

ESMS Questionnaire and Screening Report

Project Data

The fields below are completed by the project proponent

Project Title:	Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries		
Project proponent:	IUCN Asia Regional Office		
Country:	Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar	Total costs (indicate currency):	USD 2,907,064 plus co-finance USD 9,450,000
Estimated start date and duration:	01.07.2017 – 30.06.2021 (48 months)	Total costs in CHF:	CHF 2,834,155 plus co-finance CHF 9,212,994
		Exchange rate (if applicable):	0.97492
Has a safeguard screening or ESIA been done before?	No		

Step 1: ESMS Questionnaire

The fields below are completed by the project proponent; the questionnaire is presented in Annex A

	Name and function of individual representing project proponent	Date
ESMS Questionnaire completed by:	Angela Jöhl Cadena, Senior Programme Officer, IUCN Asia Regional Office With inputs from country offices (Zin, Vanny, Phoutsakhone)	04.07.2016, updated 23.08.2016
ESMS Screening is <i>(tick one of the three options)</i>	<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> required because the project budget is \geq CHF 500,000</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> required – despite being a small project (< CHF 500,000) the project proponent has identified risks when completing the ESMS Questionnaire</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> not required because the project budget is < CHF 500,000 and the project proponent confirms that no environmental or social risks have been identified when completing the ESMS Questionnaire</p>	

Step 2: ESMS Screening

To be completed by IUCN ESMS reviewer(s); only needed when the boxes highlighted in red are ticked (option 1 & 2 above)

	Name	IUCN unit and function	Date
IUCN ESMS Reviewer:	Linda Klare	IUCN ESMS Coordinator	11-10-2016
	James Tallant	Senior Programme Officer, Natural Resources Group, Asia	06-10-2016
	Title		Date
Documents submitted at Screening stage:	IUCN-Regional-MFA-GEF6-PIF-APSMPE Mekong		9-11-2015

ESMS Screening Report

Risk category:	<input type="checkbox"/> low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moderate risk <input type="checkbox"/> high risk
Rationale Summarize findings from the questionnaire and judge significance based on criteria such as sensitivity, magnitude, probability and reputational risks	<p>The project covers three countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) and promotes sustainable management of peatland ecosystems in order to conserve biodiversity, reduce GHG emissions and strengthen sustainable livelihoods for local communities. Despite the project's positive environmental and social objectives a few social risks were identified; the main risk is that peatland management activities might involve restricting access or use of certain natural resources with negative implications on the livelihood conditions of people who depend on these resources. Another potential impact relates to the presence of indigenous people in the project sites. The project is therefore classified as a moderate risk project.</p> <p>Because of these risks the project proponent is advised to commission a combined social analysis and impact assessment study and to carry out extensive consultations with local communities in or near the demonstration sites to discuss benefits and potential social impacts of the project. The PPG phase should also serve to clarify whether there is a need</p>

	<p>for restricting the use of natural resources – this will determine the applicability of the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions. If confirmed there is a need to assess the social impact of those restrictions and to develop either an Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restriction or a Process Framework; the latter in case of time constraints and/or issues are overly complex.</p> <p>The social study should further determine whether Indigenous Peoples might be affected by the project, through access restrictions or in other ways. Once project activities have been defined in more detail the PPG team should clarify whether any of them involve earthwork and might risk damaging cultural resources and/or might involve restricting access to certain cultural sites. Through gender integrated planning the proponent will ensure that project design will appropriately address gender concerns, avoid negative impacts and that women's role in natural resource management and their rights and access to resources is strengthened.</p>	
Required assessments	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Combination of Social Analysis and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
ESMS Standards and other E&S Impacts	Trigger	Required tools or plans
Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Policy Framework <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restriction or Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework
Indigenous Peoples	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous People Plan or measures integrated into the ESMP
Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Chance Find Procedures
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Pest Management Plan
Other environmental and social impacts: key issues	No significant issues	
Climate change risks: key issues	No significant issues	

Annex A: ESMS Questionnaire

Project summary

Goal: To sustainably manage peatland ecosystems in targeted countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) and to conserve biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Objectives:

1. Expand the network of protected peatland ecosystems in the countries in line with Aichi Target 11
2. Strengthen capacity for sustainable peatland management at local, national and sub-regional levels
3. Strengthen management of peatland in existing protected areas to demonstrate sustainable management of peatland to conserve biodiversity, reduce GHG emissions and strengthen sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Project Components: The project is comprised of four components. Indicative outputs and activities are shown below:

Component 1: Expansion of network of protected peatlands in Mekong countries

Output 1.1: Undertake surveys to identify peatland ecosystems in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar

