

**Project/UNDP Management Response
Terminal Evaluation**

Project: Building and Enabling Environment for Sustainable Development (BESD)

Completion Date: August 2021

Evaluation Recommendation 1:

A sustainability plan or exit strategy should be prepared

It would be advisable to prepare a sustainability plan that outlines the follow-up actions and institutional financing to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved—for example, endorsement of the policy framework development and operationalization of PES on fresh water supply, inter-alia. Pursue and develop sustainable financing and environmental governance mechanism for other ecosystem services (ecotourism and biodiversity conservation), building on and strengthening the work done by the BESD Project and commencing roadmap for leveraging political and private sector support. The sustainability plan could also include an analysis of the risks and opportunities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, institutional capacity, and co-financing further to nurture the outcome and legacy of this project

Also, the exit strategy needs to be elaborated to inform participating stakeholders and beneficiaries and future responsible institution of project closure and the process to achieve long-term goals. It is recommended to organise a terminal and dissemination/feedback meeting that invites all known stakeholders, including local communities and others interested in the project's products, services, and related initiatives, such as the GEF-6 INRM, WB project.

Management Response*:	Agreed			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Status**	Comments
Relevant plans developed to ensure the sustainability of the progress/result achieved by the project.	October 2021	National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)/ Ministry of Environment (MoE)	Completed	<p>Project sustainability is a key government priority. To address this concern, NCSD/MoE has developed related plans covering the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance capacity of government institutions, partners, and relevant stakeholders to implement PES's roadmap, instruments, and legislation/policy. • Integrate PES modality into landscape planning, ecotourism program, REDD+ and other relevant existing projects such as INRM, CAMPAS, GoalWater, and Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Projects. • Support sustainable financing mechanism (PES,

				<p>REDD+, Ecotourism, Vivo, ...) and implement resources mobilization action plan (Eastern Plant-CAMPAS) for PAs management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage and encourage stakeholders, especially ILC, private sectors, and research institutions to participate and implement of PES program and available resource mobilization strategy and action plan.
<p>Evaluation Recommendation 2: Enact policies and instruments developed under the project.</p> <p>It is recommended that both RGC and UNDP engage more actively with ministers, decision-makers, and high-level officials, to encourage a clear-time frame adoption of the PES draft policy frameworks. There has been significant progress in developing the policy and regulatory instruments for PES development and management and it needs the endorsement for implementation and operation on ground.</p>				
Management Response:	Agreed			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status**	Comments
<p>NCSD/MoE is taking the lead to bring forward the PES draft policy framework toward adoption.</p> <p>No further action under the scope of the project as the project was closed in Q2 2021.</p>	October 2021	NCSD/MoE, other relevant Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) agencies, UNDP	Completed	<p>Progress made in leading PES agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government issued Sor Cho Nor.1119, a government legal instrument, recommended NCSD/MoE to conduct PES's feasibility. This is a strong commitment of government to enhance financial sustainability for environmental and NR management. PES's fund management mechanism and PES's modality have been developed and are under the process of endorsement. PES's management plan is developed to ensure long term monitoring of ecosystem function and its services at the pilot sites. PES's Roadmap 2022-2030 had been drafted and is under consultation with relevant stakeholders. This draft roadmap includes PES scale-up proposals in other potential PAs. PES's operation procedures (Prakash) have been drafted and

				will be finalized and endorsed by MoE. NCSD/MoE continues to lead and steer the adoption and implementation of the PES framework. UNDP will also continue the support through the ongoing relevant projects.
Evaluation Recommendation 3: Monitor and evaluate the medium and long-term benefits of the project.				
Considering the impossibility to have been conducted field visits to the targeted communities, it would be interesting to conduct a post-evaluation study to quantify and report the project's impacts on the medium and long-term and the endurance and improvement on the ground.				
Management Response:	Agreed			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status**	Comments
No further action under the scope of the project as the project was closed in Q2 2021.	October 2021	NCSD/MoE, UNDP	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The monitoring plan including site visits has been implemented by UNDP with satisfaction. The medium- and long-term benefits of the project can be assessed via other related projects monitoring – Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM).
Evaluation Recommendation 4: Promote actions to reinforce benefits through MoE support in terms of capacity (skill and institutional) development and technical guidance, and explore opportunities link with the National REDD+ strategy, Voluntary Carbon Markets, PES and ecotourism initiatives. The REDD+ strategy is now coming on-stream, and there is a growing interest in the potential opportunities of linking it with CF management.				
Management Response:	Agreed			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
MoE takes up the relevant actions forward. No further action under the scope of the project was closed in Q2 2021.	October 2021	NCSD/MoE, UNDP	Completed	<p>MoE will continue to provide capacity building to all relevant stakeholders, especially government staff and local communities to ensure the BESD relevant activities implementation will continue.</p> <p>This recommendation will also be addressed by other ongoing development projects led by NCSD/MoE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIOFIN Project to ensure the responsible institution/department have enough capacity to

				<p>develop and implement biodiversity financial plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INRM project on sustainable agriculture, agriculture conservation, ecotourism, the value change, and ABS. • CAMPAS project, to implement sustainable financial plan. • Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism project (WB), to promote community-based ecotourism and livelihood development. • Enabling small scale REDD program (plan Vivo). • Leverage and scale up PES's application in at least 10 potential PAs. This plan could be done through UNDP's applicable small grant projects and others available sources.
<p>Recommendation 5: Ensure availability of management plans and zoning maps to local communities.</p> <p>It is recommended, following participatory mapping and planning, CPA committees, with support from PDoE and local authorities, to return to each village to explain the critical aspects of the management plan, the boundaries of the different zones and their associated rules and to distribute permanent maps. They are aiming to mobilise the support of all community members to protect CPA activities. The CPA committee should be considered for some incentives to promote and sustain CPAs actively.</p> <p>Following the same objective of ensuring that the communities are well informed, it is recommended to prepare a summary of the management plan and PES proposal, possibly in the local language, for the members of the village communities.</p>				
Management response:	Agreed			
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Status	Tracking Comments
<p>MoE is taking lead to ensure the development of management plan and PES mechanism using participatory approach.</p> <p>No further action under the scope of the project was closed in Q2 2021.</p>	October 2021	NCSD/MoE	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoE is developing Kulen National Park zoning and management plan which also cover all communities in the National Park. Cambodia Sustainable Land Scape and Ecotourism project(CSLEP) is actually taking over from BESD to continue working with these communities. • DCL/GDLC will continue to work with PDoE, local authorities and community for providing

				<p>more awareness raising and ensure they are all get informed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia Sustainable Landscape and Ecotourism Project, with the support from Work Bank, will take over to implementing BESD's activities on community development. • The ecosystem mapping for potential PES has been integrated in Phnom Kulen NP Zoning. • PES mechanism has been integrated into Kbal Chhay management plan.
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*Management response: Disagreed, Partially Agreed, Agreed

** Status update: Not initiated, Initiated, Not applicable, Completed