

Annual Report

Building A Multi-Country, Civil Society Partnership to Increase the Resilience of Coastal Populations in South Asia

Implementing organization: SaciWATERS

Project number: 6311

Private sponsor: Global Nature Fund (GNF)

Reporting Period: January 2023 – December 2023

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Sources of information:

The report is based on following sources:

- Biweekly project virtual meetings organized by GNF with all the partners.
- Virtual meetings with individual partners scheduled by SaciWATERS.
- SaciWATERS' interaction with CRP project partners during national symposium, regional forum, and seminars.
- SaciWATERS' internal progress reports and project activity reports.

1 Progress on objectives/milestones

1.1 Milestone 1: Environmental and Community aspects:

- 1.1.1 The primary role of SaciWATERS is to serve as a knowledge partner, advancing the project's objective of enhancing the resilience of coastal populations through the following means:
- 1.1.2 Establishing a knowledge hub to disseminate the best practices implemented by organizations under various project objectives and sub-goals.
- 1.1.3 Providing capacity development support for the youth within partner organizations and the coastal community they are working with.
- 1.1.4 Engaging in policy advocacy at the national and regional levels through co-creating knowledge for evidence-based advocacy, webinars, and policy briefs.

Through these endeavors, SaciWATERS aims to involve a wider array of stakeholders, including representatives from other civil society organizations, local communities, authorities, and government officials. This ensures the feasibility of proposed solutions and the scaling up of the project.

Key achievements of SaciWATERS:

- The SaciWATERS team developed a standardized template for documenting best practices, which was subsequently distributed to all project partners.
- Subsequently, the SaciWATERS team meticulously reviewed the documents submitted by partner organizations, collaborating closely with each organization's team. Insights gleaned from biweekly meetings organized by the GNF were also integrated, and field visits to the original implementation sites in the Indian and Bangladesh Sundarbans further enriched the understanding of the practices.
- The SaciWATERS team refined the document to highlight the unique aspects of the best practices, evaluate their applicability in diverse contexts, and extract key insights suitable for dissemination at broader levels, ranging from national to global scales.
- Moreover, the SaciWATERS team adeptly identified critical areas for youth capacity development and formulated themes for policy advocacy through a series of consultations.

Key challenges faced by SaciWATERS

- Some partner organizations encounter challenges in documenting their experiences and key learnings from their initiatives for inclusion in best practices. SaciWATERS facilitated this process through multiple interactions with the teams.
- Meeting the deadlines for gathering information on best practices from partner organizations proved challenging. It required regular follow-ups and frequent clarifications to meet the project's timelines. Additionally, some partners are still in the implementation stage or have yet to initiate their projects, necessitating time to gain insights and share progress on proposed objectives.

1.2 Milestone 2: National forums and stakeholder dialogue

SaciWATERS team achieved following milestones:

1.2.1 Biweekly meetings with CRP partners:

The biweekly meetings organized by GNF for all project partners facilitated SaciWATERS in gaining insights into the initiatives undertaken by various partners, thus aiding in the development of case studies.

1.2.2 Individual meetings with CRP project partners.

SaciWATERS organized individual meetings with each network to discuss specific crucial aspects related to documenting best practices, capacity building for youth, advancing policy advocacy initiatives, and developing a database of partner organizations. This activity resulted in following outcomes:

1.2.2.1 Identifying themes for policy dialogues:

Based on the experience and discussions with project partners, SaciWATERS has identified the following themes for organizing policy dialogues and drafting policy briefs

- Ecosystem-based sustainable coastal development (Example: Integrated and Ecosystem-based Mangroves & Aquaculture Management)
- Adaptation and decarbonization of coastal communities - Renewable energy (Solar Lamps & Solar-based RO)

- Coastal livelihood resilience & Capacity building (Diversifying Livelihoods Examples: Beekeeping, eco-tourism, etc.)
- Food Security through innovative techniques (Examples: Innovative Aquaculture Facility, Integrated Polyculture, Hydroponics, Organic Farming)
- Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI)

1.2.2.2 Youth capacity building themes

Every organization has different needs and requirements for capacity building. The following themes have been identified for youth capacity development through discussions with CRP partners.

