



Major Change in Technical Assistance

Project Number: 44323
TA Number: 7987-REG
November 2012

Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Phase 2

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
BCI	–	Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative
CEP	–	Core Environment Program
EMM	–	environment ministers meeting
EOC	–	Environment Operations Center
GMS	–	Greater Mekong Subregion
Lao PDR	–	Lao People's Democratic Republic
TA	–	technical assistance
WGE	–	Working Group on Environment

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

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I. PROPOSED MAJOR CHANGE

1. An increase in technical assistance (TA) amount for Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP-BCI) in the Greater Mekong Subregion,¹ Phase 2 is proposed for Board consideration.

2. The Board approved the original TA amount of \$14.8 million on 12 December 2011.² The proposed increase of \$8.3 million equivalent (SKr55 million) will be financed on a grant basis by the Government of Sweden, and will be administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).³ The increase in amount will support scaling up of activities under the original TA framework and extending the implementation period by 1 year. The revised design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

II. BACKGROUND

3. During the second Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) environment ministers meeting (EMM) in Vientiane in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) in 2008, the GMS governments acknowledged the relevance of phase 1 of the CEP-BCI⁴ in achieving the overall goals of the GMS economic cooperation program. As directed by the EMM,⁵ ADB assisted the GMS Working Group on Environment (WGE) and its technical secretariat, the GMS Environment Operations Center (EOC), to prepare a follow-on phase. The program framework document (PFD)⁶ for the CEP-BCI 2012–2016 was endorsed, in principle, at the third EMM in July 2011. The TA is designed to implement the PFD.

4. The impact of the TA will be improved biodiversity conservation and climate resilience across the GMS. The TA outcome will be an environmentally friendly and climate-resilient GMS economic cooperation program. It will support activities in priority economic corridors targeted by the GMS program, and in priority transboundary biodiversity conservation corridors and landscapes.⁷

5. The TA is aligned with the strategic framework for the GMS economic cooperation program, 2012–2022 and is included in the GMS Regional Cooperation Business Plan.⁸ The TA

¹ Includes Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

² ADB. 2011. *Regional Technical Assistance for the Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Phase 2*. Manila. (TA 7987 REG)

³ Revised Financing Plan (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

⁴ Phase 1 was implemented through the Regional Technical Assistance for the Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion (TA 6289 REG), approved in December 2005 for the amount of \$24.97 million. Increases in the TA amount were approved in February 2008 (\$6.60 million) and April 2011 (\$2.09 million), bringing the total TA cost to \$34.86 million. This comprised contributions from ADB (\$1.62 million), Government of the Netherlands (\$14.00 million), Government of Finland (\$4.90 million), Government of Sweden (\$11.09 million), Poverty Reduction Cooperation Fund (\$0.55 million), People's Republic of China Poverty Reduction Fund (\$0.50 million), Climate Change Fund (\$1.0 million), and GMS countries (\$1.20 million).

⁵ Joint Ministerial Statement. 2008. Second Meeting of the GMS Environment Ministers. Vientiane. 29 January.

⁶ The PFD details the full programmatic and geographic scope of activities under CEP-BCI, Phase 2 and the lessons learned from CEP-BCI, Phase 1. See <http://www.gms-eoc.org/resources/core-documents> to access: the PFD; evaluation reports of Phase 1 (TA 6289 REG); the Inception Report of Phase 2 (TA 7987 REG); and the semi-annual progress reports of Phase 1 and 2.

⁷ While economic corridors enhance physical connectivity, biodiversity conservation corridors support ecosystem connectivity to accommodate movements of species between core areas. These corridors are embedded within wider conservation landscapes, which provide services based on ecosystem functions.

⁸ ADB. 2010. *Regional Cooperation Operations Business Plan: Greater Mekong Subregion 2011–2013*. Manila.

supports and complements other GMS regional and country-specific programs to systematically assess and integrate sound environmental management and climate resilience measures. The TA comprises four outputs: (i) improved environmental planning systems, methods, and safeguards; (ii) improved management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes and local livelihoods; (iii) development of climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies; and (iv) improved institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management.

6. The cost of the CEP-BCI, 2012–2016 as detailed in the PFD is \$26.5 million. At the time of Board approval in December 2011, ADB had secured funding of \$14.8 million (\$0.8 million from Technical Assistance Special Funds and \$14.0 million from the Government of Finland).⁹ Consequently, the TA scope and scale of activities was designed¹⁰ commensurate with the available financing and with a shorter implementation period of 4 years (2012–2015). The current TA completion date is 31 December 2015.

III. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

7. Since the TA became effective on 12 December 2011, progress has been in line with the planned implementation schedule. Inception missions were conducted in each of the countries and an 18-month (July 2012–December 2013) work plan was formulated in consultation with implementing partner agencies and other key stakeholders. The Inception Report incorporating the 18-month work plan was presented and approved at the 18th annual meeting of the GMS Working Group on Environment in May 2012. Subsequently, each output of the TA has been elaborated into a detailed activity plan and corresponding yearly milestones.¹¹ These milestones collectively make up a more detailed monitoring and evaluation framework for annual assessment of progress. Activity specific concept notes are now being prepared and vetted by countries. Meanwhile, ten consultants have been mobilized and letters of agreement have been drafted to engage implementing agencies. About \$752,000 has been committed in contract award¹² and about \$607,000 has been disbursed to date. The TA implementation arrangements have been reviewed and refined in consultation with the Controller's Department, Central Operations Services Office, the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of Cofinancing Operations.

