

Bhutan For Life

**Environmental and Social
Management Plan for Jigme
Singye Wangchuck National Park**

January 2023 - June 2024

Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park / Tshangkha

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1 Project Background	2
1.2 Scope of ESMP	2
1.3 Purpose of ESMP	2
1.4. Applicable law, policies, and regulation	3
2. Environmental and Socio-Economic Conditions.....	4
2.1 Geological and topographical conditions	4
2.2 Climatic conditions.....	5
2.3 Hydrological conditions	5
2.4. Flora and fauna	5
2.5 Socio-economic conditions	6
3. Planned activities for January 2023 - June 2024	7
3.1 Improvement of Alpine Meadows.....	7
3.2 Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji Park Range Office	7
3.3 Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde.....	7
3.4 Construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed	7
4. Potential social and environmental impacts	8
4.1. Improvement of Alpine Meadows.....	8
4.2. Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji Park Range Office	8
4.3 Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde.....	8
4.4 Construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed	8
5. Mitigation Measures for Environmental and Social Impacts	8
6. ESMP Implementation arrangements	14
7. ESMP monitoring arrangements.....	14
8. Capacity Need and Budget	15
9. Consultation and Disclosure Mechanisms	16
10. Stakeholder engagement plan.....	16

Bhutan for Life
Environmental and Social Management Plan for Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park
(JSWNP) for 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 climate-informed 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 Geological and topographical conditions

Centrally located and encompassing a wide altitudinal variation & vegetation, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (JSWNP) is the third largest Protected Area in the Country. The park borders Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) in the south and it is connected to Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP) and Wangchuck Centennial National Park (WCNP) to the north and Phrumsengla National Park (PNP) to the north east by biological corridors, thus forming a contiguous belt between tropical south and alpine north as shown in Figure 1. Administratively, JSWNP covers 5 districts partially.