Output 1.2: Assess and document the value of peatland ecosystems for biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change regulation, the land status and level of degradation of important sites

Output 1.3: Identify priority peatland sites for conservation and rehabilitation in targeted countries and initiate management/conservation measures

Component 2: Capacity and national planning

Output 2.1: Build awareness and understanding of functions and importance of peatland ecosystems in targeted countries

Output 2.2: Strengthen capacity of key stakeholders at national, provincial and local levels on peatland assessment, rehabilitation and management

Output 2.3: Develop National Strategies and/or Action Plans for protection and sustainable use of peatland ecosystems in each country incorporating concrete measures on institutional and financial structures and approaches

Output 2.4: Incorporate peatland conservation provisions into national policies and regulations, and enhance capacity for their implementation

Component 3: Demonstration of sustainable peatland management

Output 3.1: Enhance the protection and sustainable use of the peatlands in the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary and/or Botum Sakor National Park including demonstration of sustainable livelihood options for local communities living inside the targeted sites

Output 3.2: Conserve and rehabilitate peatlands of Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site and/or other selected sites in Lao PDR

Output 3.3: Prepare a management strategy for the peatlands in Inle Basin and demonstrate enhanced community based peatland management as well as prevention of fires and soil erosion in the northern Inle Lake catchment

Component 4: Regional cooperation

Output 4.1: Document and share experiences and best practices for peatland assessment and management in Mekong countries

Output 4.2: Strengthen capacity through development of common knowledge products and cross country exchange

Output 4.3: Provide technical project implementation support and coordination

Site selection will be confirmed and details of site-based activities will be elaborated during the PPG period.

The project will contribute to the ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems 2014-2020 (APSMPE) endorsed by Environment Ministers in 2013, the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), and ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020 (APMS). It will also contribute to implementation of the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD.

A. Process of stakeholder engagement during project conceptualization *(to be completed for field projects only)*

1. Has a project stakeholder analysis been carried out and documented – identifying not only interests and influence of stakeholders but also whether there are any stakeholders that might be affected by the project? Does the stakeholder analysis disaggregate between women and men, where relevant and feasible?

To be completed by project proponent

A list of stakeholders is provided in the PIF. A more detailed stakeholder analysis will be carried out as part of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) / preparation of Project Document.

IUCN ESMS Reviewer

The PIF includes a list of generic groups of stakeholders and identifies their main roles in the project. However, it does not include any detail about their interests, influence, or if they may be affected by the project. The social expert to be hired for complementing the work of the project design team should review the existing list of stakeholders and deepen the analysis, with a special emphasis on groups potentially affected by the activities in the demonstration sites. The analysis should be done at the scale of the selected sites and name the groups relevant for the sites, broken down by gender, where relevant. The analysis should then form the basis for the stakeholder engagement strategy in each site, for both the design (PPG) and implementation phase.

2. Has information about the project – and about potential risks or negative impacts – been shared with relevant groups? Have consultations been held with relevant groups to discuss the project concept? Did the consultations include stakeholders that were identified as potentially affected? Have women been consulted? Has this been done in a culturally appropriate way to allow a meaningful engagement of affected groups and women?

To be completed by project proponent

Consultations have been held primarily with government stakeholders, not yet with local communities as the site selection still needs to be finalised. Four target sites are likely to be selected.

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It is critical that during the PPG phase meetings will be held with local communities located in or near the demonstration sites to discuss both the benefits of the project, and potential social impacts. It will be important to set up these consultations in a culturally appropriate manner, and ensure that women are able to attend and actively participate.

