**GEF-8 CHILD Project CONCEPT**

GENERAL CHILD PROJECT INFORMATION

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Child Project Title: | Managing The Human Tiger Interface In Nepal | | |
| Country(ies): | Nepal | GEF Child Project ID: |  |
|  |  | Type of Child Project |  |
| GEF Agency(ies): |  | GEF Agency Child Project ID: | G0045 |
| Anticipated Executing Entity(s) and Type: | Ministry of Forests and Environment/Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation |  | |
| GEF Focal Area(s): |  | Submission Date: | 03/30/23 |
| Type of Trust Fund: |  | Child Project Duration (Months) | 60 |
| GEF Child Project Grant: *(a)* | 4,501,376 USD | GEF Child Project Non-Grant *(b)* |  |
| Agency Fee(s) Grant: *(c)* | 405,124 USD | Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: *(d)* |  |
| Total GEF Financing: *(a+b+c+d)* | 4,906,500 USD | Total Co-financing: | 9,582,000 USD |
| PPG Amount *(e):* | 150,000 USD | PPG Agency Fee(s) *(f)*: | 13,500 USD |
| Total GEF Resources (a+b+c+d+e+f) | 5,070,000 USD | | |
| Project Sector  (CCM only) | N/A | | |
| Program | Wildlife Conservation for Development | | |

### CHILD PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/ Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **GEF Project Financing** | **Agency Fee** | **Total**  **GEF Financing** |
|  |  | **Nepal** |  | **BD STAR Allocation: IP** | 3,373,813 | 303,643 | 3,677,456 |
|  |  | **Nepal** |  |  | 1,127,563 | 101,481 | 1,229,044 |
| **Total GEF Resources** | | | | | **4,501,376** | **405,124** | **4,906,500** |

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?  Yes  No

If yes: fill in PPG table (incl. PPG fee)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/**  **Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **PPG** | Agency  Fee | **Total PPG Funding** |
|  |  | Nepal |  |  | 112,426 | 10,118 | 122,544 |
|  |  | Nepal |  |  | 37,574 | 3,382 | 40,956 |
| **Total PPG Amount** | | | | | **150,000** | **13,500** | **163,500** |

### Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GFEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/Global** | **Focal Area** | **Source**  **of Funds** | **Total** |
|  |  | Nepal |  |  | 3,800,000 |
| **Total GEF Resources** | | | | | **3,800,000** |

### Indicative Focal Area Elements

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programming Directions** | **Trust Fund** | **(in $)** | |
| **GEF Project Financing** | **Co-financing** |
|  |  | 4,501,376 | 9,582,000 |
| **Total Project Cost** |  | **4,501,376** | **9,582,000** |

### Indicative Co-financing[[1]](#footnote-2)

\*\*\*POP-UP material start

Please provide indicative information regarding the expected amounts, sources and types of Co-Financing, and the sub-set of such Co-Financing that meets the definition of Investment Mobilized.

\*\*\*POP-UP material end

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sources of Co-financing** | **Name of Co-financier** | **Type of Co-financing** | **Investment**  **Mobilized** | **Amount ($)** |
|  |  |  |  | 832,000 |
| Civil Society Organization | WWF Nepal | In-kind | Recurrent expenditure | 3,750,000 |
|  | Ministry of Forests and Environment/Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation |  |  | 5,000,000 |
|  |  |  | |  |
|  |  |  | |  |
| **Total Co-financing** |  |  | | 9,582,000 |

**TABLE ON CORE INDICATORS**

### Core Indicators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Core Indicators** | | **Expected at PFD** |
| 1 | **Terrestrial protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare) | 315,700 |
| 2 | **Marine protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare) |  |
| 3 | Area of **land and ecosystems under restoration** (hectare) |  |
| 4 | Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (hectare) |  |
| 5 | Area of **marine habitat under improved practices** (hectare) |  |
| 6 | **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated** (metric ton of CO2e) | to be determined |
| 7 | **Shared water ecosystems** under new or improved cooperative management (count) |  |
| 8 | Globally over-exploited **marine fisheries** moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton) |  |
| 9 | Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced) |  |
| 10 | Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ) |  |
| 11 | People benefiting from GEF-financed investments **233571** (count) | 120,000 |

**Core Indicator 1**. The child project focuses on terrestrial protected areas (PA) in the lowlands area of Nepal. Effective conservation under this area-based conservation approach in the PAs is the main logic behind the identification of the required indicator- “Terrestrial protected areas under improved management”. Based on the intensity of conflict in buffer zones and management of habitat within core areas, the project roughly (conservative estimate) contribute to the total areas of two high impact PAs (Chitwan National Park, Bardia National Park) and their buffer zones. This collectively accounts for 315,700 ha.