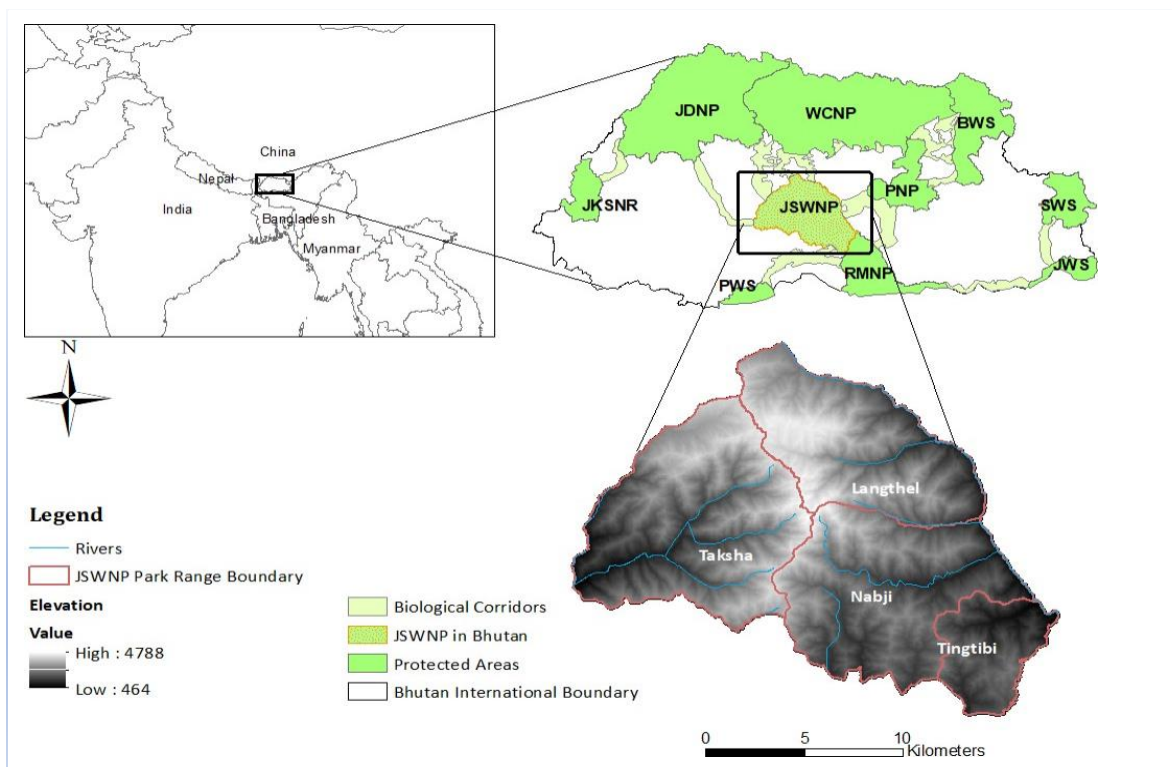


Figure 1: Location of JSWNP

The 1730 sq.km national park was gazetted in 1995 with objective of securing ecological connectivity and managing & conserving the natural & cultural heritages of Central Bhutan. JSWNP best represents the middle Himalayan ecosystem & contains several ecological biomes ranging from sub-tropical to alpine meadow. The biologically diverse park has recorded the presence of 39 mammals, 270 birds, 139 species of butterflies, 16 fishes, and we are yet to establish the baseline for herpeto fauna, fungal diversity and diversity of orchids and herbal plants.

Amongst the mammals, the species includes some of the Asia's most charismatic species including the Royal Bengal tiger, golden langur, musk deer, clouded leopard, golden cat, marbled cat, red panda, gaur etc. Birds of conservation significance include Rufous-necked Hornbill, Satyr tragopan and Himalayan Monal. JSWNP also harbors 50% of the population of 'Critically Endangered' White-bellied Heron.

2.2 Climatic conditions

SWS can be categorized into three climatic zones; subtropical, temperate, and alpine meadows. Altitude ranges from 1600-4500 m with sub-tropical climate in the low-lying valleys to alpine meadows in the higher mountains. The majority of the SWS fall under temperate zone. The temperate climatic condition is characterized by cold winters and warm summers with occasional heavy rainfall. Area receives highest rainfall during the month of June, July and August with sporadic rainfall throughout late April to early October, especially during late afternoon. Snowfall occurs from mid-October till early April.

2.3 Hydrological conditions

SWS can be divided into five sub-watersheds of Eastern Bhutan. Amongst which Gam-ree The eastern boundary of the park, from Trongsa to Tingtibi is defined by Mangde Chhu river, whereas Punatshang Chhu touches the mid-western part of the park in Taksha. Nika Chhu river drains the Chendebji valley in the northern part of the park by joining the Mangde Chhu river. Numerous other streams and rivulets originate from the snow-fed alpine lakes in Black

Mountain area, and melting snow and monsoon rain contribute to the water volume. This network of small perennial and annual tributaries flow down the steep slopes, often as waterfalls, and along valleys to become tributaries of the larger rivers. The distinct rainy and dry seasons results in wide seasonal variations in the river flows, with large volumes of sediment-laden water flowing during the monsoon and low volume during the dry, winter season.

The local communities also rely on the water from these rivers for domestic and for irrigation, and contributing to the water withdrawal from the rivers.

There are several major hydropower plants being constructed along rivers of Punatshang Chhu (Kamechu-Taksha), Mangde Chhu (Langthel), and the Nika Chhu, which fall on the border of the national park.

2.4. Flora and fauna

Recent surveys recorded 876 species of plants inside the 77 vegetation plots and they are 154 evergreen trees, 9 conifer trees, 69 deciduous trees, 99 evergreen shrubs, 93 deciduous shrubs, 19 evergreen palms, 123 woody and non-woody climbers, 25 grasses and bamboos, 173 perennial herbs, 95 annual herbs and 92 epiphyte and terrestrial orchids inside the park.