S. No.	Organization	Topic
1.	TerrePolicy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating employment for the community through available resources. • Collaboratively designing policies for community-level youth.
2.	NEWS	Youth communication and leadership skills.
3.	BEDS	Expertise in youth capacity building, and readiness to share their human resources.
4.	EMACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and nuances of policy advocacy: how to create policy briefs. • Written and spoken communication skills
5.	HAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Project Management. • Process documentation. • Community mobilization and participatory planning

1.2.2.3 Creation of a database:

SaciWATERs has created a database by capturing essential information about each partner of the CRP-GNF project. The purpose of this activity is to compile crucial information about our partner organizations involved in the GNF-supported CRP project. The data collected pertains solely to basic organizational details such as Name & Website, Year of Establishment, Point of Contact (POC), Organization's Mission and Objectives, and Specific areas or domains of expertise. The establishment of this database represents a crucial milestone in comprehending the expertise and strengths of each partner, thereby facilitating the development of collaborative projects and joint proposal compositions.

- *Document attached: Annexure 1 (Database form)*
Attached to this email is Annexure 2, an Excel file named 'Database_Partners,' which contains comprehensive information about all the partners.
- *Document attached: Annexure 2 (Key Take-away)*
Attached to this email is Annexure 2, a Word document named 'Key takeaways_Meetings,' containing a summary of meetings with partners held in the year 2023.

2 Progress on activities

2.1 Building a digital Knowledge Hubs for coastal resilience

- SaciWATERs team has received following (total seven) case studies from the partner organization for dissemination through knowledge hub.

S. No.	Name of the Organization	Number of case studies submitted	Title of the case study
1.	NEWS	1	Integrated mangrove aquaculture for climate resilience in Sundarbans.
2.	EMACE	1	Promotion of Backyard Beekeeping as a Sustainable, Climate-Smart Alternate Livelihood Activity to Alleviate Anthropogenic Pressure on Lake Bolgoda in Sri Lanka
3.	BEDS	1	Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture: An Innovative Approach to Stabilize the Coastline and Improvement of Local Livelihoods in Sundarbans, Bangladesh.
4.	Nagenahiru Foundation	1	Solar – Led alternatives to fuel-based lighting for night fishing by artisanal fisher communities in Sri Lanka.
5.	CReNIEO	3	Sustainable Aquaculture Involving Women Self-Help Groups at Kolatumedu Village, Tamil Nadu, India
			Restoration of Mangroves at Senganimedu, Tamil Nadu state, India
			Restoration of Mangroves at Tangal, Tamil Nadu state, India

- SaciWATERs has submitted three case studies/best practices, one each from NEWS, EMACE, and BEDS, to GNF for publication in the knowledge hub. The titles of the finalized case stories are as follows:
 - Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture: An Innovative Approach to Stabilize the Coastline and Improvement of Local Livelihoods in Sundarbans, Bangladesh.
 - Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture for Climate Resilience in Sundarbans.
 - Promotion of Backyard Beekeeping as a Sustainable, Climate-Smart Alternate Livelihood Activity to Alleviate Anthropogenic Pressure on Lake Bolgoda in Sri Lanka
- After necessary edits, one case study “Sustainable Aquaculture Involving Women Self-Help Groups at Kolatumedu Village, Tamil Nadu, India” has been sent to CReNIEO for their final approval.
- The SaciWATERs team is under the process of reviewing the following case studies:

- Sustainable Aquaculture Involving Women Self-Help Groups at Kolatumedu Village, Tamil Nadu, India
 - Solar - Led Alternatives to Fuel Based Lighting for Night Fishing by Artisanal Fisher Communities in Sri Lanka
 - Restoration of Mangroves at Senganimedu, Tamil Nadu State, India.
 - Restoration of Mangroves at Tangal, Tamil Nadu State, India.
- Documentation is in progress for eleven new potential case stories that have been identified.
 - New case studies have been identified for coastal resilience projects implemented by the CRP partners and funded by various organizations. These additional case studies will be included pending approval from the funders by these organization.
 - *Document attached: Annexure 3 (Case studies)*
The Annexure 3 attached, contains three case studies which are sent to GNF for incorporation into its knowledge hub.

3 Networking and meetings with stakeholders

3.1 Regional Forums

Conference at Khulna University

- Dr. Jayati Chourey, Executive Director and Mr. Kanna K. Siripurapu, Sr. Fellow, SaciWATERS, attended the international conference on the “Healthy Mangrove and Sustainable Fisheries for Climate Resilient Coastal Community in South Asia”, from 1-2, March 2023 at Khulna University, followed by a field trip to Sundarbans coastal region during 3-6, March 2023.
- Dr. Jayati Chourey, Chaired a session on contribution of Mangroves to aquaculture at the international conference on the “Healthy Mangrove and Sustainable Fisheries for Climate Resilient Coastal Community in South Asia”, from 1-2, March 2023 at Khulna University, Bangladesh.