8. Activities to date have also focused on a seamless transition from phase 1 of the CEP-BCI including the synthesis and documentation of knowledge and experience.¹³ Phase 1 commenced in 2006 (footnotes 4 and 6) and was considered a pilot in terms of consolidating environmental sector support to the GMS countries under a comprehensive programmatic framework covering: (i) strategic environmental assessments, (ii) biodiversity conservation, (iii) environmental performance assessments, and (iv) capacity development for regional environmental management.¹⁴ In February 2012, the GMS countries, supported by the EOC, conducted a major international conference, taking a retrospective and prospective look at development trends in the GMS in the context of the food, water, and energy security of the subregion. The conference reaffirmed the importance of ecosystem services that underpin

⁹ ADB administers the cofinancing by the Government of Finland.

¹⁰ Results of the evaluation of CEP-BCI, Phase 1 undertaken by the Government of Sweden and Government of Finland were taken into account in designing CEP-BCI, Phase 2.

¹¹ The output (i.e., component) strategies and the detailed monitoring framework can be found at <http://www.gms-eoc.org>

¹² In addition, contracts amounting to about \$758,000 are currently being processed.

¹³ The completion date of phase 1 was extended until 31 December 2012 to enable a seamless transition between phases 1 and 2.

¹⁴ A detailed report of achievements and activities under phase 1 can be accessed at the EOC website (www.gms-eoc.org)

economic development and highlighted the need to protect and enhance the subregion's natural capital. It established a strong basis for the landscape-based and corridor-based approach—which is adopted by the TA—to integrate sound environmental management and climate resilience measures in economic planning and decision making. Several knowledge products are currently being prepared, including an atlas of the GMS which is expected to be launched at the GMS ministers meeting in December 2012. Semiannual progress reports of activities carried out are posted on the EOC website (footnote 6).

IV. RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

9. Since the TA's approval in December 2011, ADB has secured additional cofinancing from the Government of Sweden in the amount of \$8.3 million equivalent. The additional cofinancing will contribute towards bridging the funding gap between the PFD cost estimates and the TA budget as noted in para. 6. Accordingly, the additional funds made available by the Government of Sweden for the TA will be utilized to increase the number of activities, increase output targets within the existing impact, outcome, and output structure, and extend these activities to Myanmar which was not included in the original TA scope. Moreover, the TA completion date will also be extended by 1 year, from 31 December 2015 to 31 December 2016, to align with the PFD's implementation period. Paras. 10–18 describe the expanded scale and scope of activities within the original TA output structure. Performance indicators in the design and monitoring framework in Appendix 1 have been revised to reflect the additional activities and outputs to be financed from the additional financing.

10. **Output 1: Environmental planning systems, methods, and safeguards improved.** This output aims to strengthen: (i) development strategies, plans, and investments in the GMS economic corridors and conservation landscapes by incorporating environmental and social considerations at the strategic planning and design stages; (ii) safeguard capacity of key sectors; and (iii) environmental performance monitoring capacity. Activities include: (i) application of tools such as ecosystem assessments and valuation, strategic environmental assessments, and spatial multicriteria analysis to assess the implications of multisector development on natural resources and ecosystem services; (ii) safeguard capacity building through applications in specific operational settings and training; and (iii) strengthening country environmental monitoring processes, protocols and guidelines.

11. Additional financing will support these activities by: (i) applying ecosystem assessments and valuation in the context of at least one additional subregional and or national sector strategy; (ii) applying multi-sector spatial planning in at least one additional transboundary economic corridors including special economic zones; (iii) scaling up safeguard applications and training programs; (iv) supporting the development of legal instruments for environmental assessments in at least two countries; and (v) strengthening data and information management systems to support economic corridor investments. Emphasis will be on applying innovative multisector approaches to strengthen cross-sector links (e.g., for improved management of the water–food–energy resource nexus) to dovetail with the GMS Regional Investment Framework.

12. **Output 2: Management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes and local livelihoods improved.** This output supports transboundary biodiversity conservation landscape management and value chain development in context of promoting sustainable livelihood for rural communities. The TA supports: (i) profiling and monitoring of key landscapes; (ii) capacity building for improved management of priority biodiversity conservation corridors; (iii) value chain development to promote eco-friendly rural livelihoods; and (iv) pilot testing community based integrated conservation and development models.

13. Additional financing will enhance these efforts by adopting an agro-ecosystem based approach to develop green value chains to support local livelihoods and employment. Activities will include: (i) scaling up technical and financial viability assessments of products and services (e.g., eco-tourism, agro-biodiversity products, non-timber forest products) to improve local livelihoods in at least one additional biodiversity conservation landscape; and (ii) pilot testing deployment of sustainable livelihood options in agrarian communities in at least three landscapes. Emphasis will be on enhancing area-based cross-sectoral synergies and complementarities between the CEP-BCI and other GMS sector programs, including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport, and trade.¹⁵

14. **Output 3: Climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies developed.** This output will integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations into the planning and implementation of activities of key development sectors. Activities under the ongoing TA support the development of methodologies, tools, and knowledge on climate change impacts and risks.

15. Additional financing will strengthen the testing and application of carbon monitoring systems for sustainable forest management within transboundary landscapes and biodiversity conservation corridors in at least one additional country. Climate change risk and vulnerability assessments will be applied to rural development plans especially in the context of agrarian community development, in at least two countries.