**Core Indicator 6**. Core Indicator 6 target will be estimated using the Ex ACT tool during project preparation, when specific project sites and project activities will be defined; results from Ex ACT will be validated by relevant authorities.

**Core Indicator 11.** As for the direct project beneficiaries, an estimate of 120,000 (Male: 50,000; Female: 70,000) people will benefit from the project and will use resources that the project will maintain or enhance. The people are expected to benefit from this GEF financed investment directly through various livelihood actions and conflict mitigation options. A large portion of the beneficiaries will also indirectly benefit through awareness and behavior change activities.

The indicated Core Indicator targets will be refined during project preparation. Outcome indicators that measure the performance of the planned four components will be identified during project preparation. As part of project preparation, a monitoring and evaluation plan will be prepared which will include step-by-step procedures for the measurement and reporting of each indicator.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. **Country Context** (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe the country’s relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

The World Conservation Congress in 2020 called on the global community to recognize human wildlife conflict (HWC) as a rapidly growing issue and threat to sustainable development, food security, public safety, and the right of wildlife to exist in the landscape.

Nepal is increasingly grappling with HWC, and therefore, policies and strategies that enable HWC management are more and more incorporated at the national level. Nepal is a member state to IUCN and has an engagement with the IUCN SSC (Species Survival Commission) HWC Specialist Group, which can support professionals working on HWC by providing interdisciplinary guidance, resources, and capacity building. Nepal participated in the World Conservation Congress hosted by IUCN, which highlighted the need to strengthen PA management standards and share best practices across all the tiger range countries. The project is aligned with Global Tiger Forum’s goals and objectives and its alignment with global tiger summit declaration held in 2022.

HWC is recognized as a global concern in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity’s post-2020 global biodiversity framework and adopted as a major target, with the goal of reducing HWC by 2030. At CBD COP-15, the Government of Nepal (GoN) highlighted exemplary achievements highlighting tiger conservation (355 wild tigers, 2022), landscape level conservation including corridor restoration, transboundary conservation and nature-based ecotourism fostering community stewardship.

PAs within Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) - the strategic geographic focus of the project - are engaged with Conservation Assured Tiger Standard (CATS) that focuses on developing global standards of park management for tiger conservation. Large Infrastructure development has been identified as emerging challenges which could impact the tiger habitat transcending through PAs. It is estimated that existing road networks could decrease the tiger occupancy rate by 20% through its impact on prey mortality. Memorandum of Understanding on biodiversity conservation between Nepal and India is at the final stage of endorsement that prioritized transboundary cooperation in the recovery of tigers which share habitat along the boundaries.

This HWC project is critical to the WCD IP as it represents a situation where Nepal has successfully increased numbers of a globally significant species - tiger - and now needs to enhance human wildlife coexistence, to maintain and embrace community support for conservation. This project will provide on the ground implementation models for human-tiger coexistence that can be shared with other countries with HWC issues.

The following national commitments and enabling conditions support the proposed project focus on HWC and the goals of the WCD IP:

* Terai Arc Landscape Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2025), which includes a strategy to “mitigate human wildlife conflict”.
* Nepal’s position paper on CBD CoP 15 includes HWC as a serious challenge to wildlife conservation. The proposal aligns to GBF target four to effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.
* The Species Conservation Action Plan for Endangered Species, as mandated under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), has prioritized achieving the management of human wildlife conflict as one of the main goals.
* The National Tiger Conservation Committee - the highest enabling national body for tiger conservation - has prioritized working towards human wildlife coexistence.
* Nationally Determined Contributions 2020 and National Adaptation Plan 2021, which aim to reduce disaster risk and increase community and ecosystem resilience.

