ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Regional climate adaptation initiative on sustainable and equitable rice-fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam

Countries: Cambodia, Viet Nam

Thematic Focal Area[1]: Food security

Type of Implementing Entity: Multilateral Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: UNIDO

Executing Entities[2]: UNIDO, Ministry of Environment (Cambodia), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Cambodia), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (Viet Nam)

Amount of Financing Requested: 30,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request: Yes ☒ No ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: 30,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries: Yes ☐ No ☐

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission:

☒This pre-concept has been submitted before
☐ This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 21/5/2026

Please note that pre-concept should not exceed 5 pages (in addition to this first cover page)

[1] Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.
[2] Specific entities will be determined at Concept Note stage

Project/Programme Background and Context:

According to the IPCC WGI (IPCC, 2021), Southeast Asia is characterized by rising temperatures, resulting in an increasing trend of growing-season length, floods, heavy precipitation, and salinity intrusion. Future projections indicate a similarity between the AS5 and AS6 scenarios: Southeast Asia will experience heavier and more frequent precipitation events. Monsoon land precipitation is also expected to increase due to greater moisture convergence driven by elevated temperatures. Literature shows that climate events will have profound impacts on food security. The IPCC (2021) indicates that agricultural production and food security will be substantially affected, particularly in cereal production, by the end of the 21st century. In addition, malnutrition among poor and marginalized populations remains a major concern and will be further aggravated by climate change.

As Vietnam and Cambodia transition to upper-middle-income status by 2030 and aspire to reach high-income levels by 2045/2050, both countries will face similar structural and policy challenges in the agriculture sectors. Today, both countries face persistent challenges of food security and nutrition. While graduation to middle-income status may stimulate investments in modernization, it also risks deepening inequality by marginalizing smallholders who lack the resources to adapt. Traditional fishing practices may also decline in this process, eroding community identity. Regional studies indicate that climate change impacts threaten reductions in future national GDP - the basis of a country classification - in both countries, and under a drier scenario could seriously damage Cambodia's prospects sustaining its country classification.

Rice and fish are central pillars of food security in both, Vietnam and Cambodia, where rice provides the caloric foundation of diets, while fish is the most critical source of protein and micronutrients. *Vietnam* is one of the world's leading rice exporters, and rice remains the staple food, providing the bulk of daily caloric intake for its population while also generating foreign exchange that supports rural livelihoods. *Vietnam* is also a global leader in aquaculture, which has become a crucial source of income, employment, and animal protein, helping diversify diets and strengthen nutritional security. *Cambodia* depends even more heavily on rice and inland fisheries for domestic food security. Rice is grown predominantly for household consumption, with limited surplus export, and is the backbone of rural livelihoods. **Despite slowing rice production and declining inland fisheries in Cambodia and Vietnam, growing demand, particularly for fish driven by rising incomes, underscores the enduring importance of capture fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition**. Local, regional, and international demand for rice and fish are expected to increase for decades to come[3]. Fish demand is tracking faster than population growth, with increases in per capita consumption associated also with rising incomes[4]. Rice demand is expected to continue to grow with the population growth trend, but at a slower rate given that as incomes rise, diets tend to diversify away from staples[5]. Inland fisheries in *Cambodia* are the fifth biggest in the world[6]. Rice production has peaked in *Vietnam* (in 2015) and production growth is slowing in *Cambodia* (since 2010)[7]. Inland capture fisheries production has begun to level off or gradually decline (since 2013 for *Cambodia*, and 2001 for *Vietnam*). As of 2013, capture fisheries still contributed substantially to inland fish production in *Cambodia* (86%). While growth in aquaculture production has continued, the relative contributions of inland capture fisheries remain sizeable in terms of fish production[8].

The NAPs and NDCs of Vietnam and Cambodia identify rice and fisheries sectors among the most climate-sensitive sectors, with drought, floods, and heat stress the main hazards in both countries. *Vietnam*'s NDC and NAP project rice yield declines of 8.8% in 2030 and 15.1% by 2050 from drought, salinity and heat stress, and estimate about 1.1 million tons of aquaculture, worth USD 935 million, are at risk of loss from flooding every year. Temperature rise alone could cost the aquaculture sector in 10 northern and north-central provinces around VND 445 billion by 2050 (2012 prices, discounted at 3% annually)[9]. Because fish reproduction, growth and migration are sensitive to variations in temperature, rainfall, and hydrological conditions[10], climate change is expected to shift species abundance, composition and ecosystem productivity, while drier dry seasons threaten both wild and farmed stocks and extreme events damage stocks[11] and infrastructure[12]. Flood risk is rising during the wet season, particularly in low-lying areas downstream of Kratie in Cambodia and in the Mekong Delta. Cambodia's CCSP highlights that higher temperatures, prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall will intensify pressure on rice and fisheries, with rice yields falling 10% for each 1°C rise in minimum dry-season night temperatures. A

