept.

Both implementing agencies have protocols in place for financial controls. However, MoMDE has experienced low fund levels as a result of Partners not settling the advances given to them in a timely manner.

Co-Financing: At the submission of the MTR Inception Report, the Project was requested information on the realization of co-financing pledged at the time the project was launched (UNDP – USD 6,500,000; GoSL – USD 10,150,000). However, the Project has not been able to provide this information.

4.3.4. *Project-level monitoring and evaluation*

As per the staff Terms of Reference, an officer in the PMU is responsible for project-level M&E; however, there was neither an M&E plan nor M&E reports. UNDP has undertaken some M&E work as a component of country programme evaluation. The MTR notes the need for a complete review of the current M&E efforts and adopting a formal M&E protocol with specific responsibilities attached to an officer or officers.

4.3.5. *Stakeholder engagement*

The MTR Team met with all stakeholders (including 'Responsible Partners') (Annex 2-C). The main findings from the discussions with the stakeholders are summarised below:

- The Project has established a good rapport with the stakeholders, both at the national and provincial levels. However, stakeholders' understanding of the concept of ESA's varied significantly. There was no common understanding of the ESA Concept. Notwithstanding this,

all stakeholders appreciated the need to conserve biodiversity; they were also mindful of community needs, in particular improving living standards;

- The key stakeholders support the objectives of the Project, as understood by them. The communities expressed the need for livelihood support.
- Some key stakeholders, particularly in the provinces, were not updated with project's progress; this is mostly likely due to their non-participation in the relevant meetings and/or not receiving meeting notes.
- In Anuradhapura district, there are multiple projects with similar objectives operating. Some key GoSL agencies are keen to avoid duplication of efforts, but there is no mechanism to learn the commonalities of different projects. A request was made that all projects form a common forum to present and discuss their work with the key agencies on a quarterly basis. The LMC is made up of about 15 members as constituted now, and is expected to meet once in two-months. LMCs have not yet met; however, a concern expressed was whether a large body of representatives could be brought together for a meeting due to their other commitments. One DS suggested using the Divisional Agricultural Committee for this purpose.

4.3.6. *Reporting*

The Project has produced the periodic reports as required. Aside from the Project Coordinator and the Project Implementing Partner, others have not provided ratings and overall assessments in the PIR of 2018.

Since the MTR recommends review of Indicators upon agreement reached on the ESA Concept, MTR is of the opinion that it will serve no purpose by commenting on the current reporting against Indicators.

The Project Board minutes also do not reflect approval of PIR by the Project Board, although progress has been reported.

4.3.7. *Communications*

Currently, internal communications with stakeholders are through discussions in the various management committees. NSC has not met in 2018; meetings of DFC have been irregular largely due to the fact that ground-level activities have been limited. The provincial officials were not updated with recent developments (e.g. Technical Paper on ESA identification) although they too expressed the need for clarity in ESA identification.

The Central Environmental Authority is tasked with external communications. However, its programme is behind schedule due to the fact that CEA itself is awaiting better clarity on ESA identification. Indeed, MTR is of the opinion that this delay has fortuitously avoided conveying unclear messages to external parties.

The communication strategy is a good starting point; there is scope for undertaking a full external outreach programme once the ESA concept has been finalised.

MTR Rating: Satisfactory (5)

4.4. Sustainability

With a number of stakeholders closely involved in the project implementation, albeit with need for better clarity and information on designating and managing ESAs, the project sustainability seems to be on track. A number of projects, currently being implemented and designed are to provide a substantial support for sustainability of the current project. However, these projects need to be coordinated better for effective field-level implementation. The financial and institutional sustainability of the project is well under control.

MTR Rating: Moderately Likely (3)

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

(a) **Project Strategy & Design:** Considering the need for combining conservation and development for the future of sustainable development, this project has the right mixes of actions to conserve and manage landscapes/seascapes with a variety of special ecosystems rich in biodiversity which offer livelihoods for communities. Thus, the Project is very relevant to the country in the context of national policies and commitments, and the global development and environmental covenants.

Considering the novelty in the approach and innovations related to applying the concept of environmental sensitive areas (ESAs), this project has successfully attempted to reach out to a significant number of institutions, agencies and groups both within and outside the Government. This diversity of stakeholder groups at national, provincial and local levels has posed a key challenge to the project – ensuring all stakeholders will have the same understanding of the concept of environmentally sensitive areas and use a similar set of criteria to make the project deliver its mandate and objectives. In this regard, the Project has commissioned a technical study and other ancillary studies to provide guidance on a more holistic approach to identify ESAs and set in place appropriate management strategies in such areas. There is now an opportunity to identify new areas for designating the ESAs more formally following the steps set out in the Technical Paper with additional criteria as deemed necessary. This will be followed with a number of interventions to develop an appropriate management strategy for ESAs.

The Project, during the last three years, has initiated several activities which continue to be implemented fairly well. Given the uncertainty of the understanding of ESAs, the alignment of some of these activities to the overall objective of the project are not always evident.

The new modality of identifying ESAs and their management can be accommodated within the existing Results Framework; however, performance indicators will have to be critically appraised to ensure that they reflect the desired results in the new approach.

(b) **Progress towards Outcomes:** A summary of the achievements for each of the expected Outcomes are given below.