B. Potential impacts related to ESMS standards			
Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions			
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	To be completed by project proponent <i>If yes, describe potential issues, specify activities causing this and measures for preventing or minimising adverse impacts (if applicable)</i>	IUCN ESMS Reviewer <i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Will / might the project involve relocation or resettlement of people? if yes, answer a-b below	No	<i>Shaded cells do not need to be filled out</i>	
a. Describe the project activities that require resettlement?	-		
b. Have alternative project design options for avoiding resettlement been rigorously considered?	-		
2. Does the project include activities that involve restricting access to land or natural resources or changes in the use and management of natural resources? (e.g., establishing new restrictions, strengthening enforcement capacities through training, infrastructure, equipment or other means, promoting village patrolling etc.; if yes, answer a-g below	Yes		
3. Does the project include activities that involve changes in the use and management regimes of natural resources? if yes, answer a-g below	Yes		
4. Does the project create situations that make physical access more difficult to livelihood resources (e.g. to multiple use zones, to schools or medical services etc.)? if yes, answer a-g below	No		
Answer only if you answered yes to items 2, 3, or 4.			
a. Describe project activities that involve restrictions.		<p>In general, the project activities are not aimed at restricting access for local communities, but rather at ensuring the sustainable use and management of peatlands, and restricting access for unsustainable exploitation (often by larger, external groups) through empowerment of local communities. However, protection measures may involve restricting access for activities that support local livelihoods, e.g. agricultural use, shifting cultivation, collection of forest products or coastal resources.</p> <p>Project activities that involve restrictions may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In target sites: Implementation of management and conservation measures based on increased conservation status; 2) Other sites that will be identified in National Strategies and/or Action Plans: Same as above, therefore these strategies need to have appropriate provisions for mitigating negative impacts on local communities (through participatory approaches). 	<p>As stated by the proponent, activities that might involve access restrictions may relate to both the work at selected demonstration sites (Component 3), and to the expansion of the network of protected peatland areas (Outcome 1, Output 1.3) formalized in form of National Strategies and/or Action Plans (Outcome 2, Output 2.3).</p> <p>Activities under Component 3 are directly managed by the project; the PPG team should attempt to define the relevant types of restrictions during the PPG phase, in order to allow the development of an Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions.</p> <p>Activities under Components 1 and 2 might trigger indirect impacts, which can only be partly influenced by the project. The addition of relevant provisions to the National Strategies and/or Action Plans suggested by the proponent seems a good mitigation strategy; this could potentially be complemented by capacity building and awareness raising activities.</p>

b. Explain the project's level of influence: will it define restrictions, put in place restrictions, strengthen enforcement capacities or promote restrictions indirectly (e.g., through awareness building measures or policy advice)?		Potentially, the project, through its stakeholders, can define and put in place restrictions (as described above).	
c. Has the existing legal framework regulating land tenure and access to natural resource (incl. traditional rights) been analysed, broken down by different groups including women, if applicable?		Some of the legal framework has been analysed under previous projects. For instance, in Lao PDR, IUCN has experience in working with indigenous communities around the Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar site on rights-based approaches including focusing on customary laws and practices. However, a more comprehensive analysis, including broken down by different groups including women, needs to be carried out as part of the socio-economic assessment during the PPG and/or project implementation.	Fully agreed. The rights analysis should be part of the PPG phase and focus on assessing rights related to the areas and/or peatland resources to be managed and/or restricted as a consequence of the project.
d. Explain whether the country's existing laws recognise traditional rights for land and natural resources; are there any groups at the project site whose rights (including customary rights) are not recognised?	No	Cambodia: Traditional rights for land are clearly recognized in Land Law in 2001 and traditional rights for natural resources in Law on Protected Areas in 2008 and Forestry Law in 2002. Lao PDR: Traditional rights are recognised. Myanmar: There are no groups at the project site whose rights are not recognised.	The PPG phase should clarify whether traditional rights are not only recognized by law but also enforced at local level.
e. Have the implications of the access restriction measures on people's livelihoods been analysed, by social group? If yes, describe the groups affected by restrictions. Distinguish social groups (incl. vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples) and men and women.	N/A		Not agreed. In section a. above it was confirmed that some restrictions are likely to be applied; the PPG phase should assess the dependency of social groups on the resources to be restricted and expected livelihood impacts from restrictions, disaggregated by social groups, and determine their significance.
f. Will the project include measures to minimise adverse impacts or to compensate for loss of access? If yes, specify measures. Are they feasible, appropriate and gender inclusive?	yes	Yes, sustainable management practices include providing alternative options for local communities. Not yet defined in detail.	If negative impacts are confirmed, the PPG phase should be used for defining and agreeing on appropriate mitigation measures.
g. Has any process been started or implemented to obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from groups affected by restrictions?	no	A comprehensive indigenous peoples engagement plan will be developed during PPG based on the FPIC principles, as part of the process framework under the Social Impact Assessment.	Not yet; see comment in row above. The ESMS requires FPIC from indigenous peoples but also from other groups affected by access restrictions and who have legitimate rights to those resources
5. Is there a risk that the project might negatively affect current land tenure arrangements or community-based property rights to resources, land, or territories through measures other than access restrictions?		Rather unlikely in target sites as participatory approach will be used. Potentially a risk if National Strategies and/or Action Plans are not well designed or implemented (indirect impacts).	Agreed, but this should be confirmed during the PPG phase.
6. Has any project partner in the past been involved in activities related to forced eviction, resettlement or access restrictions?	No	Cambodia: The government made resettlements (with compensation) to more than 1,000 families affected by its granting of economic land concessions to the Chinese-owned company for resort development. See page 15 for more details (point 7).	See comment in same section as indicated by proponent (section C, point 7).
Standard triggered? "Yes / No / TBD" Explain why	TBD	It is likely that the Standard is triggered as the project's protection measures may require restricting access to natural resources that support local livelihoods. The need of such restrictions should be determined during the PPG phase and the social expert should assess the impacts on peoples' livelihood. The PPG team should attempt to establish relevant types of restrictions in as much detail as possible, in order to allow the development of an Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions and	