[3] Chan, C., Tran, N., Dao, C., Sulser, T., Phillips, M., Batka, M., et al. (2017). *Fish to 2050 in the ASEAN Region*. Washington, DC.
[4] Chan, C., Tran, N., Dao, C., Sulser, T., Phillips, M., Batka, M., et al. (2017). *Fish to 2050 in the ASEAN Region*. Washington, DC.
[5] https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ian-Patrick/publication/306399811_The_Changing_Beef_Industry_in_South-Eastern_Cambodia/links/57e1d3c608ae427e2957ec5f/The-Changing-Beef-Industry-in-South-Eastern-Cambodia.pdf#page=16
[6] FiA, 2017.
[7] https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL. Accessed on September 15, 2025.
[8] Funge-Smith, S., and Bennett, A. (2019). A fresh look at inland fisheries and their role in food security and livelihoods. *Fish Fish* 20, 1–20. doi: 10.1111/faf.12403
[9] https://icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/930.ICSF259_Vietnam-Climate.pdf
[10] Ficke AD, Myrick CA, Hansen LJ. 2007. Potential impacts of global climate change on freshwater fisheries. Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries, 17(4):581-613.
[11] WorldFish_fisheries.qxd
[12] Johnston et al., 2009

vulnerability index covering all 698 districts of Vietnam's 63 provinces ranks several areas of the Mekong Delta among the most vulnerable (Cao et al., 2019)[13].

Climate impacts disproportionately affect smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, the primary producers, threatening national food security and local livelihoods. Most rice is cultivated by smallholders on plots often less than 2 hectares, and small-scale fisherfolk dominate inland capture fisheries, especially on the Tonlé Sap in Cambodia and the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. Their vulnerability is heightened by heavy dependence on fisheries, limited access to timely climate information and adaptive technologies, and inadequate infrastructure, which reduces their capacity to respond to climate shocks. Cambodia's CCSP states that "management of water and fisheries is the lifeline of the Cambodian people". The result is falling household incomes, compromised food and nutrition security, and degraded aquatic ecosystems with biodiversity loss[14].

Project/Programme Objectives:

The project's main goal is to strengthen the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups involved in integrated rice-fish farming systems, namely smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, and the local SMEs, farmer cooperatives and producer groups that depend on them. To achieve this goal, the project will invest in climate-resilient rice-fish circular bioeconomy models, improve access to finance, markets and climate information for smallholders, cooperatives and SMEs, and strengthen regional innovation, policy coordination and knowledge sharing between Cambodia and Viet Nam, addressing the barriers that currently constrain adaptive capacity. If these interventions are delivered through inclusive approaches that empower smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, women and youth, and are supported by enabling institutions and policies, vulnerable groups will be better able to adapt to climate risks, leading to more resilient livelihoods, improved food security and sustainable rice-fish systems. Building on this theory of change, the project will deliver three interlinked specific objectives through its three components and twelve concrete outputs. The three specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- Strengthen smallholder farmers and fisherfolk climate resilience, food security, and livelihoods
- Enhance climate resilience and economic empowerment of local SMEs, farmer cooperatives, and producer groups.
- Enhance regional resilience and sustainability of rice-fish systems through innovation, knowledge exchange, and evidence-based decision-making.

A detailed review of vulnerable areas within the identified provinces, through stakeholder consultations, will further elaborate the barriers and avoid duplication during CN and full proposal development. Targets will be quantified at CN stage, including beneficiaries reached (disaggregated by gender and vulnerable group), physical assets improved, ecosystems under improved management, and policies integrating climate risk. Feasibility analyses will help adapt proven models to the local context rather than test new ones.

