



Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (P171269)

SOUTH ASIA | South Asia | Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy Global Practice | IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2020 | Seq No: 6 | ARCHIVED on 28-Oct-2023 | ISR57872 |

Implementing Agencies: SACEP, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 29-May-2020

Effectiveness Date: 12-Aug-2020

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 10-Jul-2023

Actual Mid-Term Review Date: 17-Jul-2023

Original Closing Date: 31-Jul-2025

Revised Closing Date: 31-Jul-2025

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

To strengthen innovation and coordination of circular economy solutions to plastic pollution flowing into South Asian Seas

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components Table

Name

Supporting Competitive Block Grant Investments to Reduce Plastic Waste:(Cost \$22.00 M)

Leveraging Public and Private Sector Engagement and Solutions:(Cost \$8.00 M)

Strengthening Regional Integration Institutions:(Cost \$7.00 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Unsatisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Unsatisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia regional project was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on May 29, 2020. The project's signing ceremony took place on June 8, 2020, World Oceans Day 2020. Since then, the effectiveness condition has been successfully fulfilled, and project effectiveness was declared on August 12, 2020. The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), the recipient agency, has spent the first 24 months putting administrative functions in place to successfully manage and implement the project. SACEP started to receive implementation support from the United Nations Office for Project Services with respect to assisting the Project Implementation Unit. Based on the Midterm Review findings and current project status, key achievements by the project so far include: The selection process for regional block grants for Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Bhutan, and Pakistan is completed. The due diligence process for shortlisted candidates is ongoing. SACEP is providing Technical Assistance support to the governments of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The construction of the new headquarters office building for SACEP is expected to start by October 31, 2023. The next Implementation Support Mission is scheduled for February 2024. The Implementation Status Report will be finalized by the end of the mission.



Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Macroeconomic	☐ Low	☐ Low	☐ Low
Sector Strategies and Policies	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	☐ Substantial	☐ High	☐ Substantial
Fiduciary	☐ High	☐ High	☐ Substantial
Environment and Social	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Stakeholders	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Other	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	--
Overall	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate

Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

Strengthen innovation and coordination of circular economy solutions to plastic pollution				
▶ PDO 1: Circular Plastic Economy Innovations developed and tested for application in participating South Asia countries (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
Date	27-Feb-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	Innovations are defined as new approaches, transfer or adaptation of existing and/or proven approaches to new contexts and/or geographies, new policies, national and regional strategies, standards, etc. It is estimated that approx. 20 grants to be allocated for RBG and that each of these will feature at least one unique innovation that moves toward circularity. Number of innovations is likely to be higher. The indicator measures the PDO outcome on innovations. Cumulative targets.			
▶ PDO 2: Policies/standards /guidelines to promote a circular plastic economy harmonized and agreed by at least 3 countries at regional PPP convenings (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target



Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Date	03-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	The project supports a collaboration and coordination arrangement between public and private sectors for jointly addressing plastic pollution. A key result of the convening will be harmonization of policies/standards/guidelines to promote a circular plastic economy that subsequently facilitate investments. Harmonization opportunities and priorities will be established by the regional PPP convenings and could range from mandatory policies (e.g., plastic bag bans) to voluntary standards (e.g., for plastic products and packaging). Since some countries take a long time to approve policies/standards/guidelines, regional harmonization is considered to be achieved if a majority, i.e., at least 3 participating countries agreed. The target for number of policies/standards/guidelines harmonized is cumulative.			
► PDO3: SACEP's institutional capacity strengthened to drive results for plastic pollution reduction across the region (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	No	Yes
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	An institutional capacity assessment will be conducted and a capacity building plan (including targets) will be developed and agreed by MTR. By year 5, assessment of capacity will be independently verified through technical audit and survey of partners, countries and beneficiaries. Annual targets.			