		to obtain agreement of affected groups before the project starts. If time is not sufficient to finalise the participatory planning on the Action Plan and/or the issues related to the required restrictions turn out as very complex, a Process Framework should be developed which will guide the development of the Action Plan during project implementation. ¹
Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		Once confirmed that resources will be restricted, appropriate measures for compensating livelihood losses will need to be defined and agreed with affected groups (as part of the Action Plan).
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?		Yes, see answer above.
Standard on Indigenous Peoples²		
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	To be completed by project proponent <i>If yes, describe potential issues, specify activities causing this and measures for preventing or minimising adverse impacts (if applicable)</i>
		IUCN ESMS Reviewer <i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Is the project located in an area inhabited by indigenous peoples, tribal peoples or other traditional peoples? If yes, answer questions a-j	Yes	
2. If indigenous peoples do not occupy land within the project's geographical area, could the project still present risks that might affect their rights and livelihood? If yes, answer questions a-j	-	
Answer only if you answered yes to 1 or 2 above.		
a. How does the host country's Government refer to these groups (e.g., indigenous peoples, minorities, tribes etc.)?		Cambodia: N/A (in Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary and Botum Sakor National Park, there are no indigenous peoples or tribal peoples within the project location) Lao PDR: The term "ethnic group" is used in Lao PDR. Myanmar: The Constitution makes no reference to ethnic minorities. It instead uses the term "national races".
b. How do these groups identify themselves?		Cambodia: N/A Lao PDR: The people of the Beung Kiat Ngong area are predominantly Lao Loum, the largest ethnic group in Lao PDR. Myanmar: They identify themselves as Shan, Danu, Paoh, not Myanmar and they live in their own area (they call it Shan State). They accept that they are different from Burmese who live in Myanmar separately.
c. Name the groups; distinguish, if applicable, the geographical areas of their presence and influence (including the areas of resource use) and how these relate to the project site.		From PIF: Key indigenous peoples expected to be engaged in the project include Intha People in Inle lake region in Myanmar, Cham and Khmer Loeu Groups in coastal Cambodia and Lao Loum and Lavae communities in southern Lao PDR.
		The project might affect indigenous peoples and their territories in a direct way (Outcome 3) or indirectly (through Outcome 1 when promoting expansion of the protected peatland network). However, there is a need to clarify to what extent the different terms used in the three countries match the definition of Indigenous Peoples applied by IUCN's Indigenous Peoples Standard – see footnote below; e.g. the concept of "ethnic groups" used in Lao PDR does not seem to match IUCN's definition. Similarly, there is a need to check if Cham people in Cambodia are considered to be Indigenous Peoples under IUCN's Standard. The PPG phase should clarify the applicability of the Standard by determining the presence of indigenous peoples in the project sites and/or whether indigenous groups might be affected by the project activities even without being present in the sites. If the Standard is triggered a more in-depth assessment is required to analyse the particular

¹ See IUCN Guidance Notes on the development of an Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions and on the Process Framework.

²The coverage of indigenous peoples includes: (i) peoples who identify themselves as "indigenous" in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose **social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them** from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their **own customs** or traditions or by special laws or regulations; and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community, whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and whose **livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems** and their goods and services