1. **Project Overview and Approach** (maximum 1250 words)
2. Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) is among the most biologically important regions on earth, where the world’s tallest grasslands and adjacent riverine forests support the world’s highest densities of tigers, and the second largest population of greater one-horned rhinoceros. TAL is a unique transboundary conservation landscape covering over 5 million hectares across Nepal and India with a network of six PAs, forests, agricultural lands and wetlands. TAL is Nepal’s first conservation landscape established in the 2000’s as tigers were forced into isolated patches, and their population was rapidly declining. The introduction of the landscape level approach to conservation in Nepal in 2001 marked a paradigm shift in conservation programming evolving from a single species and protected area focus to one that brought together connected landscapes, local communities and integrated conservation approaches to benefit people, nature and wildlife. Among the endangered species- the increase in tiger population has been a major milestone with respect to species recovery. Increased tiger numbers have been linked to an increased interface between tiger and communities causing Human Tiger Conflict (HTC), now a key issue along the buffer zones of PAs resulting in retaliatory killings of tigers, and/or reduced community tolerance for wildlife conservation if not addressed proactively. In the last five years (2016-2021), 392+ cases of HWC have been registered in TAL alone and 11 species have been identified as being associated with those conflict incidents. More than 80+ people have lost their lives to wildlife in the last five years in the landscape of which 40+ people due to tiger attacks. The project must address the systemic challenge of human wildlife conflict in the tiger bearing PAs in TAL.

. The project will focus on reducing the drivers of species loss, such as HWC and habitat degradation and promote landscape-level activities in high-impact PAs and associated buffer zones in TAL, a key Tiger landscape in South Asia.

Few PAs such as Chitwan, Banke and Bardia NPs -identified as high impact PAs - are experiencing a high interface between humans and tigers though all NPs show a significant growth in tiger numbers over the past twelve years. Increased tiger numbers is observed as a reason for an increased interface between tiger and communities residing in buffer zones of Chitwan and Bardia NP while Banke NP is an emerging hotspot. Banke and Bardia NPs are continuous PAs. The rise of the tiger population in Banke NP is due to spillover tiger population from Bardia NP.

The project will work in a number of these PAs to be determined in the project development phase. All listed PAs are hubs for tiger population with increasing numbers and therefore hotspots for negative interactions between humans and tigers. Banke NP is characterized by a dry habitat and is highly vulnerability to climate change. Dry spells resulting in drought and forest fires and the strategic location of the perennial river, the Rapti River, is driving prey population along the highway which runs parallel to the Rapti River inside PAs leading to the highest road kills in Banke NP. This also may change the behavior of tigers and increase chances of human tiger interface in the region.

Related to the Global Biodiversity Framework, the project will use ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change while avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity. While managing the HTC in the landscape, the project will aim to provide co-benefits of climate resilience at the community-species-ecosystem level.

Transportation infrastructure development is an emerging challenge and identified as one of the drivers for species loss in the region. Recent estimates show that linear road density (m/km2) at 108 passing through tiger habitats. Estimates in Chitwan NP show that transportation induced depletion of prey decreased tiger occupancy by nearly 20% in sites close to roads and the railway, thereby increasing tiger exposure to transportation-induced mortality. In addition, it increases the chances for HTC through increase in exposure towards the interface between tiger and communities along the roads passing through PAs. This project has the potential to collaborate with the proposed ADB GEF GRID IP project that is focused in the same landscape (TAL).

1. Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;

The project will complement the GoN and WWF in its longest running program, the Terai Arc Landscape Program. TAL program contributes to harmonious co-existence of humans and wildlife. The program envisions to conserve biodiversity, safeguard ecological integrity, and secure socio-economic well-being of the people.

Other project implemented in the proposed project sites are:

* WWF-GEF 6 ILaM project
* Sustainable Tourism for Livelihood Recovery Project, UNDP Nepal
* Cooperative Market Development Program, UNDP Nepal
* Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems- BMZ/EU,
* Ministry of Foreign Affair-Finland through WWF (Finland, Nepal)

All processes on stakeholder engagement and gender integration will be carried out in accordance with [WWF GEF Agency’s Environment and Social Integrated Policies and Procedures](https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfcmsprod/files/Publication/file/56j9zsdkdh_17_432_Safeguards_Manual_Update_FINAL.pdf?_ga=2.262502084.935303365.1680121476-298346385.1663704246), the Process Framework and the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework and any other safeguard and gender document to be prepared during the development of the project document.