3.2 Other events/occurrences

- SaciWATERS organized the inaugural online meeting of the 'Eastern Indian Mangrove Alliance for Climate and Conservation (EIMACC)' on January 17, 2023. The concept of establishing a mangrove alliance for the east coast of India received widespread acclaim and

was well-received by all meeting participants. A total of 12 organizations and approximately 40 individuals from various sectors have enthusiastically joined as partners of EIMACC. Please click the link to watch the meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HzRWswLdTk>

- UN Water Conference 2023-Virtual Side Event on Climate Change, Wetlands and Women: Actions Towards Creating Resilient Communities and Ecosystems, 20 March 2023: SaciWATERs in collaboration with Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) and Global Water Partnership- South Asia organized an “action oriented” virtual side event at the UN Water Conference 2023 on Climate Change, Wetlands and Women to showcase illustrations from South Asian countries that provided with leadership opportunities, women have proved to be real change makers leading to Creating Resilient Communities and Ecosystems. It will discuss the existing challenges, opportunities, and the way forward. The event brought together experiences and perspectives from grassroot organizations, international developmental organizations, private sector, and state representatives. SaciWATERs invited its GNF-CRP Project partner BEDS in the event to share their experiences from Bangladesh.
- SaciWATERs, in collaboration with the Nature, Environment, and Wildlife Society (NEWS), organized the second online meeting of EIMACC on April 12, 2023. The primary focus of the meeting was on the emerging carbon markets and the recently introduced Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISTHI) Scheme by the Government of India. Ms. Ajanta Dey, Joint Secretary and Programme Director at NEWS, West Bengal, India, shared her insights on the topic titled 'Negotiating the Emerging Voluntary Carbon Markets.' Additionally, Dr. Chandrima Sinha, Programme Manager at NEWS, West Bengal, India, provided her perspectives on the topic 'Navigating the Evolving Mangrove Policy Scape of India.' These informative sessions were facilitated by Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli, an International Consultant in Nature Positive Food Production at WWF-Cambodia, International Co-Team Leader (Community Forestry Expert) at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Team Leader and Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at FAO.
A video recording of the event is available for viewing at: https://youtu.be/gx1eM_OrhDM.
- SaciWATERs was successful in establishing contact with the Global Mangrove Alliance and applied for membership with the Global Mangrove Alliance in June 2023. The application is under review and consideration.
- SaciWATERs in collaboration with W for W Foundation, India organized a webinar on “Mangroves: Nature’s Bio-Shields and Biodiversity’s Hidden Haven (Threats and Conservation), on 12/July/2023. The webinar featured the works of GNF partners, CReNIEO, India and BEDS, Bangladesh, and also prominent personality Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli, International Consultant Nature Positive Food Production, @ WWF-Cambodia, International Co-Team Leader - Community Forestry Expert, @ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Team Leader and Senior MTR Specialist, @ FAO.
- National Symposium on "Building Synergies for Healthy Mangroves and Robust Value Chain Around the Mangrove Ecosystem in Sundarban", organized, by NEWS in technical

collaboration with the Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal, India. National Symposium organized by NEWS during from 26-27 July, 2023: The SaciWATERS team (Dr. Jayati Chourey, Mr. Kanna Kumar and Mr. Alluri Sai Vardhan) attended the national symposium organized by the NEWS team in July 2023. As a part of symposium, the SaciWATERS team, visited the Chaital SAIME site in Minakhan Block, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India on July 25th, 2023. The SaciWATERS team also attended various interactive session under the symposium and gained insights on various topics such as significance of mangroves in the Sundarbans, the impact of anthropogenic activities on the mangroves, scientific approaches, and community contributions required for sustainable management and conservation. Speakers also shared insights on poultry and aquaculture integration, ornamental fish culture, traditional knowledge acquisition, and eco-tourism. All India Mangrove Alliance for Climate and Conservation (AIMACC) was also launched during the symposium.

- *Document attached: Annexure 4 (Highlights of the National Symposium)*
Attached to this E-Mail is Annexure 4, a PDF containing a report on the national symposium on Mangrove Alliance and a field visit to the Chaital SAIME (Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystem) site

5. Status of target achievement and impact matrix

Fill in here the achieved values so far that apply to your part of the implementation.

