Bhutan For Life

Environmental and Social Management Plan for Biological Corridor 07

January 2023 - June 2024

Biological Corridor 07 Divisional Forest Office | Mongar

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<u>Bhutan for Life</u> <u>Environmental and Social Management Plan for Biological Corridor 07 (Mongar) for</u> January 2023 - June 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Bhutan for Life (BFL) project aims to ensure a robust network of Protected Areas (PAs) and Biological Corridors (BCs) that secure human well-being, biodiversity conservation and increase climate resilience in Bhutan. The project shall sustain for 14-years, in this duration an immediate improvement to the management of Bhutan's protected areas for climate resilience and biodiversity gains are sought. Meanwhile the country would gradually ratchet up its own financing resources.

BFL seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Help Bhutan remain carbon neutral by increasing forest and vegetative cover within the Protected Area System;
- Enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of communities in the vicinity of the PAS through climateinformed natural resources management;
- Maintain stable, thriving, and diverse populations of key species contributing toward national and global biodiversity goals; and
- Strengthen organizational, institutional, and financial capacity for effective management of PAS. BFL includes five components that reflect these goals, divided into 16 milestones (or outputs) and over 80 detailed activities.

1.2 Scope of ESMP

The preparation of this Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was deemed necessary in order to manage the environmental and social impacts. The mitigation actions required to implement the project was in accordance with the requirements of WWF's Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP), the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), and the applicable national legislation and regulations.

The ESMP provides an overview of the environmental and social baseline conditions on the routes of the proposed second segment of the project, summarizes the potential impacts associated with the proposed activities and sets out the management measures required to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

This ESMP will be implemented by BFL focal person in each park authority (PA) and biological corridor (BC), and by the contractor to be commissioned by each PA/BC for the project.

1.3 Purpose of ESMP

This site-specific ESMP is a project-specific source document detailing the environmental and social protection requirements to mitigate and minimize the adverse impacts. The ESMP's primary purpose is to ensure that the environmental requirements and social commitments associated with the project are carried forward into implementation and operational phases of the project and are effectively managed. The specific objectives of this ESMP are as hereunder:

- Minimizing any adverse environmental, social and health impacts resulting from the project activities;
- Conducting all project activities in accordance with the relevant RGoB Laws and WWF's safeguard operational policies and guidelines;
- Preventing environmental degradation as a result of either individual subprojects or their cumulative effects;
- Enhancing the positive environmental and social outcomes of project activities;

- Ensuring that the proposed mitigation measures are feasible and cost-efficient;
- Providing an Action Plan to ensure that the project impact mitigation measures are properly implemented and monitored; and
- Ensuring that all stakeholders are engaged in the project activities' preparation and implementation, and their concerns are fully addressed.

1.4 Applicable law, policies, and regulation

This ESMP is developed in strict adherence and compliance to the guidelines set forth in BFL's ESMF.

Applicable RGoB laws and policies include the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008; legislation on land and moveable property (Land Act of Bhutan 2007; Land Rules, 2007; The Moveable Cultural Property act of Bhutan, 2005); legislation and regulations on forests and protected areas (National Environment Protection Act, 2007; Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan, 1995; Forest and Nature Conservation Rules and Regulations of Bhutan, 2017; National Forest Policy, 2011); legislation on water and waste prevention (Water Act of Bhutan, 2011; Waste Prevention and Management Act, 2009); legislative requirements on environmental assessment (Environmental Assessment Act, 2000 and Regulations on the Environmental Clearance of Projects, 2001); and other relevant laws (The Local Government Act of Bhutan, 2009; Livestock Act of Bhutan, 2001; The Biodiversity Act of Bhutan, 2003; The Pesticides Act of Bhutan, 2000; The Penal Code of Bhutan, 2004; National Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Policy (Draft), 2014), and Local Government Act of Bhutan, 2009.

WWF's safeguards policies that are relevant to this project are as follows:

- Policy on Environment and Social Risk Management;
- Policy on Protection of Natural Habitats;
- Policy on Involuntary Resettlement; Policy on Indigenous Peoples;
- Standard on Pest Management;
- Policy on Accountability and Grievance System;
- Standard on Physical Cultural Resources;
- General standards on both occupational and community health and safety and energy efficiency.

In general, RGoB's laws, policies, and guidelines are in line with the WWF's environmental and social safeguards requirements. However, there are a few differences between the two systems. Regarding environmental impacts, there are no direct contradictions between the RGoB laws and regulations and the WWF's SIPP, but the requirement of the latter is more extensive. All project activities should fully comply both with the RGoBs Regulations on the Environmental Clearance of Projects, and with the procedures and mitigation measures prescribed in this ESMF. In case the WWF's SIPP requirements turn out to be extensive, strict, or detailed compared to RGoB legislation and policies, the former will apply to all project activities.

Regarding social impacts, the status of non-title holders and informal land use, and the commitment to participatory decision-making processes conclude the primary discrepancies between the RGoB laws and regulations and the WWF's SIPP. First, according to the WWF's SIPP, all users of land and natural resources (including people that lack any formal legal ownership title or usage rights) are eligible to some form of assistance or compensation if the project adversely affects their livelihoods. The RGoB laws only recognize the eligibility of land owners or formal users to receive compensation in such cases. Second, the WWF's SIPP require extensive community consultations during the project in order to develop various safeguards documents. RGoB legislation does not include three requirements reflected in SIPP. For the purpose of the BFL project, the provisions of the WWF's SIPP shall prevail over the RGoB legislation in all cases of discrepancy.

2. Environmental and Socio-Economic Conditions

2.1 Boundary description

The BC 7 consists of two isolated strands; a strand from the former northern corridor and another from the former BC-7. The BC links with three protected areas; Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCNP) in the northwest, Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) in the northeast and Phrumsengla National Park (PNP) in the southwest (Fig. 2). The corridor shares boundary with Tsakaling and Tsamang Gewogs under Mongar (28.86 km2) and Menbi, Gangzur, Khoma, Minjey, Metsho and Tsenkhar Gewogs under Lhuentse Dzongkhag (390.8 km2).