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)	Component Total (US$)
1. Improving smallholder farmers and fisherfolk climate change adaptation production technologies and approaches at landscape level	1.1. Smallholder farmers and fisherfolk increase adoption of climate-resilient rice-fish production systems and improve food security and livelihoods	1.1.1. Implementation and scaling-up of bioeconomy rice-fish models for improved climate resilience and sustainability with a special focus on traditional knowledge	Cambodia, Vietnam	3,500,000	9,500,000
		1.1.2. Climate-resilient technologies and physical/digital tools linking farmers with supplier, production, harvesting, procurement, processing, market distribution, and planning and decision-making processes	Cambodia, Vietnam	4,000,000	
		1.1.3. Commercialization scheme to support branding of climate-resilient community conservation efforts	Cambodia, Vietnam	2,000,000	
2. Climate resilient technologies, infrastructure, and tools for local , farmer cooperatives and producer groups	2.1. Farmer cooperatives, and producer groups increase their adaptive capacity and	2.1.1. Climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies introduced to reduce vulnerability of target groups to climate induced hazards: cooperatives and producer groups pool resources, share risks, and invest in (e.g., water retention ponds, resilient fish stocks, storage facilities)	Cambodia, Vietnam	4,000,000	9,500,000

13 Cao, L. Q., Hoang, V. C., Tran, V. T., Phan, P. T., and Do, T. V. (2019). *Review and updated assessment of climate change vulnerability of aquaculture production in Agro-Ecological zones of Viet Nam*. Final Activity Report 3 of the Project.

14 https://cgspace.cgiar.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/1b8e87d1-c8c7-409e-a989-ab49728ca03c/content

	sustain more climate-resilient and diversified livelihoods, finance, and market access within integrated rice-fish systems	2.1.2. Targeted training programs on climate-resilient practices and access credit, including financial literacy programs	Cambodia, Vietnam	2,000,000	
		2.1.3. Diversification of income, alternative safe areas for processing, and market by linking cooperatives and youth-led groups to value-added processing, climate-resilient supply chains, and regional markets	Cambodia, Vietnam	3,500,000	
3. Strengthening the knowledge management and implementation of national and local institutions' adaptation mechanisms to sustainably address climate change impact	3.1. Enhance regional resilience and sustainability of rice-fish systems through innovation, knowledge exchange and evidence based decision-making	3.1.1. A Center of Excellence established to serve as a regional platform for demonstrating best practices, technology transfer, knowledge exchange (with special focus on documentation and exchange of community and traditional knowledge), capacity-building, and access to finance	Cambodia, Vietnam	1,500,000	6,600,000
		3.1.2. Strategic partnerships developed with regional/international entities supporting the rice and fisheries	Cambodia, Vietnam	1,000,000	
		3.1.3. A cooperation mechanism between government, private sectors, NGOs and consumers to promote climate-smart technologies to balance sustainable ecosystem protection and economic growth through a joint monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework coordinated through Output 3.1.1.	Cambodia, Vietnam	1,000,000	
		3.1.4. Strategic participatory adaptation scenario planning and Evidence-based policy briefs developed for VC actors to develop long-term adaptive strategies and solutions for risk-informed development planning and investment decisions	Cambodia, Vietnam	1,000,000	
		3.1.5. National/sub-national capacity building program for vulnerability assessments, data collection, and long-term climate-informed planning	Cambodia, Vietnam	1,500,000	
		3.1.6. Fisheries and aquaculture considerations integrated into national water and agriculture policies and management practices at the landscape level	Cambodia, Vietnam	600,000	
6. Project/Programme Execution cost				1,672,727	
7. Total Project/Programme Cost				27,272,727	
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				2,727,273	
Amount of Financing Requested				30,000,000	

Project Duration: *60 months*

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

The project directly responds to adaptation gaps identified by the countries in their National Adaptation Plans. In Cambodia, it addresses the *Strategic Objective 1* by addressing adaptive capacity in agricultural production systems with diversification and increased productivity. In Vie Nam, it responds to an identified priority of converting part of the rice area to high value and economically efficient rice–aquaculture areas. Integrated rice-fish systems, the simultaneous or rotational integration of wild or stocked fish with flooded rice fields[15], are well-suited to this as circular bioeconomy. They create natural cycles between crops and fish: fish consume natural food in the rice fields, and their waste fertilizes the rice. This closed loop relationship improves soil and water health, boosts biodiversity, diversifies incomes and reduces dependence on external inputs. FAO's analysis[16] supports this approach, noting that a circular bioeconomy builds climate resilience through ecosystem restoration, nutrient and water retention in soils, and support for local livelihoods based on biological products and services. , the project's innovation lies in combining traditional and community knowledge with climate-resilient technologies and digital tools, exploring adaptation as an economic opportunity by adding value to the local