Outcome # 1

- In terms of *Policy and Legislative mechanisms,* there is an on-going review of the wild elephant management strategy, and a gap analysis of existing environmental policies. In spite of the uncertainty of the ESA concept, efforts are underway to draft an ESA Policy; this is under review by the Policy Committee.
- Some of the *capacity development* activities undertaken so far are quite useful and help in achieving the project objectives towards ESA management. About 1,800 people have benefitted.
- A comprehensive tool for integrating biodiversity in land use has been prepared as a *decision support system*, and the relevant officers have been trained in its application. LUPPD has a pivotal role in this task, but lacks access to key data and information required for ground-level application of the tool.

Outcome # 2:

- The Project has undertaken some *awareness programmes and stakeholder capacity development* relating to ESA management.
- In regard to identifying critical biodiversity habitats, the Project has reported 'rehabilitation and management' of 10,522 ha including Manewakanda, Nelliyakanda and the Habarawatta Cascade system. Work in these sites is on-going, but their alignment to conserve critical habitats inside ESAs can only be established if these sites are retro-fitted into the newly-identified ESAs.
- The Project has completed three strategic management frameworks for *integrating protected areas with the wider landscape*. Here again, their alignment to the objective of the Project can only be established after ESAs are identified as there has to be a linkage between ESAs and these 'management strategies'.
- The Project has launched to establish *biodiversity compatible agricultural production units* in the form of home gardens in Anuradhapura and plans are afoot for a similar programme in Puttalam; however, the linkage of this progressive programme to the ESA concept was weak as ESA sites are yet to be designated.

Cross-cutting areas:

- The Project has developed a communication strategy which identifies lack of a common understanding of the project objectives. Indeed, some outreach activities have been postponed by the project, pending finalization of the ESA concept and management plans.

  Project's publications have to ensure technical rigour and accuracy, and there is no clearing house mechanism to undertake peer review for this purpose.

  On-the-ground activities are currently limited, and some sites have project signage.
- The Project has commissioned a study on *gender.* However, it is too early to assess gender perspectives as field activities are limited. In the home garden component, the Project has focused on delivery of benefits to women and differently-abled.

Project implementation and Adaptive Management

- The lead executing agency is the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment. It has set up a *Project Board,* the *ESA National Steering Committee, District Facilitation Committees* (at the District Level) and the *Local Management Committees* (at the Divisional Secretariat level). The Project Board and NSC have met five times so far; however, the NSC has not met in 2018 yet. In general, these management structures are relevant and useful for effective project implementation, although concerns were expressed on the difficulties in convening LMCs and whether project progress could be presented at the well-established, regular Divisional Agricultural Committee meetings instead.
- A *Project Management Unit* functions from MoMDE and consists of seven GoSL-funded, part-time officials and three UNDP staff, of which two Field Coordinators are in the districts. The project would benefit substantially if MoMDE PMU's programme staff could provide dedicated time on a regular basis and be present more in the field and ensure visibility and recognizable management of the project. Support from UNDP and technical inputs are adequate and timely, and they have been mindful of the focus on Results.

- *Work-planning*: The five-year work-plan is yet to be updated, and there are delayed actions evident in the annual work plans. There is no evidence that the Results Framework and the Work-plans have been used in M&E work.
- *Financing*: The Project has spent 36% of the GEF contribution as at 30 June 2018. Co-financing details were not available.
- *Stakeholder engagement*: The Project has established a good rapport with the stakeholders; however, their understanding of the ESA concept varied significantly. Nonetheless they unanimously agree that conservation of biodiversity is a priority but livelihoods of communities also need to be improved. This positive perspective will form the basis for future success of the project.

  The multiplicity of projects addressing conservation and management of natural resources has been a concern to many provincial agencies as there is no agreed modality to present results to the agencies and, in particular to avoid duplication of efforts. It is important for MoMDE to link, discuss and bring on board various natural resources management project proponents and implementers so that the overall actions on the ground could be better organized to produce demonstrable outcomes.

Sustainability

Overall, the project risks identified during the project design stage and affirmed during the project inception are still valid and need to be addressed so as to ensure sustainability of the project results. The risk situation is summarized below:

- *Financial Risks*: There is no demonstrable risk to finances at the time the MTR has been undertaken. However, the MTR was unable to make a fuller observation in the absence of data and information on co-financing and the related activities.
- *Socio-economic Risks*: There is some level of risk on socio-economic issues although the project has started to engage well with the local communities and others. There is a need for the project to communicate and link with all relevant related projects so that there is better clarity in the field on who is doing what. Expectation management is critical for the success of the project.
- *Institutional Framework and Governance Risks.* There is no major risk in this area. The MoMDE needs to ensure timely meetings and guide project implementation through various governance structures established under the project. With the networks created and clarity available with partners and stakeholder groups, the project can maximize its impacts on the ground with more focus on consolidation, clarity and commitment to deliver on the ground,
- *Environmental Risks.* There are no significant environmental risks associated with the project.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the MTR findings, the following recommendations are made:

Rec #	Recommendation	Entity Responsible
1. Project Design and the Results Framework		
(a)	Using the Technical Paper and supplementary studies, develop urgently a clear articulation of the ESA concept including the context, needs and criteria for identifying ESAs. Based on this, identify a workable number of ESAs with focus on sites, land use/suitability, socio-economic and environmental conditions.	PMU with NSC
(b)	Once identified, it is necessary to develop formal management plans for ESAs (consideration may be given to include community mobilisation, stakeholder assessment and their responsibilities, participatory planning /management structures – perhaps taking lessons from co-management work of the Forest Dept.; baseline assessments of key species as indicators; developing management capacities; introduction of livelihood activities as needed or other incentives to offset any drawbacks due to ESA 'demarcation'; introducing participatory monitoring and evaluation etc.)	PMU with NSC
(c)	Since actions (a) and (b) are urgent pre-requisites for follow-up work, it is recommended that the project secures dedicated and regular technical assistance at least until these two tasks are accomplished. This may be a mix of technical assistance for natural resources management, social mobilisation, negotiation and conflict management, land use planning, livelihood development etc.	PMU with NSC
(d)	Once the ESA concept is agreed upon, it is recommended that the Indicators in the Results Framework be critically reviewed to align them to the new ESA concept. It is also necessary to include appropriate indicators to evaluate gender-sensitivity in project interventions. At the same time, the Theory of Change too needs re-visiting.	PMU with NSC
2. Programmatic Actions		
(e)	Outcome # 1: The ESA Policy and inter-sectoral plan should be finalised after designating ESAs and their management options and key partners agreed upon. Similarly, a capacity needs assessment should be undertaken once the ESA Concept, criteria and management options are finalised.	PMU
(f)	Outcome # 2: Critical biodiversity habitats within ESAs will have to be identified after the ESAs are established; management options for integrating protected areas with the wider landscape will also need to be attempted after ESA identification. The home gardening component requires a clearer linkage to ESAs.	PMU
3. Project Management		

Rec #	Recommendation	Entity Responsible
(g)	The Project's oversight bodies (PB, NSC) must meet more regularly and provide guidance to project implementation; their active oversight during the coming months when the new ESA concept is being finalised will be necessary. The Project may also consider using existing coordination mechanisms in the Divisions as an alternative to LMC. In addition, it is necessary to institutionalise a mechanism for closer coordination of like-minded projects, and establish provincial fora for informing and discussing with senior government staff.	MoMDE
(h)	The National Steering Committee should formalise (i) data sharing mechanism between the relevant agencies as a matter of priority, as ESA determination will need data (including archaeological data) from many government sources; (ii) a mechanism to regularly review co-financing inputs from the partners, (iii) review the Terms of Reference of programmatic staff of PMU from the MoMDE to provide more dedicated time for project implementation and deployment of them more in the field to enhance project's visibility and ownership by GoSL, and (iv) review achievement of the Annual Work-plan at the end of the year.	NSC/MoMDE
(i)	Monitoring and evaluation of project implementation should be systematised; M&E should be based on the Results Framework, and M&E reports should be regularly developed and reviewed as a means of improving project implementation.	PMU
4. Outreach		
(j)	Outreach programme need to be re-designed after ESA identification and their management modalities are firmed-up; stakeholders may be required to be repeatedly briefed on the ESA concept and management updates. Given the novelty of ESA concept, special community mobilisation programmes should be considered; these should be well-structured so that community expectations are not unrealistically enhanced. One key message from the project could potentially be that conservation and development could happen hand-in-hand and the willingness for people-centered management of environmentally sensitive areas could well be supported and promoted by the Government with full involvement of people.	PMU/CEA
(k)	All project publications should be target-oriented; a clearing house mechanism should be established for ensuring technical rigour, branding standards etc.	PMU/CEA
(l)	The concept of ESAs is relatively new to Sri Lanka but significantly important. The project needs to identify options for providing more visibility to the significant field work that is currently being undertaken to the larger audience, both within the country and outside.	PMU/CEA
Capacity Development		
(m)	Undertake a capacity assessment after ESAs are established and their management strategies are agreed upon so that a more focused capacity	PMU

Rec #	Recommendation	Entity Responsible
	development programme based on the needs of the stakeholders could be launched. Also, it is recommended that all training programmes be evaluated post-event so that lessons can be developed for future programmes.	
Other		
(n)	The inputs provided by the project partners and stakeholder groups for implementing the project are noteworthy and need to be formally recognized in order to increase the ownership of actions and providing better visibility and outcomes of the project.	PMU
(o)	Given the current status of the ESA Concept and that three years have lapsed, MTR is of the view that a no-cost extension of the project may be warranted in order to complete all activities to the required standards and realisation of outcomes. The period of the proposed extension can only be gauged after ESAs are identified and their management structures are in place.	MoMDE/UNDP

Annexes

[Numbering relate to Chapters]

2-A: Terms of Reference of the MTR
2-B: List of documents
2-C: List of Key Informants and Community Organisations met
2-D: Mid Term Review Itinerary
4-A: Summary of Progress (excerpted from PIR, 2018)
4-B: MTR Assessment Rating
4-C: Capacity Development Activities undertaken by the Project

Annex 2-A: Terms of Reference for MTR

A. Scope of Work and Key Tasks

The MTR team will consist of two independent Consultants, an International team leader (with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions globally) and one national team expert, from Sri Lanka.

The MTR team will first conduct a document review of project documents (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, Project Document, ESSP, Project Inception Report, PIRs, Finalized GEF focal area Tracking Tools, Project Appraisal Committee meeting minutes, Financial and Administration guidelines used by Project Team, project operational guidelines, manuals and systems, etc.) provided by the Project Team and Commissioning Unit. Then they will participate in an MTR inception workshop to clarify their understanding of the objectives and methods of the MTR, producing the MTR inception report thereafter. The MTR mission will then consist of interviews and site visits to Palagala, Galnewa, Kakirawa & Ipalogama Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions in Anuradhapura district and Wanathawilluwa & Kaluwaragaswewa DS divisions in Puttalam district.