*Institutional framework.*

The project will be implemented in PAs which are managed by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). DNPWC is one of the departments within the federal Ministry of Forests and Environment which is the lead ministry in Nepal that oversees and manages natural resources and all PAs in Nepal. All tiger bearing PAs have Buffer Zones where communities reside. These areas are managed by communities through buffer zone user committees established under the Government of Nepal’s Act on the Buffer Zone Management and its guidelines.

*Stakeholder engagement*

A stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) will be developed during the project preparation period. This plan will include a description of all the relevant stakeholders and the engagement process. Main stakeholders are several civil societies, NGOs, Buffer Zone User Committees, Indigenous People and local communities, Youth, the Private sector with Insurance companies, cooperatives, small/medium scale entrepreneurs and government agencies such as the central government with the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Protected Area Offices (PAO)., the provincial government with Provincial Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment and Division Forest Offices; as well as Local government ( municipalities).

*Gender integration.*

The WCD Nepal project will follow a gender-based and inclusive conservation approach to allow for effective participation fundamental for safeguarding vulnerable groups. It will adhere to WWF Gender Policy (aligned to the GEF Policy on Gender Equality) and will facilitate the conditions to enhance and ensure women and youth participation, engagement, and equal access to benefits in its design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. A safeguards process in accordance with WWF GEF agency’s Environment and Social Integrated Policies and Procedures will be carried out during the development and implementation of the project to identify and mitigate social-environmental risks.

In the last five years, 30% of HWC victims were female and 70% male which means that men will need to be a strong focus for the reduction of HWC given that they are at most as risk. The project will also identify and engage women in project livelihood activities including measures that reduce financial hardship. Youth groups in the buffer zones are one of the custodians of natural resources. Thus their role is crucial in management of HWC especially in conflict prevention strategies such as raising awareness on HWC, controlling unwanted crowds during conflict situations, and their involvement as citizen scientists in monitoring wildlife in their community forests.

1. Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program’s Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits;

The project will carry out landscape-based interventions aligning with the following WCD IP results areas: increased sized of key wildlife, strengthened polices and regulations, reduced HWC incidence and reduced risk of zoonotic spillover.

Potential to collaborate with other countries. With the TAL being a transboundary landscape, PAs in Nepal are well connected with PAs across the border in India, enhancing connectivity and biodiversity conservation at transboundary scales. HWC is also a serious issue across TAL in India. More than 424 people have lost their lives to wildlife attacks in India in the prior years. Thus, management of HWC always arises as a major issue for discussions during transboundary conservation meetings at the local, regional, and national level. The longstanding transboundary collaboration between Nepal and India has enabled managers and frontline park staff from both countries to collaborate in addressing issues related to wildlife management, illegal wildlife trade, climate change, HWC and information and knowledge exchange. This proposed GEF project in this landscape could provide further opportunity to collaborate with India regarding human tiger and human wildlife conflict in the transboundary Terai Arc. There could also be the potential to collaborate with other WCD IP countries in Asia, Africa and LAC that are addressing HWC, especially related to big cats.

Potential to achieve strong integrated results and co-benefits. The proposed project will focus on HTC management, community support, and habitat management in a suite of NPs that harbor tigers and have communities in and around the buffer zones. As such, this will provide multiple and integrated benefits for: biodiversity conservation (tigers, prey, habitat); land management and climate change mitigation through avoided forest degradation and loss; and co-benefits to local communities that are experiencing HTC, by bringing strategies to manage conflict and diversify livelihoods. Managing the HW interface in the populated TAL area will also help prevent zoonotic spillover.

Potential to test, apply, and/or scale innovations for wildlife management and human-wildlife conflict. The proposed project will develop, test, and apply a model for managing HTC that will be rolled out in the human tiger interface areas in TAL. Innovations may come in the form of policy (e.g., national level HWC guidelines) with preparation of NP specific and tiger specific conflict management plan that also synergies global issues such as climate change in local plans, technology (e.g. wildlife avoidance/crop and village protection technology) such use of mobile technology in raising awareness among the communities in buffer zones.

Potential to integrate and promote behavioral change and social change approaches. With specific interventions to be assessed in the project development phase, the proposed project will promote behavioral change approaches to reduce the incidents of HTC. The Behavior Change and Bio-circular Approach integrated into this proposed project will be innovative and contribute to achieving desired results and moving towards coexistence between tigers and people.