[15] https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/sustainable-food-systems/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2020.576179/full

[16] Gomez San Juan, M., Harnett, S. and Albinelli, I. 2022. Sustainable and circular bioeconomy in the climate agenda: Opportunities to transform agrifood systems. Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2668en

production, and in a regional platform to document and exchange this knowledge across borders, so that local practices and modern climate-smart approaches strengthen each other. The project components have been conceptualized to address compounding risks and are designed to tackle their specific dimensions.

Component 1 (USD 9.5M) increases the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers and fisherfolk to drought, flooding, salinity intrusion and climate variability, which reduce rice and fish yields and undermine food security and incomes. Drawing on traditional knowledge and Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) practices, it provides access to physical and digital tools of climate-resilient bioeconomy rice-fish models, enhancing anticipatory and coping capabilities of farmers and local agriculture offices as well as increasing market opportunities. The introduction of CRA practices will also lower the overall sensitivity of the production by introducing climate-resilient rice varieties and fish strains and result in more stable yields and incomes. **Component 2 (USD 9.5M)** addresses exposure to climate hazards by enhancing access to shared climate-resilient infrastructure assets, such as water retention ponds and storage. It also strengthens the adaptive capacity of cooperatives by delivering training on climate-resilient practices, enhancing access to credit and financial literacy to tackle dependency on debt-inducing conditions, supporting income diversification through value-added processing, and strengthening links to climate-resilient supply chains and regional markets. **Component 3 (USD 6.6M)** enhances adaptive capacity by strengthening institutional capacity and cost-efficiency in regional responses to shared climate risks. Building on existing experience of collaboration, the project establishes a regional platform for technology transfer, consolidation and exchange of community and traditional knowledge, development of strategic partnerships, and facilitation of collaboration between government, the private sector, and NGOs, supported by a joint monitoring and evaluation framework. It also supports translating nationally and regionally identified participatory adaptation priorities into locally implemented actions through scenario planning and updated policy briefs, capacity building for vulnerability assessment and climate-informed planning, and the integration of fisheries and aquaculture into national water and agriculture policies.

Regional approach and cost-effectiveness: The regional approach is central to addressing climate hazards along the shared Mekong system. Because Cambodia and Vietnam face near-identical hazards in comparable agro-ecological zones, resilient techniques and bioeconomy practices proven in one country can be replicated across the border, and coordinated action reduces the risk of maladaptation, where measures in one country shift risk to the other. A binational network and community-level engagement will support peer-to-peer learning between farmers and fishers in both countries, so that adaptation strategies are shared rather than developed in isolation. Together these create regional public goods that two separate national efforts could not, including a common evidence base and a coordinated response across the basin. The two countries also bring complementary strengths. Vietnam has advanced experience in climate-resilient and salt-tolerant rice varieties, aquaculture techniques, cooperative organization, traceability and research institutions, and has piloted integrated rice-fish models, though these remain small-scale and scattered. Cambodia has a long tradition of smallholder rice-fish farming and extensive wetland landscapes well suited to these systems, and can draw on Vietnamese techniques, varieties and market systems. In turn, Vietnam gains from a shared regional platform, cross-border value-chain and traceability integration, and the chance to test its approaches across a wider range of conditions. This two-way exchange is the practical basis for the regional approach. The regional design is also more cost-effective than two separate national projects. Because the countries share the same sector and similar hazards, common products can be developed once and serve both. The Center of Excellence, a joint monitoring and evaluation framework, and shared technology and knowledge products can be established once rather than built twice, so the marginal cost of covering the second country is low. Comparable project sites can be clustered and paired by type of intervention, further reducing the cost of monitoring, evaluation and learning while improving the quality of evidence. A quantitative comparison, with a baseline and with-project estimate for each component, will be developed at the fully developed proposal stage.

Sustainability: Sustainability rests on embedding the project's results in institutions that outlast its financing. The regional Center of Excellence provides a standing platform for technology transfer and knowledge exchange, while the integration of fisheries and aquaculture into national water and agriculture policies carries results into planning frameworks that persist beyond the project. National and sub-national capacity building leaves the skills for climate-informed planning in place, and joint monitoring and regional partnerships institutionalize cross-border cooperation. At local level, the capacities, finance and market linkages built with cooperatives, producer groups and SMEs remain with those organizations after the project ends, reinforced by community ownership.