16. **Output 4: Institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management improved.** This output supports: (i) country-specific institutional capacity development activities to strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration on environmental management within the overall framework of the GMS economic cooperation program; and (ii) sustainable financing for environmental management and to enhance the subregion's natural capital.

17. Additional financing will support scaling up efforts to strengthen national and subnational institutional capacity of the environmental agencies. Activities will include: (i) strengthening National Support Units (NSU) capacity to serve as a focal in-country coordination and technical node for the CEP-BCI in an additional country; and (ii) strengthening linkages between the WGE and other sector working groups to enable better cross-agency coordination, information sharing and reporting at a national level. Additional financing will also support new efforts to secure sustainable financing for environmental management and investment in natural capital. This will involve supporting at least one additional payment for ecosystem services mechanism and one additional public-private partnership arrangement.

18. The expanded scale and scope of activities will require additional consultant inputs. The TA will require the services of 309 person-months of international consultants and 1,121 person-months of national consultants compared with the original figures of 175 person-months of international and 751 person-months of national consultants.¹⁶ Consultants will be recruited, either as individuals (to staff the EOC, NSUs and for some program activities) or as firms (for implementing selected program activities). They will be recruited in accordance with ADB's

¹⁵ Consistent with this cross-sector integrated approach, and building on the foundation of the CEP-BCI, ADB and the Government of Sweden signed the cofinancing agreement for the GMS Core Agriculture Support Program, Phase 2 on 19 October 2012.

¹⁶ A minor change in implementation arrangements approved in July 2012 revised the required services of international consultants to 247 person-months and national consultants to 715 person-months (Revised Outline Terms of Consultants, accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 2).

Guidelines for the Use of Consultants (2010, as amended from time to time).¹⁷ Procurement of goods and services will be in accordance with ADB's *Procurement Guidelines* (2010, as amended from time to time). The TA will also be implemented through letters of agreement between ADB and institutions which cannot otherwise be engaged through a competitive bidding process. These include: national line agencies (e.g., government ministries and departments); international organizations (e.g., United Nations Environment Programme); NGOs (e.g., World Wildlife Fund, the International Union for Conservation of Nature); and academic and research institutions (e.g., the Mekong Institute).

19. The EOC will continue to serve as the secretariat to the WGE, ensure technical oversight of activities, and transition into a subregional knowledge hub and information clearinghouse on environmental management procedures, spatial planning tools, and safeguard practices. The National Support Units (NSUs) will assume responsibility for coordination of in-country activities, including assisting with preparation of financial and progress reports, maintenance of environmental information databases, and reporting to WGE.

20. Disbursements will be made in accordance with ADB's *Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook* (2010, as amended from time to time). Consistent with the Board approved TA paper, an advance facility will be used to disburse funds to the EOC operating account established under ADB's Thailand Resident Mission and will cover workshops, operating costs and other project expenditures. An advance payment facility (APF) will be used to disburse funds to national implementing agencies and partners, including NSUs. The EOC operating account and APF will be replenished upon submission of statement of expenditures. Implementing agencies and partners will be required to maintain project accounts and these accounts will be made available to ADB for inspection and audit purposes.

V. DUE DILIGENCE

21. Activities supported with additional financing will follow the implementation arrangements established under the TA. The proposed changes comply with the project administration instruction on administering grant-financed TA¹⁸ and address comments from the Central Operations Services Office, Office of the General Counsel, Controller's Department, and the Office of Cofinancing Operations.

VI. THE PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

22. The President recommends that the Board approve the increase in the TA amount for the Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Phase 2 by \$8,300,000 equivalent, which will finance the change as described in paras. 1–2.

¹⁷ Selection method will be determined based on terms of reference, in consultation of Central Operations Services Office. The Consultants' Qualifications Selection method will be adopted to engage firms or nongovernment organizations (NGOs) with highly specialized expertise.

¹⁸ ADB. 2009. Administering Grant-Financed Technical Assistance. *Project Administration Instructions*. PAI 5.09. Manila.

REVISED DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators with Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
<p>Impact</p> <p>Improved biodiversity conservation and climate resilience across the GMS</p>	<p>Compared to 2011 baselines by 2022:^a</p> <p>Forest patch sizes maintained in GMS biodiversity conservation corridors and landscapes</p> <p>Climate change adaptation and disaster risk preparedness improved in at least 700^b communities in GMS conservation landscapes</p>	<p>National and FAO forestry reports</p> <p>EPA reports</p> <p>Provincial and local development plans</p> <p>BCC socioeconomic baseline in Cambodia, the Lao PDR, and Viet Nam</p> <p>CEP-BCI progress reports</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <p>GMS governments remain committed to inclusive growth and sound environmental practices.</p> <p>Investment financing (public and private) is available.</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>Impact of rapid economic growth outpaces environmental response times</p>
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Environmentally friendly and climate-resilient GMS ECP</p>	<p>Compared to 2011 baselines, by 2016:^c</p> <p>ECP portfolio comprises at least 25% of pro-environment and climate-resilient investments</p> <p>Livelihoods (cash and noncash elements) of at least 60% of participating households in the conservation landscapes are improved, with at least 35% women beneficiaries</p>	<p>GMS sector and line agency reports</p> <p>Regional, national, and sector publications on economic indicators</p> <p>Reports to GMS ministers meetings and EMM</p> <p>CEP-BCI progress reports</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <p>GMS governments remain committed to mainstreaming environmental concerns.</p> <p>Community and local agency support and ownership of activities continue.</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>Short-term development needs override long-term sustainable development priorities.</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>Environmental planning systems, methods, and safeguards improved</p>	<p>By 2016:^d</p> <p>Environmental and social considerations included in at least 12 GMS sector or corridor strategies and plans</p> <p>At least 150,000 people in the GMS economic corridors benefit from environmental measures, with at least 35% of them being women</p> <p>At least 150 agency staff (at least 35% women) able to implement safeguard assessments</p> <p>Additional financing Indicators:</p> <p>At least two new or updated legal instruments (laws or regulations) at a sector or national level supporting SEA or related tools prepared in GMS countries</p> <p>At least five GMS strategic plans and environmental reports supported by the EOC Environment Information System</p>	<p>GMS sector plans and strategies</p> <p>National environmental and social safeguards regulations and guidelines</p> <p>GMS country state of the environment reports</p> <p>CEP-BCI progress reports and baseline database</p>	<p>Assumption</p> <p>Sector agency support is received for environmental initiatives.</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>Sector authorities promote unsustainable development for short-term revenue target gains.</p>