It also overlaps with significant Important Bird Areas (IBA) of Korila (31.63 sq.km) and Minjey Wetland (0.4sq.km) both of which are declared by Birdlife International.



Figure 1: Boundary of BC-07 showing the jurisdictions of Gewogs falling under it. The BC boundary connects with Bumdelling Wildlife Sanctuary in the east, Wangchuck Centennial National Park in the northwest and Phrumsengla National Park in the southwest.

2.2. Water bodies

BC-07 has numerous streams and tributaries draining into Kurichhu. The Kurichhu is one of the subbasin tributaries of Manas watershed in the country. The 15.26 km of Kurichu that is assessed as degraded catchment runs through BC-07 forming an indispensable migratory route for avi-fauna and other lesser-known aquatic diversity. Kurichu is joined by 43.48km of streams and another 1,296.68 km of rivulets and tributaries. The globally threatened Pallas's fish eagle, river lapwing and blacknecked crane feeds and roosts along this river stretch. The vulnerable species of otters are also recorded feeding along Kurichu making it one of the significant wetland habitats.

Due to the presence of several wetlands and seasonal ponds in the upper ridges of forest, it forms an important habitat for wildlife populations and important catchment areas for the downstream communities.

2.3. Climate

Weather data from the past 10 years (2011-2020) showed that the highest average maximum temperature of 25.4 o C (2016) and lowest average minimum temperature of 10.7 o C (2013) was recorded in the BC area (Fig. 3A). The highest average precipitation recorded was 3.32 mm in 2016 and lowest of 1.01 mm in 2013 (Fig. 3B). Meteorological data has been derived from station records

of Sumpa under Lhuntse Dzongkhag from the Meteorology Section, Department of Hydro-met Services, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu.



Figure 2: The average min and max temperature in BC area (3A) and annual precipitation in BC area for last 10 years (3B)

2.4. Vegetation and forest types

There are four major forest types in BC-7 categorically broadleaf forest, chirpine forest, fir forest and mixed conifer forest. About 70% of the BC area falls under broadleaf forest and followed by mixed conifer forest (16%) (Fig. 4). Among different forest types, chirpine (5%) and fir (3%) forest has least coverage in the BC area. The other land cover type includes shrub (3%) and meadows (1%). Landslide (0.05%) and built up (0.05%) areas have least coverage in the BC area.



Figure 3: Landcover landuse map of BC-07. The pie chart shows area (Sqkm) of BC area falling under each land cover

2.5. Floral diversity

The floristic compositions in BC-7 consists of 307 plant species belonging to 103 families from which 104 tree species, 47 shrub species, 144 herb species including one endemic species (Corallo discuscooperi), five climber species (Clematis spp, Hedera nepalensis, Tetrastigma serrulatum, Smilax sppand Piper spp), three bamboo species (Bambusease spp, Yushania microphylla and

Yushanias spp), three terrestrial orchid species (Calanthe spp, Calanthe sylvatica and Galeola lindleyana) and one cane species (Plectocomia himalayana) were recorded. Floral species composition of BC-07 includes five live forms such as conifer trees, deciduous trees, evergreen trees, evergreen shrubs, and deciduous shrubs. The overall life-form composition appeared to be considerable proportion of deciduous trees with 32.04 %, followed by coniferous trees (28.13 %), evergreen trees (23.8 %), evergreen shrub (12.9 %) and deciduous shrubs (3.01 %) from 5 Gewogs (Fig. 5). Khoma and Tsenkhar Gewogs are predominantly composed of coniferous trees and Minjey, Gangzur and Menbi with deciduous trees. The evergreen shrubs are found predominant in Menbi Gewog. The deciduous shrubs were barely recorded in all five Gewogs.



Figure 4: Floral species composition (live forms) under each Gewog in BC area

2.6. Floral diversity

Much as the floristic diversity, the faunal diversity of BC-07 is astounding with species from both the Palearctic and Indo-Malayan biogeographic realms (Wangchuk et al. 2004). So far, the Divisional Forest Management office has uncovered the presence of only vertebrates, and is yet to dive into the world of invertebrates. Recent camera trap studies and field surveys have revealed the presence of 28 species of mammals belonging to 11 families and 4 orders (Annexure VI). Of these, 3 are Endangered, 8 are Vulnerable, 5 are Near Threatened and 12 are Least Concerned as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2014). The majority of animal signs were recorded from cool-broadleaf forest (55.59 %) followed by chirpine (12.94 %) and warm-broadleaf forest (7.94 %).

2.7. Avifauna diversity

As of now 276 species of birds have been documented in BC-07; 160 bird species were recorded during the recent survey carried out in the months of June, July, November and December and, 116 other species were recorded through incidental sightings (Annexure IV). Of these, 1 is endangered (pallas's fish eagle), 3 are vulnerable (black-necked crane, wood snipe, and rufous-necked hornbill), and 6 are near threatened (himalayan vulture, satyr tragopan, great hornbill, ward's trogon, river lapwing and yellow-rumped honey-guide) as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2014). The bird survey was carried out along the transect of 251.32 km which was laid within different habitats of the entire corridor.

Birds were recorded within three different habitats inside the BC: wetland (WL) (farmland and settlements, alpine meadow, rivers and streams), conifer forest (dry temperate conifer forest, moist temperate conifer forest and sub-alpine conifer forest) and broadleaf forest (BLF) (cool broadleaved

forest and warm broadleaved forest). Based on the Chao1 estimator, species estimation in various habitats of WL, BLF and CF are sEST=104, sEST=175 and sEST= 101 respectively. However, species observed in various habitats in WL, BLF and CF are sOBS=172, sOBS=101 and sOBS=98 respectively indicating more species encounter with more effort. The Shannon Wiener Index (H') shows greater species diversity in BF (H'=1.9) in comparison to CF (H'1.7) and WL (H'=1.3).