		Clarification for Cambodia: Cham are not considered indigenous peoples in the Cambodian context. In addition, there are no Khmer Loeu groups living in both proposed areas.	context of the indigenous communities and the project's positive and adverse impacts on them. ³
d. Is there a risk that the project affects indigenous peoples' livelihood through access restrictions? While this is covered under the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions, if yes, please specify the indigenous groups affected.	No		To be clarified during PPG phase (see comments in Standard IVR/AR)
e. Is there a risk that the project affects indigenous peoples' material or non-material livelihoods in ways other than access restrictions (e.g., in terms of self-determination, cultural identity, values and practices)?	No		Once the presence of indigenous peoples has been confirmed the PPG phase should also analyse whether there are risk to their livelihoods.
f. Is there a risk that the project affects specific vulnerable groups within indigenous communities (for example, women, girls, elders)?	No	Lao PDR: Unlikely. Based on the report from IUCN Lao team, the Women's Union in the community in BKN has presented their interest to build their capacity, including the hospitality service (eco-lodge).	This will depend on the resource use/dependencies and whether any restrictions might apply (including access to cultural resources). To be clarified during PPG phase.
g. Does the project involve the use or commercial development of natural resources on lands or territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No		Agreed.
h. Does the project intend to use the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples?		Yes, as part of the stakeholder consultations.	In case the project plans to use traditional knowledge of communities (e.g. how they manage or managed peatland ecosystems) and this knowledge is not already in the public domain, this will require the application of the FPIC principle; this means that their consent need to be obtained before sharing and using the knowledge.
i. Has any process been started or implemented to achieve the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples to activities directly affecting their lands/territories/resources?		A comprehensive indigenous peoples engagement plan will be developed based on the FPIC principles.	If the presence of IP is confirmed and risks are identified, the Standard requires that a mitigation strategy is developed and documented - either as part of the ESMP or, where provisions and measures are substantial, in form of a specific Indigenous Peoples Plan.
j. Are some of the indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation? If yes, how have they been consulted? How are their rights respected?	No		TBD by the PPG phase
k. Are opportunities considered to provide benefits for indigenous peoples? If yes, is it ensured that this is done in a culturally appropriate and gender inclusive way?		Yes, empowerment of local communities and indigenous peoples for the sustainable management of peatlands generates global but also local benefits.	Further opportunities should be explored during the PPG phase.
Standard triggered? "Yes / No / TBD" Explain why	Yes	The presence of Cham people in the site in Cambodia and Lao Loum people at the site in Lao PDR might not trigger the standard; however the presence of Shan and Intha people at Inle means the standard is triggered. The first is to be determined during the PPG phase (see comments above). If the project plans to access traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, the FPIC principle applies. This needs to be clarified during PPG phase and respective provisions put in place as guidance for the implementation phase.	

³ See IUCN Guidance Notes on Social Impact Assessment (SIA).

Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		This will be part of the PPG phase	
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?		This will be part of the PPG phase	
Standard on Cultural Heritage			
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	To be completed by project proponent <i>If yes, describe potential issues, specify activities causing this and measures for preventing or minimising adverse impacts (if applicable)</i>	IUCN ESMS Reviewer <i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Is the project located in or near a site officially designated or proposed as a cultural heritage site (e.g., UNESCO World Cultural or Mixed Heritage Sites, or Cultural Landscapes) or a nationally designated site for cultural heritage protection?	Yes	<p>Cambodia: Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary and/or Botum Sakor National Park. There are only some pagodas and shrines where local people pay respect to both within and near the project sites.</p> <p>Lao PDR: Bueng Kiat Ngong Ramsar site (Champasak Province) and community-managed area in Nong Fangdeng, Ban Phonhang, Viengkham District, Vientiane Province. Moreover, BKN is included in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, and located between two National Protected Areas.</p> <p>Myanmar: Inle Lake is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and combines rich historic and cultural values with significant environmental values.</p>	<p>All of the project sites are within the Indo-Burma hotspot, not just BKN, however this is not particularly relevant in terms of cultural heritage protection.</p> <p>Inle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is also an ASEAN Heritage Park</p>
2. Does the project area harbour cultural resources such as tangible, movable or immovable cultural resources with archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value for a nation, people or community (e.g., burial sites, buildings, monuments or cultural landscapes)?	Yes	<p>Cambodia: There is one burial site and shrines, just about 3km outside the boundary of Botum Sakor National Park. Similarly, there is one historic cultural site just outside the boundary of Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary.</p> <p>Lao PDR: There are cultural values including a traditional elephant mahout culture.</p> <p>Myanmar: Inle Lake and Pagoda are immovable resources with historical, cultural, religious and symbolic value for the nation and community.</p>	
3. Does the project area harbour a natural feature or resource with cultural, spiritual or symbolic significance for a nation, people or community associated with that feature (e.g., sacred natural sites, ceremonial areas or sacred species)?	Yes	<p>Cambodia: Only pagodas are referred to as the ceremonial areas for local people/communities.</p> <p>Lao PDR: In addition to being recognized as a national wetland, BKN is also known internationally as part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.</p> <p>Myanmar: See above, both natural feature and resource with cultural and symbolic significance.</p>	As above, all project sites are within the Indo-Burma hotspot, not just BKN.
4. Will the project involve infrastructure development or small civil works such as roads, levees, dams, slope restoration, landslides stabilisation or buildings such as visitor centre, watch tower?	No		Is it possible that the sustainable livelihood options under Output 3.1, peatland rehabilitation under Output 3.2, and community-based peatland management under Output 3.3 could include small civil works? To be on the safe side, this