Overall objective (impact): The programme contributes to increasing the resilience and sustainable safeguarding of the natural livelihoods of the rural coastal population of South Asia against the impacts of global climate change through the conservation and sustainable use of coastal ecosystems (SDG 13,14 and 15) in the context of a transnational partnership (SDG 17).

Programme objective (result)	Indicators		
	Output value	Target value	Value achieved to date (quantitative and qualitative), explanations for deviations, if applicable.
			NA
Project goals ("outcomes".)	Indicators		
	Initial value (base-line)	Target value	Value achieved to date (quantitative and qualitative), explanations for deviations, if applicable.
Subgoal 1: Organizational development The civil society organisations involved have solid sus-	Simple strategic and operational organisational structures and development plans are in place at the executing organisations but are not systematically recorded and elaborated. The	The improved organisational structures (strategic organisational development processes incl. junior staff development and knowledge management, vision & mission, strategic	SaciWATERS conducted a needs assessment by holding individual meetings with each partner to understand their specific requirements regarding organizational development, with a special focus on youth. SaciWATERS aims to provide training to youth, whether affiliated with these CSOs or part

<p>tainable structures, appropriate objectives, and efficient action strategies (to implement operational and political and processes ()) and have established a sustainable transnational CSO partnership of 9 civil society organisations.</p>	<p>structures are suitable for accompanying development processes at community level, but not for initiating and accompanying political change processes.</p> <p>There is no suitable transnational exchange (South-South dialogue) for organisational development and the exchange of knowledge and experience.</p> <p>All 9 sponsoring organisations are facing the challenge of a generational change.</p> <p>There is a disconnect between the requirements and policies for resilience and adaptation strengthening at the national or international level and the implementation by civil society supporting organizations in the provinces and coastal communities.</p>	<p>plans, action plans, appropriate funding strategies) of the 9 organisations in the four countries are the basis for the successful implementation and dissemination of the best practice resilience measures in at least 20 coastal communities.</p> <p>The three smaller local executing agencies (MCRS, HAD, ARASMIN) have newfound skills in policy advocacy, holding events and implementing resilience-building projects.</p> <p>At least 18 young leaders at the local executing agencies have been trained and, through capacity building and practical experience, have acquired the skills to lead the organisations, implement resilience-building projects and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue processes in order to promote change (change leadership). A generational change has taken place at the leadership level in at least 3 of the 9 participating partners.</p> <p>The CSO partnership and the capacities of the 9 members will be coordinated and strategically and or-</p>	<p>of the coastal community who are beneficiaries of the CRP, through both online and offline modes.</p>
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		<p>ganizationally developed from within the region by a newly created secretariat. Follow-up funding for the secretariat has been secured.</p> <p>An evaluation of all organisational development components is done through data and indicators that GNF collects, records and evaluates at the beginning, during and at the end of the programme.</p>	
<p>Sub-goal 2: Replication and multiplication through transnational shared learning structures and dialogues. Functioning forums for the implementation of innovative best practice approaches and change leadership have been established at national and regional level, are moderated by young leaders of partner organisations trained for this purpose, and enable the actors involved to jointly develop, process, systematically record and implement, replicate</p>	<p>While there are initiatives and partnerships already working on resilience building in some of the countries involved. However, there is no practical link to the implementation level in local communities. Civil society and government actors and policy makers are often unaware of best practice approaches developed elsewhere.</p> <p>Existing, proven examples of use are only sporadically documented, often only in the national language and thus only locally disseminated.</p>	<p>In the four programme countries, a total of 30 multi-stakeholder platforms (27 national as well as 3 regional) were initiated as a basis for collaboration and participation on coastal community resilience issues. These will continue after the end of the programme by the trained leaders and the participating CSOs.</p> <p>Each partner organisation has developed at least 3 best practice examples (27 in total) for resilience enhancement and adaptation within the framework of pilot projects, tested them in practice, processed them, systematised them and published them in different languages via a digital knowledge hub of the forums</p>	<p>SaciWATERs has effectively contributed three case studies from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to the GNF knowledge base following comprehensive editing. Furthermore, SaciWATERs has submitted seven additional case studies to partners for review and approval subsequent to thorough examination.</p>