2.8. Socio-economic conditions

The BC-07 expands over two administrative boundaries covering an area of 390.8 km² under Lhuentse and 28.86 km² under Mongar Dzongkhag. A total of 193 households reside within the BC area (Table 2). Around 727 households that reside around the BC area also use BC for natural resources particularly timber, firewood and non-wood forest products. The recent socio-economic survey involved 67% of the households comprising 46 % male and 54 % female for the interview.

Gewog	Chiwog	Village	No.of HH
Tsenkhar	Artobadap-Gundrang	Drakar	6
		Pokornang	1
		Yangla	9
		Sisinyisa	3
	Autsho-Chharbi	Gangmachen	1
		Drakmar Ney	1
		Pela Drakphu	9
		Rashangbee	2
		Kilam	1
	Dekiling-Tshochen	Dekiling	4
		Phawantoe	3
		Tadogang	2
Tsakaling	Takhambi	Goomdrang	6
Minjey	Bragong Jalang	Bragong	10
		Chengling	11
		Amdrang	2
Menbi	Kamder-Murmo	Sumpa	3
		Zarthang	1
		Karney	1
	Manjabe-Daangling	Rawabee	4
Gangzur	Jang- Ngar	Fatala	6
	Nimshong-Tongling	Yodra Goenpa	1
	Shawa-Zhamling	Charabi	2
Khoma	Rolmateng-Tsango	Khomagang	8
		Denchung	6
	Pangkhar	Khomadung	2
	Drakteng-Baptong	Kemtsong	13
	Gangla-Khelma	Buyum	1
Tsamang	Ganglapong	Ganglapong	66
		Khooling	8
Total			193

Table 1: List of households residing inside BC-07

3. Planned activities for January 2023 - June 2024

3.1 Construction of head office for Divisional Forest Office at Mongar

a. Budget: Nu. 10,000,000

- b. Timeline: July 2023 June, 2024
- c. Location: Mongar Town

The Divisional Head Office was constructed sometimes in the year 1998 to cater the forestry services to the public of Mongar and Lhuentse Dzongkhag. Since then, it played a vital role in forestry services delivery to the 19 Gewogs.

Since its establishment, no major maintenance were carried out. As the years passed by, the office developed minor cracks and windows and door started to rot. The major earth earthquake that struck in 2004 and 2009 has damaged and developed huge cracks on the building. The office is still in use.

Through the support of BFL, the new office for division will be constructed on 13863 sq. ft on plot No MN1-75 in the Mongar town. This will reduce the risk and will provide better working space for foresters to cater their services effectively to the people of two major eastern Dzongkhags. The total of 15 laborers will be involved for the period of 11 months starting August 2023.



Figure 5: Internal walls of Divisional Head Office (The walls were cracked during 2004 and 2009 earth quake)

3.2 Development of high-end golden mahseer fly fishing ecotourism site at Yangbari

- a. Budget: Nu. 4,200,000
- b. Timeline: July 2023 June, 2024
- c. Location: Yangbari, Gongdue Gewog, Mongar Dzongkhag

Yangbari is a small village under Pekari Yangbari chewog under Gongdue gewog of Mongar Dzongkhag. The village is located adjoining to Pemagatshel Dzongkhag in the south and Zhemgang

Dzongkhag in the west. Yangbari is surrounded by forest on three sides and the Kuri-Gongri River at the lower side of the villages make the village lively. The flat landform makes the village appear like the bordering areas of southern Bhutan. The average altitude is 250m above sea level receiving heavy rainfall in summer making the area hot and humid with cool and dry winter months.



Fig. 5. Google map on bird eye view of Yangbari village

The people of Yangbari were resettled in the 1980s after His Majesty The Fourth King awarded Land Kidu during the National Day celebration in 1980. A total of 62 households resides at Yangbari, Patong and Kormey villages speaking three different dialects. They are dependent on agriculture and livestock farming. Apart from farming, the villages are also seen working for daily wages in different construction sites. They are also members of a community forest management group. The community has certain basic facilities like School, Basic Health Unit, mobile network, electricity and is connected by motor road.



Figure 6: Yangbari village at a glance

The high-end golden mahseer flyfishing ecotourism site is proposed to promote recreational fishing as a high-end tourism product in eastern Bhutan. This will also help to empower local communities to participate in an ecotourism development for their socio-economic development. The project will also help to enhance knowledge and skills of local communities particularly in running ecotourism businesses. The total of 15 laborers will be involved for the period of 11 months starting July 2023.



Figure 7: Project site

4. Potential social and environmental impacts

4.1 Construction of Divisional Head Office

- i. Environment Impacts:
 - Generation of waste from construction works
 - Dust generation
 - Noise generation
- ii. Social Impacts
 - Worker's health and safety

4.2 Development of high-end golden mahseer fly fishing ecotourism site at Yangbari

- i. Environment Impacts:
 - Waste generation
 - Dust generation
 - Water pollution

ii. Social Impacts

• Worker's health and safety

5. Mitigation Measures for Environmental and Social Impacts Potential impacts to the environment and society along with the mitigating measures are listed below in the table:

Potential impact	Impact	Proposed mitigations	Responsibility	Cost
	scale	cale measures party		
Activity 1: Constr	Nu.			
	•			10,000,000
1. Generation of	Minor	Pre-construction:	Contractor and	To be
waste from	(Short term)	Requirements for	BC-07 Focal	incorporated
construction		appropriate waste		in the bidding
works		management should be		document
		briefed to the		
		contractors/workers.		
		During construction:		
		• Ensure that camps are		
		located away from		
		existing stream, river,		
		or water sources, and		
		that no discharge from		
		camps is made into		
		nearbywater bodies;		
		Proper containers/waste		
		bins should be provided		
		at the project site;		
		• Dumping of waste on		
		the sides of the road, on		
		private land, or in other		
		non-designated places		
		should be prohibited;		
		• Dumping waste shall be		
		prohibited on fragile		
		slopes, forests, religious		
		or other culturally		
		sensitive areas or areas		
		where livelihood is		
		derived;		
		• Collection.		
		transportation and final		
		disposal of all waste		
		should beundertaken		
		regularly;		
		All construction		
		materials should be		
		covered during the		
		transportation to avoid		
		waste dispersion:		
		• The options for		
		reuse/recycling of the		
		generated waste should		
		be taking into		