			question should be explored during the PPG phase.
5. Will the project involve excavation or movement of earth, flooding or physical environmental changes (e.g., as part of ecosystem restoration)?	No		See comment on Q4, above.
6. Is there a risk that physical interventions described in items 4–5 might affect known or unknown (e.g., buried) cultural resources?	n/a		
7. Does the project plan to restrict local users' access to known cultural resources or natural features with cultural, spiritual or symbolic significance?	No		Is it sure that no physical access restrictions might be put in place that prevent people from accessing cultural sites? To be on the safe side, this question should be explored during the PPG phase consulting the local communities on their cultural practices.
8. Will the project promote the use or development of economic benefits from cultural resources or natural features with cultural significance?	No		
Standard triggered? "Yes / No / TBD" Explain why	TBD	The Standard does not seem to be triggered as the project does not involve physical infrastructure development or movement of earth nor the promotion or development of benefits from cultural heritage resources - except a low probability as part of the livelihood options, peatland rehabilitation and management which needs to be clarified during PPG phase. Another question to be clarified is the risk of restricting access to cultural site; also to be addressed during the PPG phase.	
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?			
Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources			
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	To be completed by project proponent <i>If yes, describe potential issues, specify activities causing this and measures for preventing or minimising adverse impacts (if applicable)</i>	IUCN ESMS Reviewer <i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Is the project located in or near areas legally protected or officially proposed for protection including reserves according to IUCN Protected Area Management Categories I - VI, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands? If yes, provide details on the protection status and answer questions a-d	Yes	Cambodia: Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary and Botum Sakor National Park. The other potential sites identified are Ream National Park, Kep National Park. The project area completely covers one coastal Ramsar Site: Koh Kapik . In addition, the project area is also close to other protected areas: Biodiversity-rich South Cardamom Wildlife Sanctuary and Ta Tai Wildlife Sanctuary . Lao PDR: Bueng Kiat Ngong Ramsar site (Champasak Province) and community-managed area in Nong Fangdeng, Ban Phonhang, Viengkham District, Vientiane Province. Myanmar: The lake forms part of the Inle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, declared in 1985, primarily for the protection of the bird fauna. The peatlands, lake and portions of the surrounding catchment were declared as Myanmar's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in June 2015.	
2. Is the project located in or near to areas recognised for their high biodiversity value and protected as such by	Yes	See above	

indigenous peoples or other local users? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d			
3. Is the project located in/near to areas which are not covered in existing protection systems but identified by authoritative sources for their high biodiversity value ⁴ ? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d	Yes	Lao PDR: Community-managed area in Nong Fangdeng, Ban Phonhang, Viengkham District, Vientiane Province	It would be useful to know a little more about the unprotected areas of high biodiversity value found near this community-managed area in Lao PDR.
Answer only if you answered yes to items 1, 2, or 3 above.			
a. If the project aims to establish or expand the protected area (PA), is there a risk of adverse impacts caused by the project on natural resources on areas beyond the PA?	No		
b. If the project aims at changing management of a PA, is there a risk of adverse direct and indirect impacts on other components of biodiversity?	No		
c. If the project plans any infrastructure for PA management or visitor use (e.g., watch tower, tourism facilities, access roads), is there a risk of adverse impacts on biodiversity, (consider the construction and use phases)?	No	The project will help the governments in exploring sustainable financing mechanisms for peatland management including through engaging the private sector such as the eco-tourism industry. However, no infrastructure development is planned by the project.	The proponent describes indirect impacts that might (with a low likelihood) happen but for which the project cannot be held accountable; however, guidance should be provided for avoiding such risks proactively (e.g. through provisions included in the National Strategy and/or Action Plans or through training).
d. If the project promotes ecotourism, is there a risk of adverse impacts to biodiversity, e.g., due to water/waste disposal, disturbance of flora/fauna, overuse of sites, slope erosion etc.)?	Yes	Potentially, if not planned well.	
4. Will the project introduce or translocate species as a strategy for species conservation or ecosystem restoration (e.g. erosion control, dune stabilisation or reforestation)? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d	No		
5. Does the project involve plantation development or production of living natural resources (e.g., agriculture, animal husbandry or aquaculture)? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d	TBD	Potentially, sustainable agricultural practices.	
Answer only if you answered yes to items 4 or 5 above.			
a. Does this project involve non-native species or is there a risk of introducing non-native species inadvertently?	No		
b. If a is yes, is there a risk that these species might develop invasive behaviour?	n/a		
c. Is there a risk that the project might create other pathways for spreading invasive species (e.g. through creation of corridors, introduction of facilitatory species, import of commodities, tourism or movement of boats)?	No		