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

To improve identification and testing of possible plastic pollution mitigation solutions				
► IR1.1: Regional Competitive Block Investments to Reduce Plastic Waste administered by SACEP (disaggregation by 'under implementation' and 'completed') (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	The indicator counts the number of approved block grants and whether these are under implementation or completed. The target is set based on available funds and average grant size and expected flow of approvals and implementation. Cumulative targets.			
► IR1.2: Regional Competitive Block Grant Investments to Reduce Plastic Waste to women-owned enterprises or groups (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	This gender indicator counts the number of block grants approved for women-owned or women organizations and whether these are under implementation or completed. The target is set based on the gender analysis and gaps to close the gender gap. Cumulative targets. There is no progress in this indicator since the project did not award any RBG yet. The first RBGs will be awarded by mid-October 2023. It is planned to award 2 RBGs per country.			



► IR1.3: Share business development services to women (TA) (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	Gender indicator. The target is set based on the gender analysis and gaps to close the gender gap. Cumulative targets.			
► IR1.4: Regional circular plastic economy innovations knowledge sharing hosted by SACEP operational (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	No	Yes
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	Knowledge sharing is deemed operational when stakeholders interact via project supported in person or on-line channels to exchange data, information and messaging as well as enable crowding-in of additional financial resources to RBG grantees are established. The target of full operational mode in year 3 is based on institutional capacity of SACEP, the technical solutions foreseen as well as planned progress of allocation block grants. Annual targets.			
► IR1.5: People reached in plastic pollution and mitigation awareness campaigns (disaggregated by country and sex) (Number (Thousand), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	Target is based on experience with large scale awareness campaigns in South Asia. Achievement will be counted after each campaign. Cumulative targets.			
To increase leveraging of private and public sector engagement and solutions in plastic pollution				
► IR2.1: Regional public and private engagement mechanism branded and operational (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	No	Yes
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	The regional PPP is deemed operational when consultations between public and private sectors are taking place in at least 5 countries as well as at regional level following a pre-agreed process and content. Furthermore, engagement is established via face to face interactions, in addition to technology enabled channels to exchange data, information and messaging. The target of full operational mode in year 3 is based on experience establishing such engagements in South Asia. Annual targets. There is no progress in this indicator due to the low staffing of PIU which currently consists of 2 persons (ESF and procurement specialist) and UNOPS team which focuses on other components. The new Project Director will be onboarded in May 2023 and the PIU can focus on the design and implementation of PPP engagement mechanism in FY24.			



► IR2.2: Annual regional convening of public sector policy and decision makers with private sector representatives on sharing of PPP circular plastic economy solutions (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	The indicator measures the continued process of dialogue between public and private sectors on PPP solutions and sharing experience. Convenings will follow a pre-agreed process. The target is the sum of convenings in participating countries. Annual targets.			
► IR2.3: National policies reviewed with recommendations for revisions and/or action plans (disaggregated country) (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	The indicator measures review of national policies with an effect on circular plastic economy approaches and their implementation. Reviews will be undertaken by technical experts from a host of disciplines including legal expertise and could possibly include a peer review mechanism with participation from the countries participating in the project. The target is set (prudently) as 2 per country given potential sensitivities around national policies. Cumulative targets.			
► IR2.4: Consultations on marine litter actions carried out with targeted people and/or organizations in participating countries (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	Citizen engagement indicator. beneficiary feedback loop described under social safeguards. The target is set as two consultations per country in total. Cumulative targets There is no progress in this indicator since the project has not not award any RBG yet. The first RBGs will be awarded in in Bangladesh and Maldives by mid October followed by the 2 consultations in each country.			
► IR2.5: Annual convenings of regional organization heads, including government decision-makers to collaborate and coordinate on circular plastic economy policy solutions branded and operational (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	The indicator measures the cumulative convenings by SACEP (at least one per year) of (a) regional organization heads, and/or (b) Heads of State and/or Foreign Affairs Ministers on the topic of plastic pollution, causes, consequences and solutions during the life of the project. Annual targets.			

To build institutional capacity

► IR3.1: Training and capacity building provided to SACEP staff across all project functions (Number, Custom)



	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	4.00	4.00	24.00
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	Topics include, but not limited to: procurement, financial management, project management, technical aspects related to marine plastic pollution management (material science, recycling, PPPs, etc.), database management, communications, etc. as per the annual training plan developed by the project. Cumulative Targets.			
► IR3.2: Regional Center for Circular Plastic Economy Policy Research and Solutions branded and operational (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	No	No	Yes
Date	09-Apr-2020	10-Mar-2023	22-Sep-2023	30-Jun-2025
Comments:	A Center for Circular Economy Policy Research will be established by EOP and will oversee improvements in national and regional strategies, policies and industry standards to mitigate plastic pollution. It will be considered operational when it provides technical and other support to relevant institutions to collect and analyze lifecycle data. Annual targets.			