		 consideration (e.g. excavated soil, etc.); Burning of construction waste should be prohibited; and Open defecation in the vicinity of project sites should be prohibited After construction: 		
		• All waste shall be removed		
		from the project site.		
2. Dust generation as a result of construction works and possible emissions from transportation vehicles	Minor (Short term)	 Pre-construction: requirements to limit emissions should be included in the bidding documents, as a precondition for the contractor's selection During Construction: Construction materials should be stored in appropriate and covered places to minimize dust; Vehicle loads likely to emit dust need to be covered; Workers should wear protective masks if dust appears; Vehicle speed should be restricted within the construction site; Regular maintenance of the vehicles and construction machinery should be and disciplinary practices; Implement a grievance mechanism for workers (and their organizations, where they exist) to raise workplace concerns Strictly abide by COVID prevention protocols (use 	Contractor and BC-07 Focal	To be incorporated in the bidding document
		wash hands regularly etc.)		
3. Noise generation: Possible noise disturbance as a result of outdoor equipment usage and transportation vehicles driving	Minor (Short term)	 Pre-construction: requirements to limit noise pollution should be included in the bidding documents, as a precondition for the contractor's selection Noise screening at 	Contractor and BC-07 Focal	To be incorporated in the bidding document

around the		construction site as part of		
around the		bidding do sympatt		
construction site		During the construction:		
		The construction work		
		• The construction work		
		during the nights the		
		operations on site shall be		
		restricted to the hours		
		7am 7pm		
		• Vehicles that are		
		excessively noisy shall not		
		be operated until		
		corrective measures have		
		been taken.		
		• Earplugs and protecting		
		devices shall be provided		
		to workers on site if		
		necessary		
		• Minimize noise disturbance		
		to school by providing		
		screening nets/CGI sheets		
		along the road		
4.Workers' health	Minor	• Comply with the workers' Cor	ontractor and	To be
and safety	(Short term)	health and safety BC	C-07 Focal	incorporated
		guidelines;		in the bidding
		• Access to health facilities		document
		for the workers pre and		
		during construction		
		activities need to be		
		available and ensure first		
		aid kit is available at		
		construction site all the		
		time;		
		• An environment-		
		friendly toilet (e.g., pit		
		toilet) and washing		
		mode available by it		
		made available, built with locally available		
		materials:		
		 Ensure that no underage 		
		workers or children are		
		engaged:		
		• Ensure decent work		
		conditions, including an		
		appropriate salary,		
		working hours,		
		accommodation and other		
		essential amenities as per		
		the Operational Health and		
		Safety Guidelines are		
		available for workers; and		

		1	1	
5.Conflict between temporary workers and local communities	Minor (Short term)	 Ensure that workers are employed on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, and there is no discrimination with respect to any aspects of the employment relationship, such as recruitment and hiring, compensation (including wages and benefits), working conditions and terms of employment. Workers shall be widely briefed about the local culture and traditions, as well as the legal consequences of harassment and intimidation, especially with regards to sexual harassment and genderbased violence Local communities shall be made aware of the engagement of temporary workers in project sites. 	Contractor and BC-07 Focal	No cost will be incurred
C Disturbance to	Minon	conflicts are minimized	Contractor and	To be
o. Disturbance to the school, offices, shops and residences	(Short term)	 Provide green net/ CGI Sheet fence as screening to the school; Contractor has to deploy manpower to control traffic if need be; and Avoid use of noisy machineries during the class hours Contractor factor 		in corporated in the bidding document
Activity 2: Develop Yangbari	pment of high-	end golden mahseer fly fishing eco	otourism site at	Nu. 4.200.000
1. Waste	Minor	Pre-construction:	Contractor and	To be
generation:	(Short term)	Requirements for	BC-07 Focal	incorporated
Generation of		appropriate waste		in the bidding
waste as a result		management should be		document
of construction		briefed to the		
activities		contractors/workers.		
		During construction:		
		• Ensure that camps are		
		ovicting stream river		
		or water sources and		
1	1	\mathbf{u} or water sources, and		1 1

		that no discharge from		
		camps is made into		
		nearbywater bodies;		
		• Proper containers/waste		
		bins should be provided at		
		the project site:		
		 Dumping of waste on 		
		the sides of the road on		
		private land or in other		
		non-designated places		
		should be prohibited.		
		 Dumping waste shall be 		
		prohibited on fragile		
		slopes forests religious		
		or other culturally		
		sensitive areas or areas		
		where livelihood is		
		derived:		
		Collection		
		transportation and		
		final disposal of all		
		waste should be		
		undertaken regularly		
		• All construction		
		materials should be		
		covered during the		
		transportation to avoid		
		waste dispersion;		
		• The options for		
		reuse/recycling of the		
		generated waste should be		
		taking into consideration		
		(e.g. excavated soil, etc.).		
		Burning of construction		
		waste should be prohibited.		
		• Open defecation in the		
		vicinity of project sites		
		should be prohibited		
		After construction:		
		• All waste shall be removed		
		from the project site.		
2. Air quality:	Minor	Pre-construction :	Contractor and	To be
dust as a result of	(Short term)	• requirements to limit	BC-07 Focal	incorporated
construction		emissions should be		in the bidding
works and		included in the bidding		document
possible		documents, as a		
emissions from		precondition for the		
transportation		contractor's selection		
venicies		During Construction:		
		Construction materials		
1		snoula de storea in		