The MTR team will assess the following four categories of project progress and produce a draft and final MTR report. See the *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* (see annex) for requirements on ratings. No overall rating is required.

1. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document;
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)?
- Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines;

Results Framework/ Log frame:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's log frame indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary;
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved

governance etc...) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis;

- Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits.

2. Progress Towards Results

- Review the log frame indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and following the *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*; colour code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each outcome; make recommendations from the areas marked as "Not on target to be achieved" (red);
- Compare and analyse the GEF Tracking Tool at the Baseline with the one completed right before the Midterm Review.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project;
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

3. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Using the *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*; assess the following categories of project progress:

- Management Arrangements;
- Work Planning;
- Finance and co-finance;
- Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems;
- Stakeholder Engagement;
- Reporting;
- Communications.

4. Sustainability

Assess overall risks to sustainability factors of the project in terms of the following four categories:

- Financial risks to sustainability;
- Socio-economic risks to sustainability;
- Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability;
- Environmental risks to sustainability.

The MTR consultant/team will include a section in the MTR report setting out the MTR's evidence-based **conclusions**, in light of the findings.

Additionally, the MTR Consultant/Team is expected to make **recommendations** to the Project Team. Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report's executive summary. The MTR consultant/team should make no more than 15 recommendations total.

B. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

The MTR Consultant/Team shall prepare and submit:

- MTR Inception Report: MTR team clarifies objectives and methods of the Midterm Review no later than 2 weeks before the MTR mission. To be sent to the Commissioning Unit and project management. Approximate due date - (1st of August);
- Presentation: Initial Findings presented to project management and the Commissioning Unit at the end of the MTR mission. Approximate due date - (15th August);
- Draft Final Report: Full report with annexes within 3 weeks of the MTR mission. Approximate due date - (30th August);
- Final Report*: Revised report with annexed audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report. To be sent to the Commissioning Unit within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft. Approximate due date - (15th September).

The final MTR report must be in English. If applicable, the Commissioning Unit may choose to arrange for a translation of the report into a language more widely shared by national stakeholders.

Annex 2-B: List of Documents

Project Documents

- Signed PRODOC –PIMS 5165 (25 September, 2015)
- Signed Project Inception Report (31 January 2017)
- Project Implementation Review (PIR) – 2017
- Project Implementation Review (PIR) – 2018
- Annual Work-plans for 2016, 2017 & 2018
- Biodiversity Baseline Survey for the ESA Project: Database for Monitoring & Critical Habitat Distribution Map (2017)
- Minutes of the National ESA Committee (1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th meetings)
- Report for the period 1 October, 2015 – 31 December, 2016 (MoMDE)
- Minutes of the Project Board Meetings (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th meetings)
- Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee held on 20 March and 9 April 2015
- Project's Theory of Change statement
- Terms of Reference for NSC, SFC and LMC
- Terms of Reference for Technical Coordinator & Field Coordinators
- Terms of Reference for PMU Staff of MoMDE
- Project Review Report (2018) Forest Department, Anuradhapura

Reports produced by the Project

1. Strategic Management Frameworks
   - Kahalle-Pallekele Protected Area Management Plan (2017-2022)
   - Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary Management Plan (2019-2023)
   - Wilpattu Strategic Management Framework (2017-2021)
2. Report on Capacity Building (29 & 30 August 2016 held at NAQDA Centre, Kala Wewa)
3. Report on Capacity Building (20 & 21 October 2016 held at Wayamba Training Centre, Wariyapola)
4. Report on Capacity Building (15,16,17 & 19 May 2017 held at CTC Reception Hall, Anuradhapura)
5. Implementation and Monitoring Stage Quality Assurance Report (UNDP) (2016)
6. Implementation and Monitoring Stage Quality Assurance Report (UNDP) (2017)
7. Technical Paper on Environmentally Sensitive Areas; UNDP (June, 2018)
8. Institutional Arrangements for Participatory Planning and Management in Environmentally Sensitive Areas; UNDP (27 Aug 2018)
9. GEF Tracking Tool
10. Communication Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020 (Central Environmental Authority) (undated)
11. Manewakande Forest Reserve Sustainable Tourism Plan (Anon.) (July 2017)
12. Integrating Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Land Use Planning in Environmentally Sensitive Areas; Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE (2017) ISBN 978-955-8395-10-3

Others

1. National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016-2022; Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE (ISBN – 978-956-8396-05-09) (2016)