Owing to the great altitudinal variation and diverse habitat types, JSWNP holds a wide array of wild faunal diversity. This varied ecosystem supports an astonishing 55 species of mammals, over 323 species of birds, over 376 species of butterflies, 16 species of fishes and over 42 species of herpeto-fauna. The Park harbors globally threatened species of wildlife, such as the Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Musk Deer (*Moschus* sp), Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), Golden Langur (*Trachypithecus geei*), Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*), Asiatic Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), the critically endangered White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignis*), Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), and Rufous-necked Hornbill (*Aceros nipalensis*)



2.5 Socio-economic conditions

There is a diversity of communities residing inside the national park, including some of Bhutan's first settlers; the Oleps community in Rukha village in Athang geog and the Monpa communities in Jangbi, Wangling, and Phumzur villages in Langthel geog, and the Reti community under Jigmechoeling geog, Sarpang Dzongkhag. The latter village has only 7 Monpa households, but are an important part of Monpa community. In total, there are more than 4000 people residing in the national park with 561 households spread over 5 gewogs partially in five districts as shown in the table below:

Geog	Dzongkhag	Total Households	Population
Athang	Wangdi Phodrang	121	1152
Korphu	Trongsa	207	1522
Langthel	Trongsa	74	711
Tangsibji	Trongsa	76	777
Trong	Zhemgang	83	817
Total		561	4979

The three villages of Korphu, Nabji, and Nimshong from Korphu geog have the highest number of households, whereas the villages in Athang geog are smaller and scattered. Overall, Korphu, Trong, and Tangsibji geogs have a smaller number but larger sized villages, whereas Langthel and Athang geogs have several scattered villages.

The major sources of livelihoods for the communities in the national park are agriculture and livestock rearing, with some depend on the natural resources in the national park for their livelihoods through sale of non-wood forest products. Some households also engage in labour-based wage earning. These are mostly in villages closer to towns and infrastructure projects sites,

where jobs are available. Casual labour is highest in Langthel, Korphu, and Athang geogs, whereas trade- based cash income is highest in Trong geog.

3. Planned activities for January 2023 - June 2024

3.1 Improvement of Alpine Meadows

Budget: Nu. 350,000

Timeline: April- June, 2023

Place: Jari busa, Phobji Gewog, Wangdue

The proposed activity involves debranching of Juniper species that have encroached into the alpine grasslands of Jari Busa and Mani Teng area of Phobji Gewog mainly for opening up of the area for grazing and clearing the path for wild ungulates that dwell in the alpine regions of the Black Mountain range. It will not include clear-felling of the area as it might disturb the soil structure and stability. These regions within Black Mountain landscape do not have any settlements but it is used for yak and sheep herding by traditional users which are dwindling in number due to shrinking of grasslands as a result of Juniper and Rhododendron encroachment. The activity will be carried out in strict compliance to the Habitat Management Guideline of Bhutan, 2021.

3.2 Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji Park Range Office

Budget: Nu. 500,000

Timeline: October- December, 2023

Place: Nabji, Korphu Gewog, Trongsa

The activity involves the maintenance of the Water supply in the Nabji Park Range Office. There is acute shortage of water since no maintenance works have been carried out till date. Due to leakages in the old pipes and small reservoir tank in the source, water shortage is a prominent issue. Therefore, this activity includes construction of one intake tank at the source and replace about 600 mtrs of HDPE pipe (32mm dia) which conducts water from the source to the Office quarters.

3.3 Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde

Budget: Nu. 300,000/-

Timeline: July 2023 - June 2024

Place: Korphu Damde, Korphu Gewog

The activity is proposed in Korphu Damde. The farm road leading up to Korphu Village is constantly blocked due to landslides during the summer season due to heavy rainfall. The soil in the area is loose and unstable. Therefore, plantation of native, deep rooted plant species such as bamboo is to be carried out in the area as a mitigation measure.