Design Summary	Performance Targets and Indicators with Baselines	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Assumptions and Risks
Management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes and local livelihoods improved	<p>By 2016:</p> <p>Biodiversity corridors are gazetted in at least three GMS countries</p> <p>Management and operational plans are formulated and implemented in at least three biodiversity conservation corridors</p> <p>Payment for environmental services guidelines developed in at least two countries</p> <p>Additional financing Indicators:</p> <p>Innovative livelihood interventions are tested in at least three biodiversity conservation corridors</p>	<p>Provincial regulations, decisions</p> <p>Provincial land-use plans</p> <p>GMS program evaluation reports</p> <p>Program baseline and progress reports</p> <p>Socioeconomic surveys</p>	<p>Assumption</p> <p>GMS cooperation on cross-border conservation activities</p> <p>Risks</p> <p>Conservation and sustainable livelihoods gains negated by ad hoc development</p> <p>Growing demand for wildlife and forest products</p>
Climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies developed	<p>By 2016:</p> <p>At least four national, provincial or city-based MRV systems developed</p> <p>At least three investment proposals on low-carbon technologies and / or climate change adaptation prepared</p> <p>Climate change coping strategies adopted by at least 150 community groups, with at least 35% women beneficiaries</p>	<p>ADB climate change fund progress reports</p> <p>GMS ECP sector progress reports</p> <p>GMS country REDD reporting</p> <p>GMS business forum reports</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <p>Availability of funds for climate change activities</p> <p>Sufficient demand for low-carbon and energy-efficient growth</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>Affordability and accessibility of climate-proofing technology</p>
Institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management improved	<p>By 2016:</p> <p>NSUs fully operational in at least five countries</p> <p>At least 50% of EOC professional staff are from GMS, at least 40% of them women</p> <p>At least two bankable private sector projects in environment and natural resources developed and collaboration secured</p> <p>Additional financing Indicator:</p> <p>At least two joint projects involving WGE and other GMS sector agencies implemented</p>	<p>Government circulars</p> <p>CEP-BCI progress reports</p>	<p>Assumption</p> <p>Sufficient financial resources and support for environmental service delivery</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>Sustainable financing systems generate only limited income, with high transaction costs</p>

Activities with Milestones ^e	Inputs (\$'000)	
Output 1: Environmental planning systems, methods, and safeguards improved	ADB and Cofinanciers: 23,100	
1.1 Build subregional and national environmental planning capacities, with at least two SEAs/environmental assessments per year completed by 2016 1.2 Build capacity for environmental safeguards, through engagement with at least ten projects and/or programs in the GMS by 2014 1.3 Conduct safeguard training for at least 150 transport and energy sector officials and practitioners by 2016 1.4 Strengthen country environmental monitoring processes, with protocols and/or guidelines for at least four national systems established by 2016	Item	Amount (\$'000)
Output 2: Management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes and local livelihoods improved	Consultants (International and National)	15,350
2.1 Improve and update biodiversity profiles in conservation landscapes, with at least one profile completed by 2013	Equipment	630
2.2 Support value chain development based on ecosystem goods and services, with recommendations for four investment projects by 2015, and testing of interventions in at least three conservation landscapes by 2016	Training	2,170
2.3 Strengthen biodiversity conservation corridor management and monitoring in biodiversity conservation landscapes, establishing cross-border management arrangements, including zoning and gazetting plans, in at least three transboundary landscapes by 2016	Surveys	410
2.4 Improve compliance with multilateral environmental agreements on the movement of wildlife, timber, and other natural resources by supporting at least two cross-border initiatives by 2015	Miscellaneous administration and support costs	3,340
Output 3: Climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies developed	Contingencies	1,200
3.1. Support climate-resilience measures and synergies between adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies in key development sectors by integrating adaptation considerations into at least two investments by 2014 and by identifying at least two adaptation projects for financing by 2016		
3.2. Support low-carbon strategies and MRV frameworks in energy and transport sectors, with at least three investment proposals developed by 2015		
3.3. Support country REDD readiness and piloting, with REDD readiness plans supported in at least three countries by 2016		
Output 4: Institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management improved		
4.1 Strengthen capacity for environmental management and monitoring, with particular emphasis on the roles of the WGE and NSUs, with NSUs functional in at least five GMS countries by 2015		
4.2 Policy and institutional support for sustainable financing of conservation and ecosystem management, with at least two payment for ecosystem services scheme initiated by 2015		
4.3 Facilitate PPPs for conservation and ecosystem management, with at least two PPP financing arrangements developed by 2015		

ADB = Asian Development Bank; CEP-BCI = Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative; ECP = economic cooperation program; EMM = environment ministers meeting; EOC = Environment Operations Center; EPA = environmental performance assessment; FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; GMS = Greater Mekong Subregion; Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic; MRV = monitoring, reporting, and verification; NSU = national support unit; PPP = public-private partnership; REDD = reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation; SEA = strategic environmental assessment; WGE = Working Group on Environment.