Annex 2-C: List of Key Informants and Community Organisations met

Representatives of key stakeholders and Partners

1. Abekoon, Pathma (Ms), Head of Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE
2. Chandraratne, W M K S (Mr), Assistant Director, Dept of Wildlife Conservation, Puttalam
3. Chitrananda, N H M (Mr), District Secretary, Puttalam
4. Dayaratne, W H R A (Ms), Deputy Director, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Anuradhapura
5. Dilrukshi, Nadeeka (Ms), Divisional Secretary, Kekirawa
6. Dissanayake, Anura (Mr), Secretary, MoMDE
7. Dissanayake, Tamara (Ms), CEA
8. Ekanayake, Chamara (Mr), Agricultural Instructor, Palagala
9. Gamage, Keerthi (Mr), Additional District Secretary, District Secretariat, Anuradhapura
10. Gamage, L (Mr), Divisional Forest Officer, Anuradhapura
11. Gunathilake, Priyanganie (Ms), Assistant Director, CEA
12. Herath, Jayantha (Mr), Director, Provincial Department of Irrigation, Anuradhapura
13. Jayalath, B A (Mr), Assistant Director, Provincial Department of Irrigation, Anuradhapura
14. Jayasinghe, Chathuraka (Mr), Divisional Secretary, Wanathavillu DS Division
15. Jaysinghe, G (Mr), Deputy Director, CEA
16. Madana, Priyanganie (Ms), Director, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Anuradhapura
17. Morathenna, Manjula (Mr) Ranger, Wildlife Conservation Department, Puttalam
18. Munaweera, D P (Mr), Rural Development Expert, GOPA Consultants [GIZ Project]
19. Nelson, Oliver (Mr), Team Leader, GOPA Consultants [GIZ Project]
20. Pathmasiri, H M Mahinda (Mr), Assistant Director, LUPPD, Puttalam
21. Peiris, Lakshman (Dr), Deputy Director (Research & Planning), DWLC
22. Prabodha, Hasini (Ms), Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE
23. Premakantha, K T (Dr), Deputy Conservator General, Forest Department
24. Rajan, Subajini (Ms), Communications & Conflict Management Expert, GOPA Consultants [GIZ Project]
25. Ranatunge, Champika (Mr), Engineer, Provincial Department of Irrigation, Anuradhapura
26. Ranaweera, M P (Ms) Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE
27. Sandanayake, S P (Mrs), Director Planning, District Secretariat, Puttalam
28. Suraweera, Channa (Mr), Assistant Director, Marine Protection Areas, DWLC
29. Tennakoon, C L (Mr), Subject Matter Officer, Provincial Agricultural Department, Puttalam
30. Vidanage, Shamen (Mr), Programme Coordinator, IUCN Sri Lanka
31. Wanninayake, S (Mr), Deputy Director of Agriculture, Puttalam
32. Warnapriya, N M (Mr), Deputy District Forest Officer, Puttalam
33. Wasala, C W (Mr), Range Forest Officer, Kekirawa
34. Wikramanayake, Eric (Dr), Chairman, Environmental Foundation Ltd & IUCN Consultant

Community Meetings

MTR Team met with representatives of the following community-based organisations:

1. Kandakuliya Kudawa Fishery Society (at Kandakuliya, Kalpitiya)
2. Tour-boat Guides Association, Kandakuliya, Kalpitiya (at Palavi)
3. Habarawatta Farmers' Organisation (at Habarawatta near Kahalla-Pallekele)
4. *Wanashakthi Prajamoola Sanvidhanaya*, Hapidiyagama (at the Eco-park, Hapidiyagama, Maradankadawala)
5. Home garden beneficiaries (Khandhabarana Village, Palagala)

Project Management Unit/Consultants

1. Abeyratne, P N D (Ms), Finance Manager, PMU & Accountant, MoMDE
2. Bandara, Manjula (Mr) Field Coordinator, Puttalam
3. Dissanayake, D I M S B (Dr), UNDP Consultant
4. Jayakody, Sewwandi (Dr), UNDP Consultant
5. Kasturiarachchi, K (Ms) Deputy Project Manager, PMU & Environment Management Officer, PMU, MoMDE
6. Kohowala, Nalini (Ms), Deputy Project Director, PMU & Assistant Director, MoMDE
7. Kumari, Nirosha (Ms), Deputy Project Manager, PMU & Environment Management Officer, MoMDE
8. Pallearachchi, Ganga (Ms), Project Assistant (Finance), PMU & Programme Assistant, MoMDE
9. Prabodha, J A Hasini (Ms) Project Assistant (Operations) PMU & Development Officer, MoMDE
10. Samarasinghe, Sugandhi (Ms), Technical Coordinator, UNDP
11. Wijayasinghe, Dhammika (Ms) Project Director, PMU & Director, Environment Planning, MoMDE
12. Wijesundere, Geethika (Dr), Field Coordinator, Anuradhapura

UNDP

1. Dissanayake, Tharuka (Ms), UNDP, Colombo
2. Dorji Tashi (Mr), Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP Bangkok [skype meeting]
3. Perera, Sureka (Ms), M&E Specialist, UNDP, Colombo
4. Sorenson, Joern (Mr), Country Director, UNDP Sri Lanka
5. Wijetunge, Ramitha (Mr), UNDP, Colombo