Target geographies: The project will limit its interventions to the targeted regions in each country that have been selected due to their climate vulnerability and exposure, livelihood dependence on rice and fish and poverty, adaptive capacity constraints, Institutional alignment and engagement, and potential for replication (nationally and regionally). Components 1 and 2 will target the following three zones: Mekong Delta, coastal zone, and the mountainous regions.

Mekong Delta: In *Vietnam*, **An Giang** Province, on the border with Cambodia, is heavily affected by drought, recurrent flooding and storm surges that disrupt farming, damage infrastructure and reduce market access. Smallholder farmers and fishing communities rely on rice and integrated aquaculture, with women central to farming, fish processing and post-harvest management. **Can Tho City** may also be considered during CN formulation. *In Cambodia*, the adjacent border provinces of **Takeo, Kandal and Prey Veng** face recurrent droughts, erratic rainfall and severe flooding that undermine rice yields and cause major post-harvest losses. Kandal, along the Mekong

and Bassac rivers, is especially flood-prone, and Prey Veng is among the poorest and most vulnerable provinces. Communities across these provinces depend on rice and fisheries, with women central to farming and post-harvest activities. **Coastal zone:** In *Vietnam*, **Quang Tri** province spans coastal plains, river valleys and low hills, where frequent storms, floods and prolonged droughts damage rice fields and fishponds and many poor households depend on rice and aquaculture. It is suitable for piloting integrated rice-fish and freshwater prawn models linked to post-disaster recovery and climate adaptation in the Central Region. **Northern uplands:** In *Vietnam*, Ha Giang province is a mountainous border province of highlands and narrow valleys, highly exposed to flash floods, landslides, droughts and extreme temperature swings. Rice cultivation on terraced fields is the primary livelihood for indigenous communities, most of them smallholders, with upland fisheries as a supplementary role.

Alignment with relevant national/ regional plans: The project aligns with key government policies on agriculture and fisheries, rural development and climate change adaptation. Cambodia: NDC 3.0 (Priorities 6, 9, 10); Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028 (Angle 3, Priority 1); Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2024-2033 (Strategic Outcome 2.0). Vietnam: NDC 3.0 (Adaptation Target 1, enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity in agriculture and rural livelihoods); National Adaptation Plan 2021-2030 with a vision to 2050; Green Agriculture Strategy; and the National Strategy on Climate Change to 2050. At the regional level, it is consistent with the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector Plan, which promotes climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries, food security and regional cooperation. The project also aligns with the Adaptation Fund Strategic Results Framework, particularly Outcomes 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, strengthening climate risk knowledge among farmers and cooperatives, enhancing adaptive capacity in rice-fish systems, supporting diversified livelihoods through value-chain development, contributing to policy and institutional capacity, and developing and diffusing innovative adaptation practices.

Gender: In Vietnam's[17] inland fisheries and aquaculture, women play a significant but often under-recognized role, contributing an estimated 15 to 45 percent of the workforce, mostly in family-based pond and cage aquaculture and post-harvest tasks. Climate pressures and the migration of men to urban areas increasingly leave women managing operations with fewer resources and greater responsibilities, while traditional norms limit their access to assets and their ability to adapt. Similar dynamics exist in Cambodia, where women are central to post-harvest processing, marketing and small-scale aquaculture but face limited access to land, finance and extension services. Strengthening women's participation in producer groups and adaptation planning will be essential to equitable and climate-resilient livelihoods.

A consultative process was followed for the development of the pre-concept, in particular consultations AF focal points and relevant ministries involved in climate change adaptation and agriculture and fisheries. Target areas were identified by the respective government entities based on transparent climate change criteria. For concept development, local consultations will be conducted, including focus group discussions with women and other vulnerable groups such as smallholder farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous upland communities to ensure their priorities are reflected, and an initial review of environmental and social impacts, which will be further developed during full proposal formulation into an Environmental and Social Management Framework and Gender Action Plan, in line with the Environmental and Social policy of the Adaptation Fund, respecting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) at all levels.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