Based on 20 years of landscape conservation and anti-poaching measures - continued tiger recovery in Nepal means the prevalence and escalation of HTC. Thus, to deliver coexistence results, the project will work across four components:

Aligned to WCD IP component 1, the project aims to secure terrestrial wildlife populations such as tigers in TAL through promoting coexistence models at the landscape level and managing HWC within it. The project will provide synergies through co-creating safe spaces for both wildlife and humans through putting various preventive and mitigation measures in place.

Aligned to WCD IP component 3, the project also supports uplifting the socioeconomic conditions through livelihood improvement programs that create a positive attitude of communities towards ongoing conservation initiatives. The project further provides synergies with key elements of the supply chain through communities’ positive attitude towards effective poaching control measures. Habitat management in core and buffer zones will also benefit biodiversity and carbon conservation (all tiger bearing protected areas), transboundary sites (between protected areas in Nepal and India), and entire landscape level (TAL).

Project support in the target landscapes will bring transformational change as it covers the high impacted tiger bearing PAs in the country which are hotspots of HWC occurrence. 95% of the registered cases of HWC lie within the buffer zone areas (the hotspots) of tiger bearing PAs. These buffer zones are co-management by the respective buffer zone management councils under the leadership of national park authorities. Thus, the opportunity to work jointly in core areas and buffer zones will help in bring transformative change in HWC management through reducing human wildlife conflict.

Aligned to WCD IP component 4, component 4 of the child project will aim to contribute to global wildlife conservation for development through global cooperation and knowledge exchange.

1. Describe the project’s incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

The project builds upon a strong national commitment to address the increased HTC in the tiger bearing landscape in Nepal, TAL and its PAs. Incremental GEF funding will help develop global standards of park management, support behavior change of communities living in buffer zones of tiger reserves, apply integrated approaches of HWC management that incorporate prevention, mitigation, response, policy and other, and ensure that the benefits of conservation reach local communities through effective economic incentives and ecosystem services.

The proposed child project’s objective is to promote human wildlife (HW) coexistence in key tiger bearing protected areas in Nepal.

The project aims to achieve three major outcomes. Firstly, strategic action will focus on habitat management (grassland and wetlands) within the core areas of high impact PAs to avoid unusual movements and behavior of tigers and their prey into the forest fringe areas as result of food shortage within PAs. Secondly, management of HTC through integrated approaches that incorporate prevention, mitigation, response, policy, and others; and ensuring that benefits of conservation through effective economic incentives and ecosystem services reach local communities. Thirdly, the project will strengthen the enabling factor related with HTC management in Nepal. This outcome prioritizes drafting polices and action plans related to the management of HTC and science-based protocols for habitat management, and HTC research and monitoring. All project components will have an overarching focus on behavior change communications among the communities and stakeholders living and working in buffer zones of tiger bearing PAs.

Component 1. Strengthen enabling condition for HWC management. Strategies under this component include the development of HWC management policies and guidelines, developed based on the experiences of HTC management in component two. It will develop HWC management training modules, and undertake training of trainers, so that holistic HWC management measures can be integrated into the work of DNPWC across Nepal.

Component 2. HW coexistence approaches and livelihood support in tiger reserves. Strategies under component two will include holistic HTC approaches to identify and address existing drivers of conflict. Interventions will be designed under site-specific situations, social dynamics, and local sociocultural contexts. It will incorporate behavior change as an overarching theme while addressing the six elements of conflict management (understanding the conflict, mitigation, preventions, response, policy, and monitoring).

Strategic interventions may include:

* + Research/assessment,
  + Strengthening Rapid Response Team,
  + Empowering forest dependent communities to reduce their dependencies on forest,
  + Develop sustainable financing mechanisms such as market-based insurance schemes and endowment fund-based relief mechanism; and strengthening the engagement with different tiers of the government for leveraging funds.

Component 3. Habitat management at tiger reserve. Component three will promote science-based habitat management practices within existing tiger habitats (grassland, wetland). Tigers need three basic elements for survival: water, food/prey, and cover. The project will ensure availability of space for tigers where interactions with humans are less likely by adopting science-based management of existing grassland/wetland. A protocol that entails ecological, administrative and management factors will be developed for managing habitats. Consideration will be given to adopting nature-based solutions.