3.4 Construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed

Budget: Nu. 300,000/-

Timeline: July - December 2023

Place: Tongtong Maed, Trong Gewog, Zhemgang

The people of Trong Gewog in Tongtongmey village are impacted by the swelling up of the Berti Chhu river which overflows and enters the agriculture field situated on the river banks leading to crop damage. In order to mitigate this, the affected farmers suggested the construction of a 25m

long gabion wall on the river bank which has been proposed as one of the activities.

4. Potential social and environmental impacts

4.1. Improvement of Alpine Meadows

Following are some the possible common environmental and social impacts foreseen during the implementation of the proposed activities:

i. Environment Impacts:

- Debris generated during the debranching and pruning of Juniper and Rhododendron

ii. Social Impacts:

- Occupational health and safety of the workers during debranching of the junipers while using power chainsaws

4.2. Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji Park Range Office

Following are some the possible common environmental and social impacts foreseen during the implementation of the proposed activities:

i. Environment Impacts:

- Construction waste generated
- Dust generated during cement handling

ii. Social Impacts

- Worker's health and safety

4.3 Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde

Following are some the possible common environmental and social impacts foreseen during the implementation of the proposed activities:

i. Environment Impacts:

- Generation of wastes
- Risk of introducing invasive species

ii. Social Impacts

- None anticipated

4.4 Construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed

Following are some the possible common environmental and social impacts foreseen during the implementation of the proposed activities:

i. Environment Impacts:

- Generation of construction wastes

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 scale	Proposed mitigations measures	Responsibility party	Cost
Activity 1: Improvement of Alpine Meadows				Nu. 350,000
1. Debris generated during the debranching and pruning of Juniper and Rhododendron	Short term Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proper sanitation of the working area through appropriate disposal of the debris generated from the pruning activity; • Dumping waste shall be prohibited on fragile slopes, forests, and other sensitive areas; and • Collection, transportation and final disposal of all waste will be undertaken regularly. 	BFL focal [JSWNP]/Activity team leader	Cost will be met from the activity budget
2. Occupational health and safety of the workers during debranching of the junipers while using power chainsaws	Short term Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the workers' health and safety guidelines as attached to the ESMP; • Ensure that the activity is carried out by trained forestry personnel; and • Ensure safety gears and first aid kits for the workers 	BFL focal person in JSWNP Activity team leader	Cost will be met from the activity budget
Activity 2: Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji Park Range Office				Nu. 500,000
1. Construction waste generated	Short term Minor	<p>Pre-construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requirements for appropriate waste management should be included in the bidding documents, as a precondition for the contractor's selection <p>During construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the different waste types at the project site (soil, concrete, food, etc.); • Proper containers/waste bins should be provided at the project site; • Dumping of waste on the sides of the road, on 	BFL focal person in JSWNP Nabji Park Ranger Contractor	To be included in the bidding document

		<p>private land, or in other non-designated places should be prohibited;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>After construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste shall be removed from the project site. 		
2. Dust generated during cement handling	Short term Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the cement bags remain covered. • Maintain minimum dispersal of the dust particles while working. 	BFL focal person in JSWNP Nabji Park Ranger Contractor	To be included in the bidding document
3. Health and safety of Workers	Short term Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the workers' health and safety guidelines as attached to the ESMP; • Ensure that no underage workers, or children are engaged; • Decent work conditions, including an appropriate salary, working hours, accommodation and food for workers shall be 	BFL focal person in JSWNP Nabji Park Ranger Contractor	To be included in the bidding document

		<p>provided to all workers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, access to training, job assignment, promotion, termination of employment or retirement, and disciplinary practices; and A grievance mechanism for workers (and their organizations, where they exist) to raise workplace concerns should be in place. 		
Activity 3: Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde				Nu. 300,000
1. Generation of Wastes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper containers/waste bins should be provided sites; Dumping of waste in the activity site should be prohibited; Dumping waste shall be prohibited on fragile slopes, forests, religious or other culturally sensitive areas or areas where livelihood is derived; and Burning of waste in the activity site is prohibited 	<p>BFL focal person in JSWNP</p> <p>Nabji Park Ranger</p>	To be included in the activity budget