Performance-Based Conditions

Data on Financial Performance

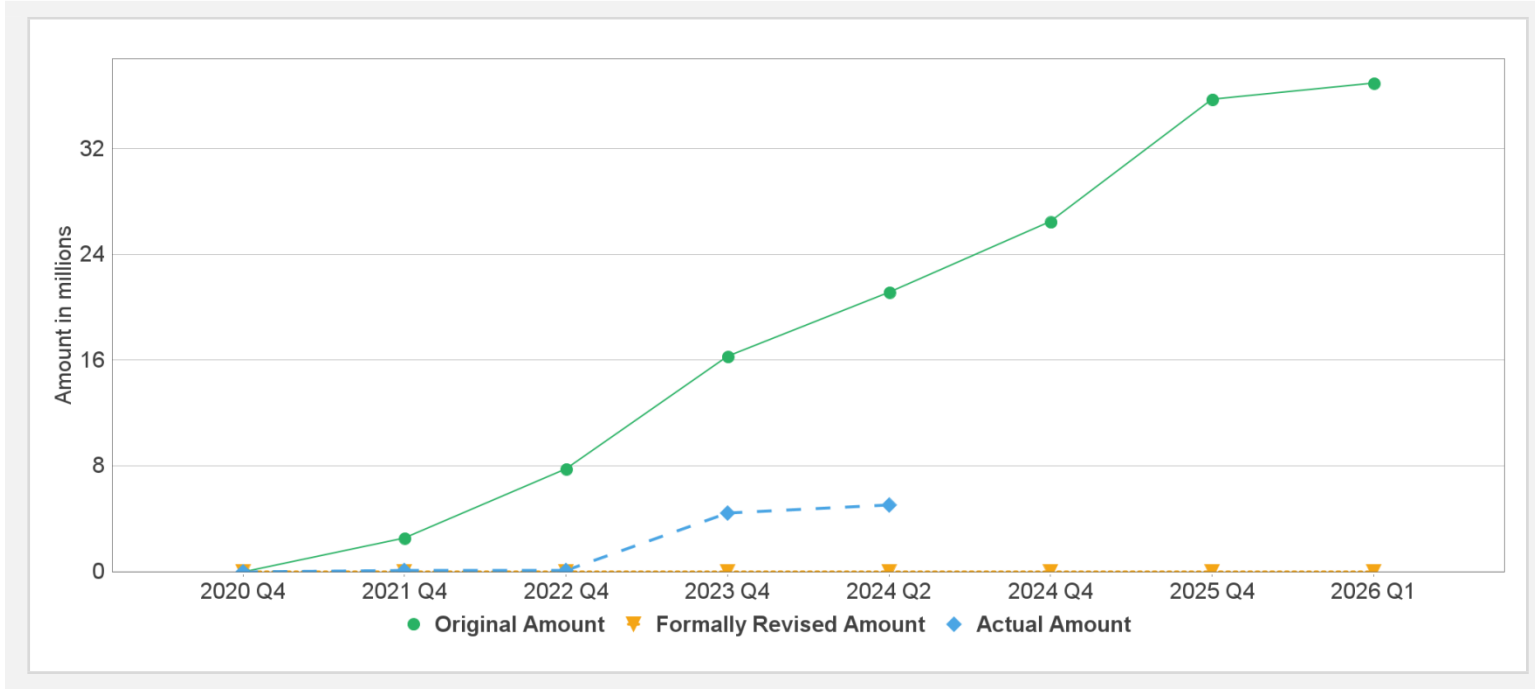
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P171269	IDA-D6480	Effective	USD	37.00	37.00	0.00	5.03	30.72	14%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P171269	IDA-D6480	Effective	29-May-2020	08-Jun-2020	12-Aug-2020	31-Jul-2025	31-Jul-2025

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.