^a Baselines for selected indicators are available on the EOC website at <http://www.gms-eoc.org/index.php/resources/resource-list.html>

^b The performance target was revised to reflect an increase in the number of communities from 500 to 700.

^c Performance targets were revised to reflect additional financing as follows: an increase in the ECP portfolio from 20% to 25%; and an increase in the percentage of participating households benefitting from improved livelihoods from 50% to 60%.

^d Output level indicators were updated commensurate to the increase in TA amount.

^e Activities were also scaled-up commensurate to the increase in TA amount.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/MC/?id=44323-012-4>

1. Revised Financing Plan
2. Revised Outline Terms of Reference for Consultants

REVISED FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Original		Additional Cost	Total Cost
	TASF	Finland		
Asian Development Bank^a				
1. Consultants				
a. Remuneration and per diem				
i. International consultants	139	2,426	1,435	4,000
ii. National consultants	154	2,703	1,603	4,460
iii. Greater Mekong Subregion country specialists on deputation	6	112	67	185
b. International and local travel	31	548	321	900
c. Reports and communications	6	112	67	185
d. Greater Mekong Subregion country implementation and partnerships ^b	195	3,405	2,020	5,620
2. Equipment	22	380	228	630
3. Training, seminars, and conferences				
a. Facilitators	15	263	162	440
b. Training program	60	1,052	618	1,730
4. Surveys	14	246	150	410
5. Miscellaneous administration and support costs ^c	116	2,025	1,199	3,340
6. Contingencies	42	728	430	1,200
Total	800	14,000	8,300	23,100

TASF = Technical Assistance Special Fund.

^a Financed by the Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-IV) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Government of Finland, and Government of Sweden. The cofinancier fund is administered by ADB. This amount also includes ADB's administration fee, audit costs, bank charges, and a provision for foreign exchange fluctuations (if any), to the extent that these items are not covered by the interest and investment income earned on this grant.

^b Includes funds for national support units in Greater Mekong Subregion countries, partnership agreements, and service contracts. Activities will be implemented in all GMS countries, including Myanmar, consistent with the Interim Country Partnership Strategy for Myanmar (2012–2014) approved by the ADB Board on 26 October 2012.

^c Includes funds for publication and media documentation.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

REVISED OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANTS

1. The TA required services of international consultants (up to 175 person-months) and national consultants (up to 751 person-months). In July 2012, a minor change in implementation arrangements was approved to (i) separate the tasks of the Technical Program head and Environmental Planning Specialist into two positions (one international Technical Program Head for 36 person-months and one International Environmental Safeguards and Monitoring Specialist for 36 person-months); and (ii) re-designate the Outreach Specialist position from national to international as the project requires one with international experience.

2. The additional consultancy inputs will be 62 person-months for international consultants and 406 person-months for national consultants as shown below.

Position	Original Inputs	Minor Change	Revised Inputs	Additional Inputs	Total Inputs
A. International Consultants					
Technical Program Head and Environmental Planning Specialist	36	(36)	0	0	0
Technical Program Head		36	36	12	48
Environmental Safeguards and Monitoring Specialist		36	36	12	48
Biodiversity Conservation Landscape Specialist	24		24		24
Climate Change Specialist	36		36	12	48
Geographic Information Systems and Knowledge Specialist	12		12	6	18
Outreach Specialist		36	36	12	48
Programmatic Technical and Implementation Support Positions	67		67	8	75
Total	175		247	62	309
B. National Consultants					
Chief of Operations	36		36	12	48
Outreach Specialist	36	(36)	0	0	0
Geographic Information Systems and Knowledge Specialist	18		18	6	24
Capacity Development Specialist	30		30	6	36
Social and Gender Specialist	36		36	12	48
Financial Accounting and Management Specialist (Finance and Administration Head)	48		48	12	60
Program Implementation and Coordination Specialists based, in NSU	240		240	60	300
in EOC	144		144	36	180
Programmatic Technical and Implementation Support Positions	163		163	262	425
Total	751		715	406	1,121

3. As some of the consultancy assignments have been engaged and some have been advertised, the updated terms of reference (TOR) for these positions are as shown below. The terms of reference of the national consultants, specifically the Chief of Operations, Geographic Information and Knowledge Specialist, Social and Gender Specialist, and Program

Implementation and Coordination Specialists based in NSU and EOC, are in the original TA paper.