Annex 2-D: Mid Term Review Itinerary

Date	Time	Activity
11 September 2018 (Tuesday)	10 00 – 12 30	Arrival of the International Consultant in Sri Lanka and meeting with the National Consultant (Hotel)
	14 00 - 15 00	Security Briefing at UNDSS premises
	15 00 -16 30	Meeting with the UNDP Team
	16 30 – 17 30	Meeting with Dr Sevvandi Jayakody, Consultant ESA Project
12 September 2018 (Wednesday)	09 00 – 11 00	Meeting with Project Director, PMU & the PMU Team at MoMDE
	11 00 -12 00	Meeting with Central Environmental Authority staff at CEA
	13 00 – 14 00	Meeting with the Director and staff of the Biodiversity Secretariat, MoMDE
	15 00 – 16 00	Meeting with the Land Use Policy Planning Department staff (Kirula Road, Colombo 5)
13 September 2018 (Thursday)	05 00	Leave Colombo - Field mission (Puttalam district)
	10 30 -11 15	Meeting with the Deputy District Forest Officer, Puttalam
	11 30 – 13 00	Meeting with the staff of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Puttalam
	14 30 - 15 30	Meeting the Provincial staff of Land Use Policy Planning Department, Puttalam
	15 30 – 18 00	Meeting with the Women's Group at Kandakuliya, Kalpitiya
14 September (Friday)	09 00 -11 00	Meeting with the Tourism Development Foundation, Kalpitiya at Palavi Tourism Centre
	14 00 – 14 30	Meeting with the Assistant Director, Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Puttalam
	14 30- 15 00	Meeting with the Divisional Secretary, Wanathawilluwa (at the Puttalam District Secretariat)
	15 00 – 15 45	Meeting with the District Secretary and the Director Planning, Puttalam District Secretariat
15 September (Saturday)		Field visits: • Rehabilitated Habarawatta cascade system; • home gardens (Kandhaabaranagama, Palagala) • Manewakanda Ecotourism village and meeting the community/ beneficiaries (*Wanashakthi Prajamoola Sanvidhanaya*)
16 September 2018 (Sunday)		MTR Team – Preliminary analysis of information gathered (Hotel)
17 September (Monday)	08 30 – 09 30	Meeting with the Additional District Secretary, Anuradhapura
	09 45 – 10 45	Meeting with Director and staff of the Provincial Irrigation Department, Anuradhapura
	11 00 – 12 00	Meeting with Director and staff of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Anuradhapura

Date	Time	Activity
	14 15 -15 30	Meeting with the Divisional Secretary and Asst. Divisional Secretary, Kekirawa
18 September 2018 (Tuesday)	09 30 – 10 15	Meeting with Deputy Director (Research and Training) and the Asst. Director, Department of Wildlife Conservation
	11 00 -12 00	Meeting with the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forest Department
	13 00 – 14 00	Meeting with Programme Coordinator, IUCN Sri Lanka and its Consultant, EFL
	14 30 - 15 15	Meeting with Dr D I M S B Dissanayake, UNDP Consultant
	15 15 – 16 45	Meeting with the Country Director, UNDP Sri Lanka and UNDP staff
19 September 2018 (Wednesday)	08 45 – 09 30	Skype meeting with Mr Tashi Dorji, Regional Technical Advisor
	14 00 – 17 15	Debriefing Meeting chaired by Secretary, MoMDE at the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, T B Jayah Mawata, Colombo 10
	2000	Departure of International Consultant MTR

Annex 4-A: Summary of Progress (excerpted from PIR, 2018)

Outputs/Activities	Accomplishments
Outcome 1: National enabling framework strengthened to designate and manage ESAs	
Appropriate Policy and legislative mechanisms developed to guide identification, declaration management, conflict mitigation and monitoring of ESAs	• Review of Wild Elephant Management and Conservation Policy and calling for public comments • Mapping/gap analysis of existing environmental policies • Drafting of the ESA Policy • Development of the Technical Paper and ancillary papers to strengthen the policy development
Number of inter-sectoral plans approved and financed by cross-sectoral National ESA Committee	• Developing two land use plans underway; • Ten ESA sites suggested to 're-assess as per ESA Technical Paper'
Capacity of the Biodiversity Secretariat to act as the national lead agency to promote effective ESA implementation	Activities postponed.
Decision Support System available to practitioners for managing multiple land uses	• A tool for integrating biodiversity into land use planning developed and tested.
Outcome 2: Biodiversity-friendly ESA Management for long-term integrity….	
Area under management with inter-sectoral partnership and quantifiable biodiversity conservation targets	No activities
Stakeholders' capacities to implement ESA's land use/ seascape plans for conservation	• Awareness programmes conducted for about 1,800 persons (community representatives, journalists, school teachers, government staff); • Mass media articles published; • Promotional materials produced.
Increase in funding available to support biodiversity friendly ESA management activities	• Reported a 135% increase in funding for biodiversity-friendly ESA management [needs review]
Area of protected areas whose management is integrated with wider landscapes/ seascapes to minimize threats from outside PA and to mitigate land and resource use conflicts at ESAs	• Reported that 153,000 ha of protected area management integrated with wider landscape. [needs review]
Critical biodiversity habitats outside PAs under effective management regimes within ESA for habitat connectivity, integrity and resilience	• Reported nearly 10,000 ha as under effective management (Manewakanda, Nelliyakanda & Habarawatta) [needs review]
Extent of land brought under biodiversity compatible agricultural production practices	• An area of 267 ha is reported to be under biodiversity-compatible production practices [needs review] • 720 home gardens established under biodiversity-compatible production practices [needs review as the work is still under planning stage]