UNIDO will serve as the Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE), responsible for overall management, oversight, reporting, and achievement of project objectives. Given the regional scope of Component 3, which focuses on cross-border coordination and regional knowledge exchange, UNIDO is envisaged to execute this component, reflecting its comparative advantage in facilitating regional platforms and partnerships At this PCN stage, execution of Components 1 and 2 is envisaged to be undertaken by national entities in the respective countries. In Viet Nam, the Department of Cooperative Economics and Rural Development (DCERD) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment is currently envisaged as the executing entity. In Cambodia, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries are currently envisaged as executing entities. Implementation and execution arrangements, including the roles and responsibilities of the executing entities and other institutions with relevant technical expertise, will be further refined and validated through local consultations and more detailed project design during the concept note stage, in consultation with the respective governments and in alignment with project objectives. The project will also engage national research institutions, local authorities, farmer organizations and private-sector actors involved in agro-processing and bio-based value chains.

17 https://icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/930.ICSF259_Vietnam-Climate.pdf

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[18] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

H.E. Paris Chuop, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment	Date*: 13 November 2025*
Dr. Tang The Cuong, Director General, Climate Change, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam	Date*: 04 February 2026*

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
Ganna Onysko Ms. Ganna Onysko Senior GEF, GCF, AF Coordinator Division of Funding Partner Relations Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations United Nations Industrial Development Organization - UNIDO Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: *7 July 2026*	Tel. and email: +43 1 26026 3647; G.ONYSKO@unido.org
Project Contact Person: Ms. Meryem Sghir	
Tel. And Email: +43 1 26026 3743; M.SGHIR@unido.org	

Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIROMENT OF VIETNAM
DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Ha Noi, 04 February 2026

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Endorsement for the project pre-concept proposal titled "Regional climate adaptation initiative on sustainable and equitable rice- fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam"

The project titled "Regional climate adaptation initiative on sustainable and equitable rice- fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam" has been developed by the Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) of Viet Nam in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The objective of the project is to strengthen the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups involved in integrated rice-fish farming systems by leveraging economies of scale and promoting equitable approaches by providing capacity, tools and services to enhance the resilience of vulnerable groups to climate risks.

On behalf of Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, as Viet Nam's designated authority for the Adaptation Fund, I hereby confirm that the project pre-concept proposal titled "Regional climate adaptation initiative on sustainable and equitable rice- fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam" aligns fully with the priorities of the Government of Viet Nam in strengthening the climate change adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups in Viet Nam.

Therefore, I am pleased to endorse the above project pre-concept proposal and support its submission to the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and executed by the Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam.

Yours Sincerely,

CỤC BIẾN ĐỔI KHÍ HẬU

Nguyen Tuan Quang
Deputy Director General
Department of Climate Change
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam

Cc:
- Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, MAE;
- UNIDO.

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

Ministry of Environment
Nº : 9052/1125 MoE

Phnom Penh, 13 November 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email : Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax : 202 522 3240/5

Title of Project/Programme: Regional Initiative on Sustainable and Equitable Rice-Fish Systems in Cambodia and Vietnam

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Cambodia, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the Government of Cambodia's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Cambodia. The proposal directly supports the objectives outlined in Circular Strategy on Environment (2023-2028), Cambodia's Climate Change Strategic Plan (2024-2033), and NDC 3.0, particularly by enhancing the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups involved in integrated rice-fish farming systems in Cambodia by promoting sustainable rice-fish systems through the introduction of climate change adaptation production technologies and approaches.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above regional project proposal for submission to the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and co-executed by UNIDO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Environment (MoE), and relevant line Ministries of Cambodia, which will be identified during the next stage of project development.

Sincerely yours,
For Minister

CHUOP Paris
Secretary of State

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

Ministry of Environment
Nº : 2482/0326 MoE

Phnom Penh, 31 March 2026

TO: THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD
C/O ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT
EMAIL: SECRETARIAT@ADAPTATION-FUND.ORG FAX: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Support for Partial Execution of UNIDO - Regional climate adaptation initiative on sustainable and equitable rice-fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam (AF00000521)

Dear Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat,

In my capacity as Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund, I am writing to confirm our support for the partial execution of the above-referenced project by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), where its technical expertise and execution capacity are best suited to the delivery of specific activities.

At the current PCN stage, UNIDO execution is envisaged in particular for Component 3, which focuses on cross-border knowledge exchange, capacity-building and multi-stakeholder coordination, and is regional in nature. Its outputs include the establishment of a regional Centre of Excellence, strategic partnerships with regional and international entities in the rice and fisheries sectors and cooperation mechanisms involving government, private sector, NGOs, and consumers across both countries. UNIDO has relevant experience in establishing Centres of Excellence and a strong track record in facilitating regional platforms and partnerships. It is therefore well placed to execute this component and help ensure that its benefits are shared across both countries.