A. Technical Program Head (International)

4. The Technical Program Head (TPH) will be overall responsible for technical content of the CEP-BCI, Phase 2 and for effective and efficient delivery of the Program by guiding the technical specialists to achieve the Program's outcome and output targets. The TPH will report to the Chief of Operations (COO) at EOC and serve in this capacity in the absence of a COO. Through the COO the TPH will be accountable to the WGE on technical content of the Program. The TPH will relate to the responsible ADB Project Officer in the capacity of the Team Leader of the technical consultant team. In this capacity, the TPH will work with and be guided by the ADB Project Officer to broaden and deepen CEP-BCI's engagement with ADB country programs in the GMS countries and to implement and monitor the TA as per ADB guidelines. Specific responsibilities will include:

- (i) in coordination with the COO, the WGE and the ADB, chart strategic and operational directives to achieve the Programs impact, outcome and outputs and guide their implementation through the implementing agencies (i.e., WGE focal agencies and other line agencies at national and subnational levels), EOC and NSU based consultant teams and in institutional partnerships (i.e., academic and research institutes, civil society groups and private sector entities)
- (ii) assume overall responsibility for: developing and implementing the CEP-BCI Work Plan; regular monitoring of the Program's physical and financial progress; and routine reporting to the WGE, ADB and co-financiers.
- (iii) continuously track related development programs with potential to compliment the CEP-BCI; act as the primary point of contact between the CEP-BCI technical team and other partners (i.e., multi-lateral and bi-lateral development organizations, academia and research institutes, civil society groups the private sector) to identify and operationalize synergies and complimentary activities between CEP-BCI and their respective programs;
- (iv) in coordination with the Finance and Administrative Head of EOC, guide and facilitate the recruitment, management and evaluation of EOC and NSU based consultants and guide them on upgrading their knowledge and operational competencies and skills;
- (v) in coordination with the EOC based Capacity Development Specialist, identify long- medium- and short-term strategies to create enabling conditions for the implementing agencies to absorb and institutionalize the Program's technical content and support the development and delivery of related training activities;
- (vi) deepen the Program's engagement with private sector by identifying and operationalizing strategies to expand sustainable financing options for activities initiated under the Program;
- (vii) in consultation with the ADB Project Officer, liaise with relevant ADB staff at Head Quarters and Resident Missions to broaden and deepen links between the Program and relevant ADB operations including the GMS Economic Cooperation Program, the Core Agriculture Support Program, other GMS regional cooperation programs and country operations (associated with agriculture, energy, transport and tourism sectors); and
- (viii) in coordination with the EOC based Outreach Specialist develop and implement a information and communication strategy for the Program and support the development of knowledge products on the Program's technical content.

B. Environmental Safeguards and Monitoring Specialist (International)

5. The Environmental Safeguards and Monitoring Specialist is responsible for providing technical support to GMS countries in the conduct of environmental and social safeguard, performance assessment, and compliance monitoring. She/he will additionally advise on environmental safeguard compliance issues for ADB projects in GMS countries, contribute to the conduct of environmental assessments for projects in key sectors, and assist in monitoring of safeguard policy adherence during project implementation. S/he will work under the direction of the TPH and ADB Project Officer and in coordination with other EOC technical staff. Specific responsibilities will include:

- (i) conduct country diagnostic studies (involving identification of relevant policies, regulations, operation guidelines, and implementation manuals) on environmental safeguards equivalence with ADB safeguard policies;
- (ii) support strengthening of environmental safeguard systems in GMS countries and capacity development for environment and key sector ministries, towards improved safeguard application and enforcement;
- (iii) support capacity development to enable GMS countries to conduct SEA of national and sub-regional agriculture, energy, tourism and transport policies;
- (iv) support GMS national monitoring and reporting systems, through developing robust baseline databases, and database compilation from country, regional (including ADB), and other databases used in assessing country assessment of environmental and social performance;
- (v) support conduct of sub-national and national environmental performance assessments (EPAs) and preparation of a sub-regional environmental performance index (EPI). Provide technical inputs and capacity development to country teams conducting EPA, including advising on indicator development, data interpretation, and reporting. Coordinate preparation of a GMS-adapted EPI;
- (vi) contribute to preparation of ADB Country Performance Assessments (CPS) as part of country assistance programming activities, examining effectiveness of country policy and institutional frameworks in fostering environmental sustainability;
- (vii) provide monitoring and evaluation (M&E) inputs to economic corridor-level SEA and biodiversity conservation activities, and general program monitoring;
- (viii) assist in monitoring sub-regional compliance in the framework of multilateral agreements;
- (ix) produce technical materials, guidelines and reports (i.e., policy briefs, concept papers) in close collaboration with the TPH and EOC staff;
- (x) support development of the program AWPB; and
- (xi) contribute to preparation of technical progress reports at 6-month intervals for submission to the WGE, development partners and ADB.

C. Biodiversity Conservation Landscape Specialist (International)

6. The Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Specialist will be responsible for implementation of Output 2 of the CEP-BCI namely "Management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes and local livelihoods improved". Activities under this Output aim to support biodiversity conservation in critical transboundary landscapes within the GMS while also supporting sustainable livelihoods for local communities. Activities include: (i) improving and updating biodiversity profiles in conservation landscapes; (ii) providing economic and other analysis to support the development of value chains of ecosystem-based goods and services

that will promote rural livelihoods; (iii) strengthening biodiversity conservation corridor management and monitoring; and (iv) improving compliance with multilateral environmental agreements on the movement of wildlife, timber, and other natural resources. Activities under this Output will complement the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam and also the GEF financed GMS Forest and Biodiversity Program. The Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Specialist will, in general:

- (i) formulate strategies to achieve the expected conservation outcomes of the CEP-BCI and develop concept papers to operationalize identified activities;
- (ii) manage the implementation of all activities of Output 2 of CEP-BCI including a) technical aspects of transboundary landscape management, development of green value chains and updating landscape / ecosystems profiles and b) development of policy / regulatory frameworks to formalize and manage BCI corridors;
- (iii) report on physical and financial progress of activities along with disbursement of funds;
- (iv) establish partnership with government, development partners, non-government and private sectors to ensure delivery of the expected outcomes;
- (v) identify tools and approaches to strengthen transboundary landscape conservation planning and compliance capacity;
- (vi) assist with preparing the GEF CEO Endorsement Document to ensure close complementarities with the CEP-BCI activities;
- (vii) design and coordinate implementation of CEP-BCI activities to complement the BCC projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam;
- (viii) coordinate monitoring and evaluation of component and activities including operationalizing a hierarchical and multi-scale monitoring system that will help to monitor biodiversity conservation outcomes, from species to landscape; and
- (ix) support outreach activities associated with Output 2.