Annex 4-B: MTR Assessment Rating

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Level in 2nd PIR[27]	Mid-term Target	End-of-Project Target	Mid-term level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
Objective	Percentage of land area identified nationally for Environmentally Sensitive Area designation	Not determined	0	Not set	At least 5% (328,050 ha) of Sri Lanka's land *E maximus* (600) *P pardus* (113) *S chinensis* & *D dugon* (not deter-mined) Salt Marsh: 250 ha Mangrove forests: 620 ha Riverine forests: 400ha Moist Mixed Evergreen Forest: 2000 ha Scrub on floodplains: 100 ha	No assessment required at MTR		
	Populations of globally threatened species within Wilpattu and Kala Wewa ESAs	E maximus (600) P pardus (113) S chinensis & D dugon (not deter-mined)	Not determined	Not set				
	Areas of critical habitats under management within Wilpattu and Kala Wewa ESAs for connectivity and resilience	Salt Marsh: 250 ha Mangrove forests: 620 ha Riverine forests: 400ha Moist Mixed Evergreen Forest: 2000 ha Scrub on floodplains: 100 ha	Not determined	100% maintenance				
Outcome 1	Appropriate Policy and legislative mechanisms developed to guide identification, declaration management, conflict mitigation and monitoring of ESAs	EPA and several others exist; Policy on human-elephant conflict exist	Review of Wild Elephant Mgt & Conservation Policy & Strategy.	Not set	• National Policy and Strategy on ESA • National ESA Scale Up Plan • Updated policy to address human wildlife conflicts			Not assessed; ESA Policy can be done only after the concept of ESA is agreed and set in place.

[27] PIR of August 2018.

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Level in 2nd PIR[27]	Mid-term Target	End-of-Project Target	Mid-term level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
			Mapping of existing environment policies and gaps					
	Number of inter-sectoral plans approved and financed by cross-sectoral National ESA Committee	Not set	Ten ESAs are to be re-assessed per Technical Guidance Paper Four biodiversity integrated land use plans approved	Not set	• At least two ESA land use plans • At least 10 annual work plans (one for each pilot ESA) approved by national ESA Committee, along with joint policy guidance for ESA management			**Not assessed at MTR** as a decision has been made to re-assess the 10 sites identified using the Technical Guidance Paper;
	Capacity of the Biodiversity Secretariat to act as the national lead agency to promote effective ESA implementation	1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes | 3 2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes | 16 3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders | 4 4. Capacity to mobilize	Not undertaken	Not set	20% annual increase in capacity scorecard from baseline (To be measured at MTR)		**U**	Work delayed and postponed after ESA concept is well established; MTR is of the view that notwithstanding ESA understanding some of the capacity assessments could have been done.

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Level in 2nd PIR[27]	Mid-term Target	End-of-Project Target	Mid-term level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
		information and knowledge | 2 5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn | 4						
	Decision Support System available to practitioners for managing multiple land uses in ESAs	None	Clearing House established at Biodiversity Secretariat; National Guidelines available in Sinhala, Tamil and English to aid field practitioners on how to integrate biodiversity conservation into sectoral plans and actions	Not set	National Guidelines available in Sinhala, Tamil and English to aid field practitioners on how to integrate biodiversity conservation into sectoral plans and actions		**S**	Although this work has been completed, further refinements are expected once data from the 'potential sites of ESA' are available and ESA concept is agreed upon.
Outcome 2	Area under management with inter-sectoral partnership and quantifiable biodiversity conservation targets	Not set	0	No target	200,000 ha			Not assessed at MTR as this is directly related to identification of ESAs.
	Stakeholders' capacities to implement ESA's land use/ seascape plans for conservation	Limited	1,545 people trained [82 local journalists; 121 school teachers; 28 GoSL staff;166 from Partners;	No target	General awareness amongst school children, peri urban dwellers, and local leaders increased by 100% over baseline At least 2300 people trained, based on their		**MS**	Training needs assessment not completed; the targets may have to be amended once the ESA concept is well-grounded.

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Level in 2nd PIR[27]	Mid-term Target	End-of-Project Target	Mid-term level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
			1,148 community members]		training needs assessment At least 20 women's development organizations' capacities increased and involved in ESA management activities			
	Increase in funding available to support biodiversity friendly ESA management activities	At least USD 150,000/ annum being invested in promoting organic farming and in protected areas management	135% increase in funding compared to baseline available; EUR 2,000,000 invested by GIZ on Protected area management; 38% of ESA home gardening beneficiaries of Mahaweli area in ESA project received 50% cash incentives on buying bee keeping boxes, extractors, smokers etc.	Not set	At least 20% increase in funding from baseline by various sectors compatible with land use / seascape plans (at least 4 sectoral plans): Two long term financing plans – one for each ESA endorsed by all relevant parties		**MS**	• EUR 2,000,000 is not specifically for ESA management; • Mahaweli home gardens may not fall into the new ESA sites.
	Area of protected areas whose management is integrated with wider landscapes/ seascapes to minimize threats from outside PA	Not determined	Three management plans prepared	Not set	160,000 ha			Not assessed at MTR as this is directly related to identification of ESAs.

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline	Level in 2nd PIR[27]	Mid-term Target	End-of-Project Target	Mid-term level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
	and to mitigate land and resource use conflicts at ESAs							
	Critical biodiversity habitats outside protected areas under effective management regimes within the ESA for habitat connectivity, integrity and resilience	25,000 ha under community forestry	10,522 ha protected, rehabilitated and managed	Not set	Additional 25,550 ha			Not assessed at MTR as this is directly related to identification of ESAs.
	Extent of land brought under biodiversity compatible agricultural production practices	340 ha under organic farming and IPM	399 ha of production land under home gardens	Not set	25,000 ha under 'eco-friendly production practices'			Not assessed at MTR as this is directly related to identification of ESAs.

