



## Regional: Greater Mekong Subregion Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project

Project Name	Greater Mekong Subregion Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project	
Project Number	40253-012	
Country / Economy	Regional	
Project Status	Closed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
	<b>TA 7459-REG: Greater Mekong Subregion Biodiversity Conservation Corridors</b>	
	Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund	US\$ 1.00 million
	<b>TA 7459-REG: Greater Mekong Subregion Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project</b>	
Source of Funding / Amount	Strategic Climate Fund	US\$ 600,000.00
	Strategic Climate Fund	US\$ 500,000.00
	<b>TA 7459-REG: Greater Mekong Subregion Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project</b>	
	GEF-Special Climate Change Fund	US\$ 150,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development	
Sector / Subsector	<b>Agriculture, natural resources and rural development /</b> Land-based natural resources management	
Gender	Effective gender mainstreaming	

Description	<p>The ongoing Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiative (BCI) is the flagship program of the Core Environment Program (CEP-BCI) of the GMS endorsed by the GMS Leaders at the Second GMS Summit in July 2005. The intended outcome of BCI implementation is that by 2015, GMS countries will endeavor to maintain and improve the cover, condition, and biodiversity of forestlands and associated ecosystems in priority biodiversity conservation landscapes intersecting ADB supported GMS economic corridors. The GMS governments, with support from ADB and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners, have identified the most important biodiversity conservation landscapes in the subregion that are vulnerable to increased development pressures and environmental degradation.</p> <p>The original PPTA comprised (i) an updated situational and stakeholders analysis in the target BCC initiative ecosystems in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam; and (ii) design of investment project. The ensuing loan for \$69 million for the GMS BCC Project was approved on 10 December 2010. In June 2012, additional funding was approved for: (i) \$0.600 M to enhance climate resilience in Cambodia; and (ii) \$0.500 M for sustainable ecosystem services. Additional financing of \$0.150 M was approved in 2013 to maintain and restore forest biodiversity ecosystems and related watershed processes in the Central Annamite region of Viet Nam.</p>
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The project is in line with the GMS 10-Year Strategic Framework's (SF) thrust: "Protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of shared natural resources". Its pursuit will be an important step in fulfilling the GMS SF's Mid-term Review recommendation to place more emphasis on soft aspects of GMS cooperation, as the project will enhance arrangements for securing critical ecosystems and environmental quality in GMS economic corridors.</p> <p>The project will fulfill ADB's Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) strategy's pillar 4: Cooperation in Regional Public Goods, as it will involve coordinated actions for protection of the environment and addressing transboundary environmental consequences of GMS development activities, particularly the GMS economic corridor development.</p> <p>The project will implement pillar 4 of the GMS regional cooperation strategy and program (RCSP), 2004-2008: Managing the environment and shared natural resources to help ensure sustainable development and conservation of natural resources. The project is included in the indicative 2010 GMS investment program in ADB's GMS Regional Cooperation Operations Business Plan 2009-2011.</p>
Impact	<p>The impact of the ensuing project will be enhanced and inclusive environmental, and economic performance of GMS economic corridor investments. The outcome of the ensuing project will be climate change resilient biodiversity and ecosystem services management for improving livelihoods of ethnic minority dominated poor communities living in the project area, and safeguarding sustainability of \$4-5 billion current and planned productive sector investments in the project area.</p>

**Project Outcome**

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Description of Outcome                      The outcome of the TA will be an agreed design for Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Project in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam by 2010.

Progress Toward Outcome

**Implementation Progress**

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Description of Project Outputs                      Output 1 will comprise an updated situational and stakeholder analysis in the target BCI ecosystems in CAM, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam drawing on an impact assessment of ongoing BCI pilot activities (i) on the establishment of poverty reduction/livelihood improvement interventions including the establishment and implementation of commune/village revolving funds, (ii) land/forest use management harmonization regimes, (iii) the designing and establishment of the biodiversity corridors including physical demarcation on the ground, (iv) performance and potential of biodiversity corridors integration in provincial and national biodiversity and socio-economic development plans, (v) assessment of forest/ecosystem fragmentation drivers and pressures from relevant GMS economic corridor, national, and provincial energy(hydropower), transport, tourism and agriculture/natural resources development plans and investments, (vi) assessment of climate change resilience enhancement needs of local livelihoods and ecosystems, (vii) assessment of ecosystem/forest based livelihoods improvement and employment needs and opportunities, and (viii) capacity analysis/assessment of local communities, institutions and provincial administration in Cambodia (including Koh Kong and Mondulhiri), Lao PDR (including Champasak and Attapeu), and Viet Nam (including Quang Nam and Quang Tri) for biodiversity corridor (BC) project implementation during 2011-2018. These assessments will be integrated into a problem tree.

Output 2 will comprise Design of Investment Project including components for: (a) Institutional and community strengthening, (b) biodiversity corridors restoration and ecosystem service protection and sustainable management, (c) Livelihood improvement, (d) Climate change adaptation/mitigation, and (e) Project Management.

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location                      Regional

**Safeguard Categories**

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Environment	B
Involuntary Resettlement	B
Indigenous Peoples	B

**Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects**

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Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

### **Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation**

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During Project Design	For the additional financing, consultations have been extensive with a wide range of civil society organizations, communities, government and academic institutions in the three countries.
During Project Implementation	For the original project, consultations with stakeholders, including communities, NGOs, EAs, IAs and local governments are ongoing.

### **Business Opportunities**

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Consulting Services	<p>Consultants will be engaged on an individual basis for the following reasons (i) it is a regional PPTA covering three countries and the kind of expertise/country experience required is unlikely to be available with a single firm; (ii) individual recruitment will allow PPTA to tap into the international and national consultant pool generated by RETA6289 BCI activities which PPTA is proposing to scale up. This consultant pool brings with it both technical and operational expertise and experience which is of direct relevance to efficient and effective PPTA implementation; (iii) there is a fixed budget for the PPTA averaging about \$330,000 per country, and recruitment of a firm is not going to be cost effective. Moreover, the existing GMS Environment Operations Center (EOC) information/knowledge and consultant network created during the BCI pilot phase provides the best pool from which to recruit consultants, which a firm is unlikely to be able to bring in.</p> <p>To prepare for the additional financing, two firms were engaged for the project in Lao and Cambodia. In Viet Nam, individual consultants were recruited because of the limited funding and fewer positions.</p>
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Responsible ADB Officer      Ranawana, Sanath

Responsible ADB Department      Southeast Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division      Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, SERD

Executing Agencies      *Asian Development Bank*

### **Timetable**

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Concept Clearance	11 Sep 2009
Fact Finding	14 Sep 2009 to 22 Sep 2009
MRM	-
Approval	17 Dec 2009
Last Review Mission	-
PDS Creation Date	08 Jan 2010
Last PDS Update	01 Oct 2014

## TA 7459-REG

### Milestones

Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
17 Dec 2009	-	17 Dec 2009	30 Nov 2010	31 Dec 2014	30 Apr 2018

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart		Project Sponsor	Others	Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries					
1,000,000.00	1,250,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,250,000.00	17 Jun 2022	2,092,504.03

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/40253-012/main>

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Date Generated 19 May 2024

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