Component 4 aims at effective coordination of HWC management across PAs and their buffer zones. It will also directly strengthen regional cooperation between Nepal and India in key aspects of HWC management. As part of the project’s M&E approach, the project will generate knowledge in key areas of HWC management and contribute to building awareness and exchanging knowledge at the local, national, regional, and global levels through the implementation of its communications and knowledge strategy, and in coordination with the WCD IP.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Component** | **Baseline scenario** | **With project scenario** |
| Component 1. Strengthen enabling conditions for human wildlife conflict management. | ad hoc responses | Increase response with respect to relevant polices, regulation, strategy, protocol and guidelines relating to HTC |
| Component 2. Human wildlife coexistence approaches and livelihood support | increasing HTC | Reduction in HTC scenario in high impact protected areas and increase in tolerance of communities toward HTC. |
| Component 3. Habitat management | Limited ha of grassland and wetland habitat managed | Increase ha of grassland and wetland managed using agreed science-based protocol |
| Component 4. Coordination and Knowledge Exchange | Significant initiatives and cooperation in international fora exist to share knowledge on HWC; however, in the baseline there will remain a need for more strategic knowledge exchange and improved transboundary coordination and collaboration to progress HWC management and reach HW coexistence at a scale that can deliver transformational results. | GEF incremental funding will support the effective coordination of HWC management across PAs and their buffer zones. It will also directly strengthen regional cooperation between Nepal and India in key aspects of HWC management. As part of the project’s M&E approach, the project will generate knowledge in key areas of HWC management and contribute to building awareness and exchanging knowledge at the local, national, regional, and global levels through the implementation of its communications and knowledge strategy, and in coordination with the WCD IP. |

1. **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework** (maximum 500 words)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

Component 4 of the project will focus on Coordination and Knowledge Exchange with the global WCD IP.

GoN has prioritized addressing HWC, and the proposed project is an avenue to focus on HWC management, benefitting from shared lessons and technical assistance from the WCD IP global coordination project, and contributing lessons to the other WCD IP participating countries.

The project will contribute and align directly with CBD-CoP 15 declaration which emphasizes reducing HWC while focusing on area-based conservation which also includes PAs. The project’s localized approach in addressing problems and challenges to HTC management will collectively inform the HTC at the national level. Nepal will share the gained knowledge and experience through periodic synthesis reports to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Nepal is part of the Global Tiger Forum that regionally coordinates between its member countries towards a regional tiger conservation effort. The project objective is aligned with GTF’s objective thus providing an opportunity to foster knowledge sharing, learning and synthesis of experience among the tiger range countries.

IUCN SSC HWC Specialist Group is a global forum for sharing knowledge and experiences resulting from the project and will be actively engaged during its implementation.

The Project will scale up actions on HWC mitigation through collaboration and coordination from local to national level with maximum engagement of stakeholders at the local government, provincial government, and conservation partners such as WWF, ZSL, National Trust for Nature Conservation, local CBOs/CSOs including other relevant government agencies.

The World Bank and Asian Development Bank are actively engaged in developing countries infrastructure project including on transportation. The project will be engaged with these multilateral organizations to create synergies between their objective to reduce the impact of linear infrastructure in tiger habitats and the project’s objective to reduce HWC through coordination, capacity building, and experience sharing.

To capture all the above mentioned entry points for global cooperation, knowledge exchange and learning, the project will develop a knowledge management and learning strategy which will be coordinated and align with the development of the global WCD project. This work will include staff time and budget to connect the Global Coordination project, including joining webinars and learning events, sharing project knowledge products, joining the annual conference, and sharing communications approaches. The knowledge management strategy will build capacity and foster collaboration between key stakeholders in Nepal and scale-up project achievements through demonstration and learning. In addition, during the Project Development Phase, a comprehensive stakeholder analysis and stakeholder engagement plan will be designed, identifying project stakeholders and their role in project activities, and defining specific activities to ensure relevant stakeholders are engaged throughout the life of the project. Both the stakeholder engagement and the knowledge management and learning strategies will be closely coordinated, to ensure the right voices, specially representing local and traditional knowledge, are brought to the table during multi stakeholder dialogues and any other knowledge management and learning activities.