I look forward to continued collaboration with UNIDO and national partners in the further development of the project.

Yours sincerely,

CHUOP Paris
Secretary of State
Ministry of Environment
Kingdom of Cambodia
Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIROMENT OF VIETNAM
DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Ha Noi, 11 May 2026

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Endorsement for Partial Execution of UNIDO in the project titled "Regional climate adaptation initiative on sustainable and equitable rice- fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam"

The project titled "Regional climate adaptation initiative on sustainable and equitable rice- fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam" has been developed by the Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) of Viet Nam in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with the objective of promoting climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable rice-fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam.

The pre-concept note of the project was endorsed by the Department of Climate Change, MAE, as Viet Nam's Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund, and an Endorsement Letter was submitted to the Adaptation Fund Board on 4 February 2026. The pre-concept note attached to the Endorsement Letter clearly states in Part III. Implementation Arrangements that UNIDO will serve as the executing entity for the Component 3 of the project.

In accordance with the requirements of the Adaptation Fund, on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, as Viet Nam's Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund, I hereby confirm our support for the partial execution of the above-referenced project by UNIDO.

We highly appreciate the continued cooperation and support of the Adaptation Fund and look forward to further strengthening our collaboration with the Fund in the development and implementation of this project, in close coordination with UNIDO and relevant national partners.

Yours Sincerely,

CỤC BIẾN ĐỔI KHÍ HẬU

Nguyen Tuan Quang
Deputy Director General
Department of Climate Change
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam

Cc:
- Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, MAE;
- UNIDO.

Revised PFG Submission Form[1] (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date:

Adaptation Fund Project ID: XXX
Country/ies: Cambodia and Viet Nam
Title of Project/Programme: Regional initiative on sustainable and equitable rice-fish systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam
Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): MIE
Implementing Entity: UNIDO
Executing Entity/ies: UNIDO

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	December 2026
Completion date of PFG	August 2027

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount	Budget note[2]
1. **Preparation of a concept note**: 1.1 To conduct a baseline assessment to verify the proposed interventions, indicators, targets and to identify the target project sites. 1.2 To carry out stakeholders' consultations at local and national level, specifically on selected project sites, with local communities and indigenous populations.	1. - Baseline assessment report - Stakeholders' consultation report - Concept note - Validation workshop report	**27,273**	Technical expertise: US 10,000 Local travel: US$ 5,000 Stakeholders' workshops: US$ 5,000 Workshop expenses: US$ 2,273 Travel expenses: US$ 5,000

[1] As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.
[2] The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

1.3 To prepare the Concept note as per the requirements of the Adaptation Fund. 1.4 To organize validation workshops at the national level, specifically on selected project sites, with local communities and indigenous populations. There will be at least two workshops: one in Cambodia and one in Viet Nam.			
IE fee (support costs)	IE admin and technical support for project development, monitoring and supervision Compliance assurance	**2,727**	
Total Project Formulation Grant		**30,000**	

Description of the required activity	**Justification for the need and for the amount**
To conduct a baseline assessment	The preliminary baseline assessment will be conducted so that the data and information is provided to support the interventions proposed and indicators/targets aimed at. The methodology will be based on a participatory approach, collecting primary data at the local, community level and secondary data.
To carry out initial stakeholders' consultations at local and national level:	Stakeholder consultation serves as a fundamental mechanism for collecting information, perspectives, and feedback from individuals involved in a project. This activity will serve to ensure further alignment of an engagement plan with the needs, expectations, and concerns of all relevant stakeholders. The stakeholders' consultations will target specifically selected project sites, involving local communities and indigenous populations;
To organize a validation workshop	This activity will involve in person pre-validation workshops at the level of the target communities and indigenous populations in order to ensure their buy in of the proposed project interventions. This will be conducted as pre-validation workshops. Also, validation workshops will be conducted virtually separately in Cambodia and Viet Nam so that each country has an opportunity to focus on the proposed project intervention and provide validation.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Ms. Ganna Onysko Senior GEF, GCF, AF Coordinator Division of Funding Partner Relations Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations United Nations Industrial Development Organization - UNIDO Implementing Entity Coordinator	
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