⁴ Areas important to threatened species according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, important to endemic or restricted-range species or to migratory and congregatory species; areas representing key evolutionary processes, providing connectivity with other critical habitats or key ecosystem services; highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems (e.g. to be determined in future by the evolving IUCN Red List of Ecosystems); areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and subsets such as important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), important Plant Areas (IPAs), important Sites for Freshwater Biodiversity or Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

d. Is there a risk that species introduction causes adverse impacts on local people's livelihood ?	No		
6. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects water flows on-site or downstream (including increases or decreases in peak and flood flows and low flows) through extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water (e.g., through dams, reservoirs, canals, levees, river basin developments, groundwater extraction) or through other activities?	No		
7. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects water dynamics, river connectivity or the hydrological cycle in ways other than direct changes of water flows (e.g., water infiltration and aquifer recharge, sedimentation)? Also consider reforestation projects as originators of such impacts.	No		
8. Is there a risk that the project affects water quality of waterways (e.g., through diffuse water pollution from agricultural run-off or other activities)?	No		
9. Is there a risk that the project affects ecosystem functions and services not covered above, in particular those on which local communities depend for their livelihoods?	No		
10. In case the project promotes the use of living natural resources (e.g., by proposing production systems or harvest plans), is there a risk that this might lead to unsustainable use of resources?	No		
11. Does the project intend to use pesticides, fungicides or herbicides (biocides)? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-b	No		
a. Have alternatives to the use of biocides been rigorously considered or tested?	-		
b. Has a pest management plan been established?	-		
12. In case the project intends to use biological pest management techniques, has the potential of adversely affecting biodiversity been ruled out?	-		
13. Is there a risk that the project will cause adverse environmental impacts in a wider area of influence (landscape/ watershed, regional or global levels) including transboundary impacts?	No		
14. Is there a risk that consequential developments triggered by the project will have adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services? Is there a risk of adverse cumulative impacts generated together with other known or planned projects in the sites?	No		
Standard triggered? "Yes / No / TBD" Explain why	No	Impacts on biodiversity and natural resources are expected to be exclusively positive. The project should monitor the likelihood of the indirect risks/impacts flagged in 3.c and d. and, when indicated, attempt to influence them through adequate strategies.	
Have measures for avoiding impacts been considered? Are they sufficient? Are assessments required to better understand impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?	n/a		

C. Other social or environmental impacts

Other social impacts

	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	To be completed by project proponent <i>If yes, describe potential issues, specify activities causing this and measures for preventing or minimising adverse impacts (if applicable)</i>	IUCN ESMS Reviewer <i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Is there a risk that the project affects human rights (e.g., right to self-determination, to education, to health, or cultural rights) – other than those of indigenous peoples which are dealt with in the previous standard? Differentiate between women and men, where applicable.	No		
2. Is there a risk that the project creates or aggravates inequalities between women and men or adversely impacts the situation or livelihood conditions of women or girls?	No	The gender integrated planning (GIP) method will be used as part of the PPG detailed project preparation, including at the site level in all three countries.	
3. Does the project use opportunities to secure and, when appropriate, enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits to women?	TBD		To be explored during the PPG phase.
4. Does the project provide, when appropriate and consistent with national policy, for measures that strengthen women's rights and access to land and resources?	TBD		
5. Is there a risk that the project benefits women and men in unequal terms that cannot be justified as affirmative action? ⁵	No		
6. Is there a risk that the project might negatively affect vulnerable groups ⁶ in terms of material or non-material livelihood conditions or contribute to their discrimination or marginalisation (only issues not captured in any of the sections above)?		Unlikely, as participatory, inclusive approach will be used.	While it is unlikely, it should still need to be explicitly looked at this risk during the PPG/SIA.
7. Is there a risk that the project would stir or exacerbate conflicts among communities, groups or individuals? Also consider dynamics of recent or expected migration including displaced people.	No	Cambodia: In Botum Sakor National Park, out of 183,408 hectares, about 36,000 hectares were granted as economic land concessions to the Chinese-owned investor for resort development, Chinese Union, resulting in the resettlement of more than 1,000 families. As compensation, about 10,000 hectares of land was provided to the concerned families. The project should indicate a clear boundary and scope for the project implementation to make sure that the project will not overlap with the privately-owned development areas and new settlements of local people. Lao PDR: Unlikely that the project will stir conflict among the community.	Clarifying the boundary is a good suggestion. Given that people sometimes don't distinguish responsibilities and tend to mingle issues it will be important that consultations with local communities held during the PPG make dedicated effort to clarify the scope of the project ensuring people that there is no overlap with the concession.
8. Is there a risk that the project affects community health	No		

⁵ Affirmative action is a measure designed to overcome prevailing inequalities by favouring members of a disadvantaged group who suffer from discrimination. However, if not designed appropriately these measures could aggravate the situation of a previously advantaged groups leading to conflicts and social unrest.