## Annex: Additional information requested for Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program

1. **Project location**

Please provide geo-referenced information and a map (if available) of where the project interventions will take place

Latitude (Northing): 26.74449 - 29.15033

Longitude (Easting): 80.06016 - 85.51267

Diagram, map

Description automatically generated

1. **Indicative Project Overview**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Objective:** | to promote human wildlife coexistence in key tiger bearing protected areas in Nepal. | | | | |
| **Project Components** | **Component**  **Type** | **Project Outcomes** | **Trust Fund** | **(in $)** | |
| **GEF Project Financing** | **Co-financing** |
| 1. Strengthen enabling conditions for HWC management. |  | HWC management policies and/or guidelines developed based on the experiences of HTC management  HWC management training modules developed  Holistic HWC management measures integrated into the work of government across Nepal | GEFTF | 610,901 | 1,300,414 |
| 2. Human wildlife coexistence approaches and livelihood support |  | site-specific HTC co-existence model developed.  Behavior change approach incorporated as an overarching theme while addressing the six elements of conflict management (understanding the conflict, mitigation, preventions, response, policy, and monitoring).  Empowered forest dependent communities, reducing their dependencies on the forest resources  Develop sustainable financing mechanism such as market-based insurance schemes and endowment fund-based relief mechanism | GEFTF | 1,629,069 | 3,467,771 |
| 3. Habitat management |  | Wildlife habitats well connected, effectively managed and restored  science-based habitat management (grassland, wetland) promoted.  A protocol that entails ecological, administrative and management factors developed, encouraging the nature-based solutions | GEFTF | 1,425,436 | 3,034,300 |
| 4. Coordination and Knowledge Exchange |  | Knowledge generation, exchange and learning enable replication and scale up of best practices  Technical capacity of national and sub-national institutions and partners is collaboratively developed |  | 407,267 | 866,943 |
| M&E |  |  | GEFTF | 214,351 | 456,286 |
| Subtotal | | |  | 4,287,025 | 9,125,714 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) (if this is an MTF project, please report separate PMC lines for each TF). | | |  | 214,351 | 456,286 |
| **Total Project Cost** | | |  | 4,501,376 | 9,582,000 |

1. **Alignment with WCD IP programmatic strategy**

*Briefly describe how this project’s proposed interventions will complement and contribute to WCD IP components. (Additional information about each WCD IP component, the Theory of Change for the program, and the overall approach for achieving transformational impact are provided separately)*

| **WCD IP Component** | **Expected project contributions** |
| --- | --- |
| Coexistence of People and Wildlife in Connected Habitats | The Child project’s main objective is to foster the coexistence between tiger and human interface at the landscape level and thus directly contributes toward this component. One of the results focuses on adopting coexistence approach in high impact protected areas from standpoint of human tiger interface. |
| Illegal, Unsustainable and High Zoonotic Risk Wildlife Use and Trade | Not applicable to this child project. |
| Wildlife for Prosperity | This child project also focuses on providing relevant livelihood of the vulnerable forest dependent communities targeting both men and women. Few strategic contributions could be interventions like ecotourism and establishment of green enterprise. |
| Coordination and Knowledge Exchange for Transformational Impact | Child project focuses on generating wealth of knowledge based on best practices, process documentation and implementation modality related with human wildlife coexistence in the high impact protected areas. Coexistence is both ends and means that requires and demand in house and cross coordination between range of stakeholders for managing the conflict in the interface. Child Project coordination and collaboration and exchange and sharing of knowledge collectively contributes to this WCD IP as well. |

1. **Environmental and Social Safeguards**

Has the GEF Agency carried out an Environmental and Social Safeguards screen to review the potential impacts and risks related to this project? Yes

**If yes**, which overall Environmental and Social Safeguards risk category was assigned to this project:

WWF GEF Agency conducted a preliminary Environmental and Social Safeguards screen and determined that the risk rating for this project is likely medium (Category B) as there are landscape-level interventions which will likely trigger safeguards standards. These standards include Indigenous Peoples, Community Health and Security, and Cultural Resources. It is important to note that although addressing human wildlife conflict is the driving force behind the development of this project, the standard on Community Health and Security has been triggered because this is a risk that exists in the landscape due to increasing tiger populations. A more in-depth safeguards screening will be conducted during the ProDoc phase, and an Environmental and Social Management Framework including a IPPF will be prepared for this project to assess and mitigate the environmental and social risks and impacts.

**If no,** please estimate, based on the best available information at this stage, which Environmental and Social Safeguards risk category should be applied to this project:

1. The figures will be adjusted during the PPG phase. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)