

**Mid Term Evaluation of the Adaptation Fund (AF) project**

**“Enhancing Climate Change Resilience of Rural Communities Living in Protected Areas of Cambodia”**

Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
Jonathan McCue (for Sustainable Seas Ltd)	Cambodia	25,000	100%	1	UNEP	Adaptation Fund	01/01/17 - 1/5/18	N/A

**Detailed description of project**

The climate change-induced hazard of erratic rainfall, which leads to droughts and floods, is decreasing agricultural productivity in Cambodia thereby constraining efforts to reduce poverty levels. These erratic rainfall events are predicted to increase under future climate change scenarios. Some of the most vulnerable communities in Cambodia are rural communities living in Protected Areas (PAs). This is because of the dependence of these communities on ecosystem services and a lack of alternative, climate-resilient livelihoods. As a result of the erratic rainfall and consequent decreasing agricultural productivity, these communities are increasingly reliant on forest ecosystems to provide supplementary food sources and income from collecting and selling non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and fuelwood.

The Adaptation Fund (AF) project aims to use the Ecosystem based approaches to Adaptation (EbA)/ eco-agricultural concept to build the resilience of rural Cambodian communities living in PAs to climate change. The project employs a “landscape approach to natural resource management that seeks to sustain agricultural/food production, conserve biodiversity and ecosystems and support local livelihoods”. It is implemented using two approaches: i) an extensive approach in which degraded forests are being restored into multi-use forests in Community Protected Areas (CPAs) at a landscape-level, by planting predominantly indigenous tree species that provide food, diverse NTFPs and a range of ecosystem services such as erosion control and water flow regulation; and ii) an intensive approach in which interventions include planting multi-use tree species along rice paddy boundaries and other existing cultivated areas to enhance crop productivity, establishing trial plots of drought-tolerant hybrid rice cultivars and intensifying/diversifying existing agricultural areas and introducing conservation agriculture practices. These interventions have been identified through two separate CPA Community Surveys of vulnerable rural communities living around CPAs i.e. they have been designed following a participatory approach and in response to community requests.

**Type of services provided**

In line with the UN Environment Evaluation Policy and the UN Environment Programme Manual, the Mid-Term Review (MTR) is undertaken approximately half way through project implementation to analyze whether the project is on-track, what problems or challenges the project is encountering, and what corrective actions are required. SSL were asked to assess project performance to date (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of the project achieving its intended outcomes and impacts, including their sustainability. Jonathan McCue (for Sustainable Seas Ltd) carried out the following services.

1. Preliminary Findings Note:
2. Draft and Final Review Report:.

The MTR gave special attention to efforts by the project teams to make use of/build upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. to increase project efficiency. The review also considered the extent to which the management of the project minimised UN Environment’s environmental footprint.