Annex 4-C: Capacity Development Activities undertaken by the Project

Title of the Event and Venue	Date(s) held and Duration	Target Group	No. of participants			Relevance to Project Components	Whether the event was evaluated (yes/No)
			M	F	Tot		
ESA Awareness training @ Anuradhapura District Secretariat Office & Puttalam District Secretariat Office	14 December 2015 29 December 2015 25-31 March 2016	Participants representing District and divisional secretariats, forest department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Agriculture, Coastal Conservation, Department of Fisheries, Land use Policy Planning, NARA, department of Planning, Biodiversity Secretariat and Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka in Puttalam & Anuradhapura	73	93	166	General awareness planning ESAs and consultation and forming decision-making platforms on ESAs	No
Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Land Use Planning at Landscape Scales: The Kala Oya Environmentally Sensitive Area - at the National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Training Institute (NIFATI) of the National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) in Kala Wewa, Anuradhapura	29th to 30th August, 2016 (02 days)	31 participants from regional offices of various Government agencies and departments, including Land Use Planning (20), Mahaweli Authority (4), Forest Department (4), and Department of Wildlife Conservation	12	19	31	Mainstreaming biodiversity in to land use planning and basics of spatial planning	Yes
Integrating Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Land Use Planning in Environmentally Sensitive Areas Awareness Programme for Divisional and District Level Officials in District Secretariat	1-2 September 2016 (01 day / district)	Technical staff representing Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Agriculture, Coastal Conservation, Department of Fisheries, Land use Policy Planning, NARA, Department of Planning, Biodiversity	45	60	105	Awareness raising on ESA Concept	Yes

Title of the Event and Venue	Date(s) held and Duration	Target Group	No. of participants			Relevance to Project Components	Whether the event was evaluated (yes/No)
			M	F	Tot		
offices in Puttalam & Anuradhapura		Secretariat and Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka					
Prioritisation, conservation gap analysis and integration of biodiversity into spatial planning in Kala Oya ESA at Wayamba Training Centre, Wariyapola	20th - 21st of October, 2016 (02 days)	The 34 participants trained were from regional offices of various Government agencies and departments, including Land Use Policy and Planning Department - LUPPD (20), Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka - MASL (03), Forest Department - FD (04), and Department of Wildlife Conservation (04) - DWC	14	20	34	• Preparing species location maps • How to process data layers to describe general spatial information • Preparation of descriptive habitat maps by overlaying. • Generation of proximity maps using different spatial analysis algorithms. • Generation of micro-catchment / sub-catchment / watersheds and basin level vector maps • Overlay operations with micro-catchment / sub-catchment map of Kala Oya Basin • Preparation species distribution hotspot maps • Preparation of species richness hotspot maps • Preparation of maps for species endemism hotspots. • Preparation of maps showing concentrations of threatened and endangered species • Habitat suitability mapping using Maxent	Yes
Biodiversity and landscape planning -3rd Session -GIS modelling using Maxent at CTC Reception Hall, Anuradhapura.	15th and 16th of May, 2017 (02 days)	30 participants trained from regional offices and head offices of various government agencies and departments, including LUPPD (15), MASL (01), Forest Department - FD (06), and DWLC (04), CEA (02), MoMDE (01), DoA (01)	08	22	30	• Overview of using GIS tools in biodiversity integrated landscape scale planning • Preparing field data to be imported to GIS • Preparing data for use in Maxent • Modelling with Maxent • Spatial analysis and interpretation of Maxent outputs	Yes

Title of the Event and Venue	Date(s) held and Duration	Target Group	No. of participants			Relevance to Project Components	Whether the event was evaluated (yes/No)
			M	F	Tot		
GPS Training for Anuradhapura and Puttalam districts	16 May 2017	FD officers and DWC officers	36	08	44	Usage of GPS equipment for daily operations	Yes
ESA General awareness and Ecological farming practices in ESAs	13 March 2017 16 May 2017 19 May 2017 24 May 2017 25 May 2017 02, 12 June 2017 23,28,29,30 November 2017	Local community members from Puttalam & Anuradhapura district	522	626	1148	ESA awareness and Ecological farming promotion campaigns	No
GIS & Remote Sensing @ Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya	6-7 December 2017 (02 days)	Administrative staff from LUPPD, District and Divisional Planning officers, Provincial Agriculture Department, DAD, DWC, Forest Department, Fisheries Department, CCD, and Irrigation Department in Puttalam district	10	18	28	Mainstreaming biodiversity in to land use planning and basics of spatial planning of GPS/ GIS from department of Geography, University of Peradeniya.	Yes
Journalist Training – Auditorium, DS office, Anuradhapura	04 December 2017	GA, Additional GA, District officers, Journalists in Anuradhapura district	34	11	45	Reporting of environmental issues, stories from ESAs, locally and nationally to enhance public profile of ESAs	No
Journalist Training – Pambala Seaecology Training Institute, Pumbala, Puttalam	05 December 2017	Local journalists representing print, radio and television media in Puttalam district	23	14	37	Reporting of environmental issues, stories from ESAs, locally and nationally to enhance public profile of ESAs	Yes
Teachers training on ESA Concept, Wanathawilluwa Local Authority Auditorium & District Secretariat Office, Anuradhapura	19-20th March 2018 (01 day/ district)	School teachers representing 40 schools linked to school eco clubs	17 44	23 57	40 101	Awareness programme and teachers guide on ESAs	No