D. Climate Change Specialist (International)

7. The Climate Change Specialist will work with the WGE and GMS focal agencies in the transportation, energy, tourism, and agriculture and natural resources sectors to develop and implement activities to achieve low carbon and climate resilient development outcomes and outputs under CEP-BCI (2012–1016). Such activities include the implementation of disaster risk preparedness, ecosystems based climate change adaptation and mitigation, development of low carbon value chains, promotion low carbon technologies (e.g. transport and energy sectors), reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+), and supporting sustainable finance mechanisms (e.g., payment for ecosystem services and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation [REDD+]). The Climate Change Specialist in general will:

- (i) develop road map on low carbon and climate resilient development component of CEP-BCI including overall strategic vision, activity concepts with measureable indicators for program outcomes and outputs;
- (ii) manage implementation of component activities, tracking the progress and achievements of key performance indicators, along with disbursement and liquidation of budget;
- (iii) establish partnership with government, development partners, non-government and private sectors to ensure delivery of the component outcomes;

- (iv) identify tools and approaches to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in planning and investment process underpinned by institutional capacity development;
- (v) climate resilient development
 - a. develop and update policy papers that identify priority adaptation measures for the WGE, the GMS secretariat, and cooperating focal agencies; and identify potential investments in the GMS ECP and ADB's country partnership strategies that could be negatively affected by climate change;
 - b. design, field test and replicate methods to (a) conduct risk and vulnerability assessments focusing on agrarian communities and tourism sectors, (b) disaster risk preparedness and emergency response capacities, and (c) climate proofing of energy and transport infrastructure;
 - c. conduct cost-benefit analyses of adaptation and disaster risk preparedness options, as appropriate, based on economic assessments of business-as-usual, climate-change adaptation or alternative strategies;
- (vi) low carbon development
 - a. identify entry points within regional and national planning and formulate a process to incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy interventions;
 - b. design and implement demonstration projects on low carbon technologies for energy and transport sectors in support of NAMAs; and
 - c. support capacity building and pilot activities on REDD+ readiness.

E. Geographic Information Systems and Knowledge Specialist (International)

8. The GIS and Knowledge Specialist coordinates and supports the development of the GMS EOC Environment Information System (GIS components) and develops and applies decision support tools and modeling approaches for CEP-BCI. Together with the WGE, the GMS secretariat, and the other ECP focal agencies, s/he will:

- (i) coordinate and manage activities related to spatial assessments, planning, monitoring, information sharing and dissemination, including (a) formulation of activity proposals, (b) formulation of work plans, (c) establishment of reporting procedures, (d) development of ToRs for national and international consultants, and (e) coordination between EOC, NSU, activity teams and stakeholders;
- (ii) develop and maintain the spatial data component of the *EOC Environment Information System (EIS)*, including (a) conceptualization of a system that serves as a spatial information hub for GMS ECP, (b) develop a spatial data servicing routine including collection, management and updating, and (c) design and improve spatial data dissemination and collaboration tools (e.g. Online GMS Atlas, thematic mapping tools);
- (iii) maintain and improve the *EOC web platform* as part of program M&E, including (a) assignment of EOC and NSU staff to maintaining relevant sections of the website and online library through the backend, (b) integration of relevant parts of the EIS into the web-platform as an online indicator portal, and (c) translation of relevant activity outputs into online, interactive knowledge tools;
- (iv) adapt and integrate spatial assessment and modeling methods to support relevant activities under the four program components, specifically demand projections, ecosystem service valuation and cost/benefit calculations for strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments;

- (v) develop country capacity (country agencies and NSU) on the use of GIS for spatial analysis and modeling, and the use and maintenance of the Environment Information System; and
- (vi) document and report progress to relevant stakeholders and raise awareness of activity and program achievements in relevant national and international fora.

F. Capacity Development Specialist (National)

9. The Capacity Development Specialist will be responsible for all capacity development activities during the transition period to CEP-BCI (2012–2016). Working under the direction of the TPH, the Consultant will work with relevant EOC and NSU staff to carry out assigned responsibilities, as follows:

- (i) coordinate undertaking of a comprehensive institutional capacity needs assessment to evaluate capacity building implementation effectiveness to date;
- (ii) identify country-specific NSU structure, composition and function, and recommend an overall capacity building strategy for the program;
- (iii) in close consultation with WGE focal points, supervise and support establishment and strengthening of NSU;
- (iv) support organization of regional and national training and capacity building activities in close collaboration with EOC activity leads and NSU staff;
- (v) assist in the preparation of an annual progress report and other technical reports to reflect implementation and achievements of CEP-BCI capacity development activities; and
- (vi) support the ADB Project Officer and EOC staff to carry out program functions as requested.