		• • •	
		 appropriate and covered places to minimize dust; Vehicle loads likely to emit dust need to be covered; Workers should wear protective masks if dust appears; Vehicle speed should be restricted within the construction site; Regular maintenance of the vehicles and construction machinery should be and disciplinary practices. Implement a grievance mechanism for workers (and their organizations, wherethey exist) to raise workplace concerns; and Strictly abide by COVID prevention protocols (use masks, maintain distance, wash hands regularly etc.) 	
3. Water pollution	Minor	• The laborers will be briefed Contractor and	No cost will
I	(Short term)	and made aware of polluting the river and the forestry official will monitor regularly.	be incurred
4.Workers' health and safety	Minor (Short term)	 Comply with the workers' health and safety guidelines Access to health facilities for the workers pre and during construction activities need to be available and ensure first aid kit is available at construction site all the time An environment-friendly toilet (e.g., pit toilet) and washing facilities should be made available, built with locally available materials Ensure that no underage workers, or children are engaged Ensure decent work conditions, including an 	To be incorporated in the bidding document

appropriate salary, working hours, accommodation and other essential amenities as per the Operational Health and Safety Guidelines are available for workers.	
 Ensure that workers are employed on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, and there is no discrimination with respect to any aspects of the employment relationship, such as recruitment and hiring, compensation (including wages and 	
benefits), working conditions and terms of employment.	

6. ESMP Implementation arrangements

The implementation of project activities will be carried out by the BFL focal person in BC7, Mongar Division. The focal will be responsible for a compliance with all procedures outlined in this ESMP, as well as compliance with any requirements to obtain clearances, permits, approvals, or consent documents from relevant authorities and stakeholders.

This ESMP should be part of the contract that the PA will sign with the Contractor(s) for implementation of the planned activities in BC7 in 2022. The Contractor is obligated to perform all proposed preventive or mitigation environmental and social measures in this plan and to keep the evidence of any documents related to applying these measures (e.g., letter asking the municipality for disposal of inert waste, records on OHS information session performed for all workers before start of activities, all developed EHS plans, etc.). An OHS information session should be organized by the contractor for all workers prior to the start of the project activities and prior to any specific tasks with high health risks.

The BC7 Supervising Engineer needs to monitor the implementation of proposed measures by the Contractor and Contractor's subcontractors with visual checking, reviewing the records of evidence that the measures have been applied and ask the contractor to apply the measures as soon as possible. Non-compliances should be recorded and the Report on any non-compliance should be reported to the ESS officer immediately, and the ESS officer will report it to the PCU (M&E Officer). Each non-compliance should be closed with appropriate measure/s and the evidence should be kept.

Disbursement of project funds to the PA will be contingent upon their full compliance with the safeguard's requirements.

7. ESMP monitoring arrangements

The BFL focal person in Mongar Division will closely monitor the implementation of all planned activities and the required mitigation measures, and ensure that they fully comply with this ESMP and with the terms and conditions included in the environment clearances issued by RGoB's national authorities.

Protocol for monitoring of activities under this ESMP will be carried out as follow:

Sl.	Activition	Monitoring	Timeline		Location	Means of
No.	Acuvities	team	Start	Complete	Location	Verification
		Field Focal	August 2023	June 2024	Mongor	Field visits
1 Divisional Hea Office	Divisional Head	ESS Focal	January 2024	June 2024	Town, Mongar	Reports and field visits
	Onice	BFLFS	June 2024	June 2024	Wongar	Reports
	Development of	Field Focal	July 2023	June 2024		Field visits
2 high-end golden mahseer fly fishing ecotourism site at Yangbari	ESS Focal	October 2023	June 2024	Yangbari, Gongdue	Reports and	
	fishing ecotourism site at Yangbari	BFLFS	June 2024	June 2024	Gewog, Mongar	field visits Reports

Monitoring by ESS Focal officer at PCU:

- Monitoring through photographic/video evidence submitted by the IAs during the implementation as per the given dateline in the table above;
- Reports by ESS officer to BFL Fund Secretariat Semi-annual report submitted to the BFL Fund Secretariat in July, 2024; and
- Bi-annual reports of the Secretariat to WWF US (as part of mid-year and final Annual Performance Reports).

8. Capacity Need and Budget

Activities under this ESMP will be implemented by the BFL focal person, supervising engineer, and a contractor that will employ workers as mentioned in the contract agreement. The budget for each activity is as follows:

Sl. No.	Activity	Amount (Nu.)	Budget for ESS mitigation
1	Construction of Divisional Head Office	10,000,000	Will be met from the
			activity cost
2	Development of high-end golden mahseer	4,200,000	Will be met from the
	fly fishing ecotourism site at Yangbari		activity cost
	Total	14,200,000	

A separate fund for mitigation measures is not proposed.

9. Consultation and Disclosure Mechanisms

This ESMP has been prepared in consultation with the staff of Divisional Head Office. The ESMP will be disclosed to the local residents during the implementation and their concerns, if any will be addressed.

The full English version of this ESMP, as well as an executive summary in Bhutanese, shall be disclosed/uploaded on the website of MoAF, BFL and WWF. The hard copies of the ESMP would be made available at the BC-07 Management Office (Divisional Forest office, Mongar) and at the PCU Office.

10. Stakeholder engagement plan

For the construction of Divisional Head Office, we will seek administrative approval from Dzongkhag Administration.

On the development of ecotourism site at Yangbari, the public, Gewog and Dzongkhag consultations were all completed.

The report on the involvement of the stakeholders and communities (along with a list of participants, disaggregated by gender and age) will be submitted by BFL focal to ESS officer at PCU. The ESS officer will submit the consultation reports to the PCU (M&E officer) one week after their receipt. The PCU (M&E officer) will report to the Secretariat on a semi-annual basis.

Annexure 1

BFL: Suggested Occupational Health and Safety Standards

Employers and supervisors are obliged to implement all reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of workers. Implementing entities should hire contractors that have the technical capability to manage the occupational health and safety issues of their workers, extending the application of the hazard management activities through formal procurement agreements.

This section provides guidance and examples of reasonable precautions to implement in managing principal risks to occupational health and safety. It is based on the IFC's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (April 30, 2007) and the Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines of Bhutan's Construction Development Corporation Ltd., which relies on the national Regulation on Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare 2012, Regulation on Working Conditions 2012 and Labour Act 2007, and in compliance to Sl. No. 21 of Regulation on Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare 2012.