⁶ Depending on the context vulnerable groups could be landless, elderly, disabled or displaced people, children, ethnic minorities, people living in poverty, marginalised or discriminated individuals or groups.

and safety (incl. risks of spreading diseases, human-wildlife conflicts)?			
9. Is there a risk that a water resource management project could lead to an outbreak of water-related disease?	No		
10. Might the project be directly or indirectly involved in forced labour and/or child labour?	No		
11. Is the project likely to induce immigration or significant increases in population density which might trigger environmental or social problems (with special consideration to women)?	No		
12. Is there a risk that the project could negatively affect the livelihoods of local communities indirectly or through cumulative (due to interaction with other projects or activities, current or planned) or transboundary impacts.	No	Indirect impacts covered under access restrictions.	
13. Is there a risk that the project affects the operation of dams or other built water infrastructure (reservoirs, irrigation systems, canals) e.g., by changing flows into those structures? If yes, has an inventory of existing water resources infrastructures in the project area been compiled and potential impacts analysed?	No		
14. Is there a risk that the project might conflict with existing legal social frameworks including traditional frameworks and norms?	No		
Other environmental impacts			
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	To be completed by project proponent <i>If yes, describe potential issues, specify activities causing this and measures for preventing or minimising adverse impacts (if applicable)</i>	IUCN ESMS Reviewer <i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Will the project lead to increased waste production, in particular hazardous waste?	No		
2. Is the project likely to cause pollution or degradation of soil, soil erosion or siltation?	No		
3. Might the project cause pollution to air or create other nuisances such as dust, traffic, noise or odour?	No		
4. Will the project lead to significant increases of greenhouse gas emissions?	No		
5. Is there a risk that the project triggers consequential development activities which could lead to adverse environmental impacts, cumulative impacts due to interaction with other projects (current or planned) or to transboundary impacts (consider only issues not captured under the Biodiversity Standard)?	No		Ecotourism investments, but this has been mentioned already in other sections
6. Is there a risk that the project might conflict with existing environmental regulations or provisions of the host country (including legislation requiring environmental impact assessments)?	No		
Are any significant negative environmental or social risks expected?	No	There are no significant risks. The proponent already confirmed that a gender integrated planning will be employed for the PPG phase. This will ensure that gender specific interests and needs of men and women are taken into consideration and negative impacts are avoided (including unintended). Opportunities should be sought to promote women's role in sustainable resource management, strengthen women's access and use rights and enhance economic, social and environmental benefits.	

<p>Have measures for avoiding impacts been considered? Are they sufficient? Are assessments required to better understand impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?</p>	n/a		
<p>D. Climate change risks</p>			
<p>Risks caused by a failure to adequately consider the effects of climate change</p>			
	<p>Yes, no, n/a, TBD</p>	<p>To be completed by project proponent If yes, describe potential issues, specify activities causing this and measures for preventing or minimising adverse impacts (if applicable)</p>	<p>IUCN ESMS Reviewer Comments, additional considerations</p>
<p>1. Is the project area prone to specific climate hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, storm surges, etc.)?</p>	Yes	<p>Cambodia: Droughts (lack of water for household consumption and agriculture), floods, gusts, saline intrusion and wildfires. Lao PDR: Floods and droughts, wildfires. Myanmar: Drying up of Inle Lake and wildfire in dry season.</p>	
<p>2. Are changes in biophysical conditions in the project area triggered by climate change expected to impact people's livelihoods? Are some groups more susceptible than others (e.g., women or vulnerable groups)?</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droughts (lack of water for household use and agriculture) are expected to have impacts on local people's livelihoods. • Saline intrusion is negatively impacting agricultural lands, esp. rainy season rice cultivation. 	
<p>3. Is there a risk that current or projected climate variability and changes might affect the implementation of project activities or their effectiveness and the sustainability of the project (e.g., through risk and events such as landslides, erosion, flooding, or droughts)?</p>	No		
<p>4. Could project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of local communities and the ecosystem to current or future climate variability and changes?</p>	No		
<p>5. Does the project seek opportunities to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystem to climate change?</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced peatland management will increase the resilience of ecosystems to climate change. • Enhanced protection of ecosystem services, including climate change regulation, will increase the resilience of communities. 	
<p>Are negative impacts expected from the project?</p>	No	<p>The impacts of the project are expected to be exclusively positive as the activities are expected to increase people's and ecosystem's resilience to climate change.</p>	
<p>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?</p>	n/a		
<p>Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed</p>	n/a		