G. Outreach Specialist (International)

10. The Outreach Specialist will be responsible for all outreach activities under the CEP-BCI. She/he will work under the direction of the TPH and ADB Project Officer and in coordination with other EOC technical staff. Specific responsibilities will include, but not limited to:

- (i) lead the development of a series of outreach material (e.g., technical reports, short information brochures/pamphlets, audio-visual products, etc.) to enhance awareness of the CEP-BCI Program;
- (ii) lead outreach related to key CEP-BCI events (e.g., conferences, workshops, meetings, etc) to effectively communicate objectives and ensure representation of target audiences and to disseminate results and impacts through proceedings, minutes, etc.;
- (iii) manage media relations, arrange press representation at key events and prepare press releases;
- (iv) maintain close contact with key partners (including within the ADB) of the CEP-BCI through regular updates of CEP-BCI events and activities;
- (v) be responsible for regular reporting to WGE and co-financing partners through monthly newsletters and semi-annual progress reports;
- (vi) maintain weekly calendar of CEP-BCI events and meeting for EOC and NSU staff;

- (vii) maintain and update the EOC web site on www.gms-eoc.org and the CEP-BCI webpage on www.adb.org with key CEP-BCI activities and events as well as through links to other relevant sites;
- (viii) develop/update the CEP-BCI Outreach Strategy and Action Plan, and the corresponding outreach related annual work plans and budgets;
- (ix) provide updates on major environment and climate change-related events of relevance to the CEP-BCI, regionally and globally.

H. Financial and Administration Head (National)

11. The Finance and Administration Head (FAH) is responsible for managing all accounting, finance and administration related to operations for CEP-BCI. The task includes banking operations, disbursements, budget preparation, monitoring and reporting as per ADB requirements, and overall responsibility for administration of EOC under guidance of Chief Operations Officer (COO). The FAH will also be responsible for organizing finance and accounting training to partners' staff. S/he will also support the COO and Technical Program Head (TPH) to track monthly progress toward meeting program deliverables and work with other EOC task leaders and professional staff to keep them updated on a monthly basis.

1. Finance Responsibilities:

- (i) as part of the EOC team, assist the COO and other EOC professional staff in the planning and organization of various activities of the CEP-BCI / EOC.
- (ii) assist the TPH and all CEP component task leaders in devising guidelines to set up program activity budget and operate disbursements, invoices and claim settlement.
- (iii) identify accountants in partner organizations and train them on opening and maintaining project account ledgers, preparing statement of expenditures, preparing for external audits and following up with responses to audit queries in accordance with ADB financial and accounting guidelines;
- (iv) follow up on timely disbursements to partner organizations and assist these in their queries taking up a proactive, problem solving role to smooth implementation;
- (v) offer and provide orientation training to relevant finance and administration staff of implementing partners to ensure that they follow ADB's rules and procedures while submitting requests for advances and their liquidation;
- (vi) ensure preparations for VAT exemption certificates from appropriate authorities in Thailand through the ADB Thailand Resident Mission (TRM) under VAT exemption rights and privileges given to TRM by the Royal Thai Government;
- (vii) follow up on monthly liquidation of advance and imprest account facilities used by partner organizations under the CEP-BCI and ensure that partners in GMS countries are submitting properly documented claims on time so that payments can also ensue on time and field activities are implemented smoothly;
- (viii) administer the administration and program budget lines catered to EOC operations, travel advances and liquidation by consultants and EOC staff;
- (ix) submit liquidation reports to ADB head office in order to replenish the EOC advance payment facility;
- (x) prepare and submit to the COO semi-annual and annual progress and other reports that reflect implementation and achievements for reporting to ADB and WGE. This includes statement of accounts, disbursement and fund utilization ratios, and in collaboration with other EOC staff, indicative cost estimates and

- financing strategies for implementing actions and projects proposed within the strategic framework of the CEP-BCI;
- (xi) in coordination with ADB HQ staff, prepare six-monthly financial reports for co-financing partners; and
- (xii) support COO to track payments of contracts to completion of activities and production of outputs.

2. Administration Responsibilities:

- (i) be responsible for overall administration of EOC under the guidance of COO and ADB project officer;
- (ii) arrange to maintain records of EOC-based consultants' working attendance;
- (iii) verify timesheets and claims submitted by consultants prior to submitting to ADB program officer for signature of approval;
- (iv) authorize mission travels, travel advances, travel claims related to program implementation;
- (v) ensure all EOC and implementing partner procurement is in accordance with approved ADB procurement policies and procedures;
- (vi) oversee all procurements for EOC operations and provide assistance to partner organizations' procurements as requested;
- (vii) in close coordination with EOC task leaders, organize and manage the logistics for WGE and other major meetings;
- (viii) support the COO in the recruitment and contracting of short term consultants, resources persons, support staff and interns as required;
- (ix) ensure that rules and guidelines stipulated in the Implementation Framework Procedures (IFP) are observed and adhered to by project-based consultants, EOC-based consultants and EOC support staff;
- (x) support administration of NSUs; and
- (xi) other tasks required for the smooth operations of EOC as stipulated in the IFP and/or as required by COO and ADB project officer.

I. Programmatic Technical and Implementation Support Positions (intermittent international inputs of 75 person-months; intermittent national inputs of 425 person-months)

12. The programmatic technical and implementation support positions will focus on the development and application of tools and approaches related to spatial planning and analysis, biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring and profiling; climate and environmental risk assessment and management; ecosystem valuation and economic assessments; carbon accounting and financing; legal, policy, and regulatory assessments and development; institutional assessments and development; and environmental financing. These positions will help EOC and NSU staff implement program activities, adopting methodologies appropriate to local biophysical and socioeconomic conditions found throughout the GMS.