1. General Facility Design and Operation

Integrity of Workplace Structures

Permanent and recurrent places of work should be designed and equipped to protect occupational health and safety:

- Surfaces, structures and installations should be easy to clean and maintain, and not allow for accumulation of hazardous compounds.
- Buildings should be structurally safe, provide appropriate protection against the climate, and have acceptable light and noise conditions.
- Fire resistant, noise-absorbing materials should, to the extent feasible, be used for cladding on ceilings and walls.
- Floors should be level, even, and non-skid.
- Heavy oscillating, rotating or alternating equipment should be located in dedicated buildings or structurally isolated sections.

Severe Weather and Facility Shutdown

• Workplace structures should be designed and constructed to withstand the expected elements for the region and have an area designated for safe refuge (e.g., in case of earthquake).

Workspace and Exit

• The space provided for each worker, and in total, should be adequate for safe execution of all activities, including transport and interim storage of materials and products.

Fire Precautions

The workplace should be designed to prevent the start of fires through the implementation of fire codes applicable to industrial settings. Other essential measures include:

- The workplace shall be provided with adequate means of protection and escape in case of fire.
- The workplace shall be provided with adequate number of relevant fire extinguishers.
- Workers shall wear shoes without iron or steel nails or any other exposed ferrous materials which is likely to cause sparks by friction.
- Smoking, lightening, or carrying of matches, lighters or smoking materials shall be prohibited.
- All other precautions, as are reasonably practicable, shall be taken to prevent initiation of ignition from all other possible sources such as open flames, frictional sparks, overheated surfaces of machinery or plant, chemical or physical, chemical reaction and radiant heat.
- At every workplace adequate provision of water supply for firefighting shall be provided and maintained.

- Equipping facilities with firefighting equipment (e.g., fire extinguishing bottle). The equipment should be maintained in good working order and be readily accessible. It should be adequate for the dimensions and use of the premises, equipment installed, physical and chemical properties of substances present, and the maximum number of people present.
- Manual firefighting equipment shall be easily accessible and simple to use.
- Fire extinguishers and emergency alarm systems that are both audible and visible should be in place.

Lavatories and Showers

• Adequate lavatory facilities (toilets and washing areas) should be provided for the number of people expected to work in the facility (at least one for every 20 workers). Toilet facilities should also be provided with adequate supplies of hot and cold running water and soap.

Potable Water Supply

• Adequate supplies of potable drinking water should be provided to workers at the work site.

Clean Eating Area

• Where there is potential for exposure to substances poisonous by ingestion, suitable arrangements are to be made for provision of clean eating areas where workers are not exposed to the hazardous or noxious substances.

Lighting

- Workplaces should, to the degree feasible, receive natural light and be supplemented with sufficient artificial illumination to promote workers' safety and health, and enable safe equipment operation. Supplemental 'task lighting' may be required where specific visual acuity requirements should be met.
- Emergency lighting of adequate intensity should be installed upon failure of the principal artificial light source to ensure safe shut-down, evacuation, etc.

Safe Access

- Passageways for pedestrians and vehicles within and outside buildings should be segregated and provide for easy, safe, and appropriate access.
- Equipment and installations requiring servicing, inspection, and/or cleaning should have unobstructed, unrestricted, and ready access.
- Covers should, if feasible, be installed to protect against falling items.
- Measures to prevent unauthorized access to dangerous areas should be in place.

First Aid

- The employer should ensure that qualified first-aid can be provided at all times. A sufficient number of first aid boxes or cupboards shall be provided and maintained so as to be readily available during all working hours, provided that the distance of the nearest first aid box or a cupboard stall be not more than 200m from any working place.
- First aid kits include all equipment outlined in Annex 1 to these Guidelines.
- Remote sites should have written emergency procedures in place for dealing with cases of trauma or serious illness up to the point at which patient care can be transferred to an appropriate medical facility.

Work Uniform

- The contractor shall provide a working uniform to each worker.
- All workers shall be required to attend the duty in proper uniform unless otherwise instructed by the Contractor.

Air Supply

- Sufficient fresh air should be supplied for indoor and confined workspaces. Factors to be considered in ventilation design include physical activity, substances in use, and process related emissions. Air distribution systems should be designed so as not to expose workers to draughts.
- Re-circulation of contaminated air is not acceptable. Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems should be equipped, maintained and operated so as to prevent growth and spreading of disease agents (e.g. Legionnella pneumophilia) or breeding of vectors (e.g. mosquitoes and flies) of public health concern.

2. Information Provision on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

- The Contractor is responsible to hold an information session to familiarize all workers with the OHS procedures specified in these guidelines, in order to ensure they are apprised of the basic site rules of work at / on the site and of personal protection and preventing injury to fellow workers.
- The information session should consist of basic hazard awareness, site-specific hazards, safe work practices, and emergency procedures for fire, evacuation, and natural disaster, as appropriate. Any site-specific hazard or color coding in use should be thoroughly reviewed as part of orientation training.

3. Physical Hazards

• Physical hazards represent potential for accident or injury or illness due to repetitive exposure to mechanical action or work activity.

Rotating and Moving Equipment

Injury or death can occur from being trapped, entangled, or struck by machinery parts due to unexpected starting of equipment or unobvious movement during operations. Recommended protective measures include:

- Designing machines to eliminate trap hazards and ensuring that extremities are kept out of harm's way under normal operating conditions. Examples of proper design considerations include two-hand operated machines to prevent amputations or the availability of emergency stops dedicated to the machine and placed in strategic locations.
- Where a machine or equipment has an exposed moving part or exposed pinch point that may endanger the safety of any worker, the machine or equipment should be equipped with, and protected by, a guard or other device that prevents access to the moving part or pinch point. Guards should be designed and installed in conformance with appropriate machine safety standards.