<p>and disseminate strategies for resilience enhancement and adaptation with other actors (governmental and civil society).</p>		<p>and made them accessible to a broad target group of multipliers and political decision-makers with the aim of replication (40 state institutions, 50 political decision-makers, 15 intergovernmental and international organisations, 200 civil society organisations).</p>	
<p>Subgoal 3. Political advocacy: The CSO partnership has knowledge, skills and a strategy to influence relevant sector policy processes at the national (state level in India) and regional (SAARC) levels</p>	<p>Individual CSO partners have little knowledge and skills of political influence. Strategies for political advocacy have so far been mostly local (micro-level), rarely national or from state level. The macro level has not yet been reached.</p> <p>Tried and tested approaches and suitable best practice examples for increasing the resilience of coastal communities at the community level are not systematically recorded and documented and are not sufficiently known and disseminated to the level of political decision-makers at higher, national and regional levels. As a result, existing policies and funding instruments are not efficiently adapted to the realities of implementation at the local level</p>	<p>The CSO partnership has identified appropriate entry points for policy influence at macro level and has a written strategy containing concrete measures for implementation. Each programme partner has a strategic plan for effective policy influence.</p> <p>Building on the strategy, the CSO partnership will co-create and document a total of at least 10 concrete policy advocacy initiatives on resilience enhancement in the participating countries (including one at regional level - SAARC).</p> <p>The knowledge acquired and strategies developed in the programme lead to the expansion and further development of the CSO partnership's political advocacy capacity. The strategies will be fol-</p>	<p>SaciWATERS conducted individual meetings with partner Civil Society Organization (CSO) partners to identify key policy areas for organizing policy dialogues and drafting policy briefs. Subsequently, SaciWATERS will host a series of webinars and develop regional and national policy briefs focusing on these identified areas.</p>

	and do not have the desired impact.	lowed up in a subsequent global programme.	
<p>Sub-goal 4: Protection, restoration and sustainable use of critical coastal ecosystems (mangroves and coral reefs)</p> <p>Transferable measures and strategies for the protection, renaturation and sustainable use of vulnerable coastal ecosystems have been developed, exemplarily implemented and processed together with the local communities.</p> <p>A realistic strategy for coral reef restoration has been developed for Sri Lanka in the form of an action plan.</p>	<p>The mangrove forests as natural coastal protection is increasingly destroyed (approx. 1% loss per year) and overexploited and the remaining habitats are not effectively protected.</p> <p>The sustainable value of local mangrove ecosystems for local communities is often not apparent or not sufficiently accessible or usable.</p> <p>There are hardly any community-based models and initiatives for ecological restoration of mangrove forests while increasing value addition to rural coastal communities.</p>	<p>In total, at least 30 hectares of mangrove forest have been renatured (via planting measures and natural succession) and permanently protected (improved protected area status) by local communities and NGOs.</p> <p>At least 14 tree nurseries have been established for the purpose of renaturation, 146,000 mangrove seedlings have been raised and planted out, and their growth success (> 50% survival rate) has been documented using a new app.</p> <p>Community-based ecological practices (according to the CBEMR manual of the GNF) for the protection and restoration of mangrove forests have been developed, applied and documented in 20 project communities of the 4 countries in a site-specific manner.</p> <p>The local executing agency EMACE has developed an action plan for the renaturation of coral reefs in cooperation with the tourism industry.</p>	NA

<p>Sub-goal 5. diversification of income:</p> <p>Sustainable approaches to improving and diversifying income opportunities, especially for women and young people, have been developed, exemplified and implemented in selected coastal communities.</p>	<p>Initiative, good examples and entrepreneurial skills are scarce, especially among disadvantaged groups in rural areas (knowledge, management, capital).</p> <p>The people live from little diversified subsistence agriculture and fishing. Other employment opportunities hardly exist.</p> <p>As a rule, women hardly ever engage in income-generating activities.</p>	<p>At least 750 people achieve a 25% increase in income from newly established micro and small businesses (fish feed production, beekeeping, aquaculture, fruit and vegetable growing).</p> <p>At least 4 cooperatives (agriculture, aquaculture) were founded and supported with advice on marketing and technical and entrepreneurial skills. The income of the members of the cooperatives had increased by 30% by the end of the project (recorded through household surveys).</p> <p>By the end of 2022, business plans for 4 farms supported in the programme (agriculture, aquaculture) have been prepared and are being implemented.</p> <p>At least 410 people (with a focus on women) have improved their knowledge through training in entrepreneurial and technical skills and are successfully using these in 100 newly established micro-enterprises.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Sub-goal 6. Food security through innovative techniques:</p>	<p>The diet of the local population is not very varied and is mainly based on one main food.</p>	<p>The nutritional basis is significantly improved and diversified for at least 700</p>	<p>NA</p>