Noise

- No worker should be exposed to a noise level greater than 85 dB(A) for a duration of more than 8 hours per day without hearing protection. In addition, no unprotected ear should be exposed to a peak sound pressure level (instantaneous) of more than 140 dB(C).
- The use of hearing protection should be enforced actively when the equivalent sound level over 8 hours reaches 85 dB(A), the peak sound levels reach 140 dB(C), or the average maximum sound level reaches 110dB(A). Hearing protective devices provided should be capable of reducing sound levels at the ear to at least 85 dB(A).
- Although hearing protection is preferred for any period of noise exposure in excess of 85 dB(A), an equivalent level of protection can be obtained, but less easily managed, by limiting the duration of noise exposure. For every 3 dB(A) increase in sound levels, the 'allowed' exposure period or duration should be reduced by 50 percent.

- Prior to the issuance of hearing protective devices as the final control mechanism, use of acoustic insulating materials, isolation of the noise source, and other engineering controls should be investigated and implemented, where feasible.
- Periodic medical hearing checks should be performed on workers exposed to high noise levels.

Vibration

Exposure to hand-arm vibration from equipment such as hand and power tools, or whole-body vibrations from surfaces on which the worker stands or sits, should be controlled through choice of equipment, installation of vibration dampening pads or devices, and limiting the duration of exposure.

Electrical

Exposed or faulty electrical devices, such as circuit breakers, panels, cables, cords and hand tools, can pose a serious risk to workers. Overhead wires can be struck by metal devices, such as poles or ladders, and by vehicles with metal booms. Vehicles or grounded metal objects brought into close proximity with overhead wires can result in arcing between the wires and the object, without actual contact. Recommended actions include:

- Marking all energized electrical devices and lines with warning signs
- Locking out (de-charging and leaving open with a controlled locking device) and tagging-out (warning sign placed on the lock) devices during service or maintenance
- Checking all electrical cords, cables, and hand power tools for frayed or exposed cords and following manufacturer recommendations for maximum permitted operating voltage of the portable hand tools
- Double insulating / grounding all electrical equipment used in environments that are, or may become, wet; using equipment with ground fault interrupter (GFI) protected circuits
- Protecting power cords and extension cords against damage from traffic by shielding or suspending above traffic areas
- Appropriate labeling of service rooms housing high voltage equipment ('electrical hazard') and where entry is controlled or prohibited
- Establishing "No Approach" zones around or under high voltage power lines
- Rubber tired construction or other vehicles that come into direct contact with, or arcing between, high voltage wires may need to be taken out of service for periods of 48 hours and have the tires replaced to prevent catastrophic tire and wheel assembly failure, potentially causing serious injury or death
- Conducting detailed identification and marking of all buried electrical wiring prior to any excavation work

Eye Hazards

Solid particles from a wide variety of industrial operations, and/or a liquid chemical spray may strike a worker in the eye causing an eye injury or permanent blindness. Recommended measures include:

- Use of machine guards or splash shields and/or face and eye protection devices, such as safety glasses with side shields, goggles, and/or a full-face shield. Frequent checks of these types of equipment prior to use to ensure mechanical integrity is also good practice.
- Where machine or work fragments could present a hazard to transient workers or passers-by, extra area guarding or proximity restricting systems should be implemented, or PPE required for transients and visitors.
- Provisions should be made for persons who have to wear prescription glasses either through the use overglasses or prescription hardened glasses.

Welding / Hot Work

Welding creates an extremely bright and intense light that may seriously injure a worker's eyesight. In extreme cases, blindness may result. Additionally, welding may produce noxious fumes to which prolonged exposure can cause serious chronic diseases. Recommended measures include:

• Provision of proper eye protection such as welder goggles and/or a full-face eye shield for all personnel involved in, or assisting, welding operations. Additional methods may include the use of welding barrier screens around the specific work station (a solid piece of light metal, canvas, or plywood designed to block welding light from others). Devices to extract and remove noxious fumes at the source may also be required.

Working Environment Temperature

Exposure to hot or cold working conditions in indoor or outdoor environments can result temperature stress-related injury or death. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against other occupational hazards can accentuate and aggravate heat-related illnesses. Extreme temperatures in permanent work environments should be avoided through implementation of engineering controls and ventilation. Where this is not possible, such as during short-term outdoor work, temperature-related stress management procedures should be implemented which include:

- Monitoring weather forecasts for outdoor work to provide advance warning of extreme weather and scheduling work accordingly
- Providing temporary shelters to protect against the elements during working activities or for use as rest areas
- Use of protective clothing
- Providing easy access to adequate hydration such as drinking water or electrolyte drinks, and avoiding consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Ergonomics, Repetitive Motion, Manual Handling

Injuries due to ergonomic factors, such as repetitive motion, overexertion, and manual handling, take prolonged and repeated exposures to develop, and typically require periods of weeks to months for recovery. These OHS problems should be minimized or eliminated to maintain a productive workplace. Controls may include:

- Facility and workstation design with 5th to 95th percentile operational and maintenance workers in mind
- Use of mechanical assists to eliminate or reduce exertions required to lift materials, hold tools and work objects, and requiring multi-person lifts if weights exceed thresholds
- Selecting and designing tools that reduce force requirements and holding times, and improve postures
- Incorporating rest and stretch breaks into work processes, and conducting job rotation
- Implementing quality control and maintenance programs that reduce unnecessary forces and exertions

Working at Heights

Fall prevention and protection measures should be implemented whenever a worker is exposed to the hazard of falling more than two meters; into operating machinery; into water or other liquid; into hazardous substances; or through an opening in a work surface. Fall prevention / protection measures may also be warranted on a case-specific basis when there are risks of falling from lesser heights. Fall prevention may include:

- Installation of guardrails with mid-rails and toe boards at the edge of any fall hazard area
- Proper use of ladders and scaffolds by trained workers
- Use of fall prevention devices, including safety belt and lanyard travel limiting devices to prevent access to fall hazard area, or fall protection devices such as full body harnesses used in conjunction with shock absorbing lanyards or self-retracting inertial fall arrest devices attached to fixed anchor point or horizontal life-lines

- Appropriate training in use, serviceability, and integrity of the necessary PPE
- Inclusion of rescue and/or recovery plans, and equipment to respond to workers after an arrested fall

Illumination

Work area light intensity should be adequate for the general purpose of the location and type of activity, and should be supplemented with dedicated work station illumination, as needed. Controls should include:

- Use of energy efficient light sources with minimum heat emission
- Undertaking measures to eliminate glare / reflections and flickering of lights
- Taking precautions to minimize and control optical radiation including direct sunlight.
- Exposure to high intensity UV and IR radiation and high intensity visible light should also be controlled
- Controlling laser hazards in accordance with equipment specifications, certifications, and recognized safety standards. The lowest feasible class Laser should be applied to minimize risks.