<p>Innovative approaches to food security and diversification adapted to climate change have been successfully tested and worked up in selected coastal communities</p>	<p>Agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture are very conventionally oriented in the target communities. Increasing food production usually requires a higher external factor input in the form of seeds (no own seed propagation), artificial fertilizers, energy, pesticides and fish feed for aquaculture, potentials which the target communities cannot use due to their low financial capacities. The dependence on external markets for seed, fertilizer, stocking fish and fish feed is high.</p>	<p>families through innovative cultivation and aquaculture techniques in local agriculture and greater integration of different production systems (e.g. aquaculture and vegetable cultivation) (recorded through household nutrition surveys) and more resilient to extreme weather conditions and other existential risks.</p> <p>Food production is exemplarily organized locally by 2-producer communities and is more independent from external input (cost reduction of 20%) due to ecological cultivation methods (own seed propagation, organic fertilization).</p> <p>Innovative farming techniques that mitigate losses due to extreme weather conditions (e.g. permaculture, climate resilient farming techniques such as hydroponics and integrated mangrove aquaculture based on GNF's IMA concept) will be implemented in at least 10 target communities and increase yields by 25%.</p>	
<p>Sub-goal 7. Adaptation and decarbonisation of</p>	<p>There is a great need for the substitution of fossil fuels and wood for daily uses such as cooking,</p>	<p>A transfer of technical know-how on the use of renewable energies has taken place between the</p>	<p>NA</p>

<p>coastal communities.</p> <p>Examples of the use of renewable energies have been developed and implemented in the areas of cooking and lighting, and best practice approaches have been prepared and publicised at national and regional level.</p>	<p>lighting (handicrafts & education) and night fishing. The expenses of the local night fishermen for lamp kerosene devour about 1/3 of the household income (on average 200 - 300 € per fisher family per month).</p> <p>The current use of fossil fuels and wood causes high costs for households and damages the climate and ecosystems in the long term. Fossil raw materials are subject to strong price fluctuations and are partly poorly available in rural areas.</p>	<p>partners. As a result, five best practice examples for the introduction of renewable energies in the areas of post-fishing (solar lamps), cooking (solar cookers and energy-saving cookers) and aquaculture (photovoltaic pumps, IMA) that have been tested in other regions have been prepared, adapted and implemented. The monetary benefits of these innovative technologies are demonstrated through profitability and payback calculations.</p> <p>140 fishermen participating in the introduction of the solar lamps have increased their household income by 20% on average. (mainly due to the reduction of kerosene consumption, determined by accompanying household surveys).</p> <p>Technical know-how on the use of sustainable energy is available in the rural coastal communities through a knowledge hub and two solar service centres in the partner regions.</p>	
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6. Differences in the implementation of the measures compared to the application.

SaciWATERS is effectively executing its planned activities, in line with its objectives. It leverages various opportunities and platforms to facilitate collaboration with partners in order to achieve the

policy advocacy objectives of the project at both regional and national levels. In this context, SaciWATERs has proposed a series of regional policy dialogues conducted through virtual means. Meeting the deadlines for gathering information on best practices and other valuable insights from partner organizations posed a significant challenge. In response, SaciWATERs has initiated one-on-one meetings with project partners. Moreover, SaciWATERs provides editorial assistance, writing support, and necessary guidance to aid partners in documenting, structuring, and formatting their case studies effectively.

Furthermore, some partners are still in the implementation phase or have yet to initiate their projects, thus precluding them from sharing any noteworthy learnings as best practices. Notwithstanding these challenges, SaciWATERs remains proactive in addressing obstacles and ensuring alignment with the project objectives.

7. Assessment of the further project progress

SaciWATERs is making strides in project implementation and addressing challenges; however, there is room for improvement in streamlining communication and collaboration with partner organizations. Overall, the assessment suggests that the project is on track but requires continued efforts to overcome challenges and maximize its impact. By reaching out to partners individually and providing them support through capacity building and documentation, SaciWATERs plans to further enhance project progress and achieve its objectives effectively.

8. Other remarks