4. <u>Personal safety equipment for workers</u>

All workers are equipped with the following personal safety equipment: helmet, gloves, ordinary boots and reflective vest.

Workers that are exposed to dust should also be provided with eye protection glasses and face mask. Workers that are exposed to noise should be provided with ear plugs. Workers that need to work in the dark should be provided with hand and cap lamps. Workers are instructed regarding safety equipment as follows:

- Always wear complete set of protective wear.
- Do not wear loose clothing, such as overhang shirt, jackets, mufflers etc.
- Tuck shirt and jacket well.
- Secure helmet with belt under the chin.
- Tuck the bottom sleeves of trouser inside safety boot.
- Dress with reflector

5. Standards for workers' accommodation

1. General living facilities

- The location of the facilities is designed to avoid flooding or other natural hazards
- The living facilities are located within a reasonable distance from the worksite.
- Transport is provided to worksite safe and free.
- The living facilities are built using adequate materials, kept in good repair and kept clean and free from rubbish and other refuse.

2. Drainage

• The site is adequately drained.

3. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation and light

• Living facilities are provided with adequate heating, ventilation, and light systems including emergency lighting.

4. Water

- Workers have easy access to a supply of clean/ potable water in adequate quantities.
- The quality of the water complies with national/local requirements or WHO standards.

- Tanks used for the storage of drinking water are constructed and covered to prevent water stored therein from becoming polluted or contaminated.
- The quality of the drinking water is regularly monitored.

5. Wastewater and solid waste

- Wastewater, sewage, food and any other waste materials are adequately discharged in compliance with national and/or international standards and without causing any significant impacts on camp residents, the environment or surrounding communities.
- Specific containers for rubbish collection are provided and emptied on a regular basis.
- Pest extermination, vector control and disinfection are undertaken throughout the living facilities at least once.

6. Rooms/dormitories facilities

- Rooms/dormitories are kept in good condition.
- Rooms/dormitories are aired and cleaned at regular intervals.
- Rooms/dormitories are built with easily cleanable flooring material.
- Rooms/dormitories and sanitary facilities are located in the same buildings.
- Residents are provided with enough space.
- The number of workers sharing the same room/dormitory is minimized.
- Doors and windows are lockable and provided with mosquito screens when necessary.
- Mobile partitions or curtains are provided.
- Adequate number of furniture such as table, chair, mirror, and lamps are provided for all workers.
- Separate sleeping areas are provided for men and women.

7. Bed arrangements and storage facilities

- A separate bed is provided for every worker.
- The practice of "hot-bedding" is prohibited.
- There is a minimum space of 1 meter between beds.
- The use of double deck bunks is minimized.
- If double deck bunks are in use, there is enough clear space between the lower and upper bunk of the bed.
- Workers are provided with comfortable mattresses. Workers may be expected to use their own pillows and bed linens.
- Workers wash bed linen frequently and applied with adequate repellents and disinfectants (where conditions warrant).
- Adequate facilities for the storage of personal belongings are provided.
- Separate storages for work clothes and PPE and depending on condition, drying/airing areas are provided.

8. Sanitary and toilet facilities

- Sanitary and toilet facilities are constructed from materials that are easily cleanable.
- Sanitary and toilet facilities are cleaned frequently and kept in working condition.
- Toilets, showers/bathrooms and other sanitary facilities are designed to provide workers with adequate privacy including ceiling to floor partitions and lockable doors.
- Separate sanitary and toilet facilities are provided for men and women.
- Toilet facilities are conveniently located and easily accessible.
- Toilet facilities are environmentally friendly (e.g., pit toilet) and sewage is not disposed into the worksite.
- Open defecation in the vicinity of project sites should be prohibited.

- An adequate number of hand wash basins and showers/bathrooms facilities are provided.
- Shower facilities are provided with water heating facilities.

9. Cooking and laundry facilities

Cooking and laundry facilities should available for workers at the worksite or in close vicinity to it. These facilities should be kept in clean and sanitary conditions.

10. Leisure, social and telecommunications facilities

- Basic social collective spaces should be available to workers.
- Workers are provided with dedicated places for religious observance, as appropriate.

The employer provides workers with local sim cards that can be used for communication on their personal cell phones.

Contents of first aid box or cup-boards

The first aid boxes or cup-boards shall be distinctively marked with white cross on a green background and shall contain the following equipment:

- 1. Small sterilized dressings (12)
- 2. Medium size sterilized dressings (6)
- 3. Large size sterilized dressings (6)
- 4. Large size sterilized burn dressings (6)
- 5. (1/2 oz.) Sterilized cotton wool (6 packets)
- 6. (2oz.) Bottle containing a two per cent alcoholic solution of iodine (1)
- 7. (2oz.) Bottle containing Betadine (antiseptic solution) having the dose and mode of administration indicated on the label (1)
- 8. Roll of adhesive plaster (1)
- 9. A snake bite lancet (1)
- 10. Torch light (1)
- 11. Pair of scissors (1)
- 12. Tablets Aspirin (5gms) 2 dozen
- 13. Burn Ointment (2 tubes)
- 14. Dettol (2 phial, about 2 ozs)
- 15. Bandages 4 inches wide
- 16. Bandages 2 inches wide
- 17. Triangular bandages (2)
- 18. Packets of safety pins (1)
- 19. A supply of suitable splint