2. Risk of Introducing invasive species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary assessment of species composition of the area shall be carried out before the activity; • Only the native species with deep root system shall be used to improve the soil stability in the landslide prone area; and • Regular assessment of the site shall be carried out after the activity implementation to monitor growth of any undesirable species that are invasive in nature. 	<p>BFL focal person in JSWNP</p> <p>Nabji Park Ranger</p>	To be included in the activity budget
Activity 4: Construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed				Nu. 300,000
1. Generation of Construction wastes	Short term Minor	<p>Pre-construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for appropriate waste management should be included in the bidding documents, as a precondition for the contractor's selection; <p>During construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the different waste types at the project site (soil, concrete, food, etc.); • 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 	<p>Contractor</p> <p>BFL focal person in JSWNP</p> <p>Tingtibi Park Ranger</p>	To be included in the activity budget

		<p>and final disposal of all waste should be undertaken regularly;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All construction materials should be covered during the transportation to avoid waste dispersion; • The options for reuse/recycling of the generated waste should be taken into consideration (e.g., excavated soil, etc.); and • Burning of construction waste should be prohibited. <p>After construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste shall be removed from the project site. 		
2. Worker's health and safety	Short term Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the workers' health and safety guidelines as attached to the ESMP; • Ensure that no underage workers, or children are engaged; • Decent work conditions, including an appropriate salary, working hours, accommodation and food for workers shall be provided to all workers; • 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, access to training, job assignment, promotion, termination of employment or retirement, and disciplinary practices; 	Contractor BFL focal person in JSWNP Tingtibi Park Ranger	To be included in the activity budget

		<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grievance mechanism for workers (and their organizations, where they exist) to raise workplace concerns should be in place. 		
--	--	--	--	--

6. ESMP Implementation arrangements

The implementation of project activities will be carried out by the BFL focal person in JSWNP in coordination with the respective Range In-charge. The focal person will be responsible for 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) (including community contractors) for implementation of the planned activities in JSWNP in 2023-24. 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 start the project activities and prior any specific tasks with high health risks.

The JSWNP’s 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-compliances should be reported to the ESS consultants immediately, and the ESS consultants 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 JSWNP 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.

JSWNP’s PA is also fully responsible for the compliance of all external contractors and service providers working in the JSWNP with the safeguard’s requirements outlined in the ESMP. The monitoring of activities under this ESMP will be carried out in the following manner:

Sl.No	Activities	Monitoring team	Timeline		Location	Means of Verification
			Start	Complete		
1		Field focal	April 2023	May 2023		Site visit & Report

	Improvement of Alpine meadows	ESS Focal	July 2023	July 2023	Phobjikha	Report
		BFLFS	July 2023	July 2023		Report
2	Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji PRO	Field focal	October 2023	November 2023	Nabji	Site visit & Report
		ESS Focal	January 2024	January 2024		Report
		BFLFS	January 2024	January 2024		Report
3	Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde	Field focal	April 2024	May 2024	Korphu Damde	Site visit & Report
		ESS Focal	May 2024	May 2024		Site visit & Report
		BFLFS	July 2024	July 2024		Report
4	Construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed	Field focal	September 2023	October 2023	Tongtong Maed	Site visit & Report
		ESS Focal	October 2023	October 2023		Site visit & Report
		BFLFS	January 2024	January 2024		Report

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, 2023, January 2024 and 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/staff, and a contractor that will employ workers as mentioned in the contract agreement. The budget for each of the activities is as follows:

SI No.	Activity	Activity Budget (Nu.)	Cost of ESS Mitigation
1	Improvement of Alpine meadows	350,000	To be met from activity budget
2	Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji PRO	500,000	To be met from activity budget
3	Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde	300,000	To be met from activity budget
4	Construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed	300,000	To be met from activity budget
Total		1,450,000	

9. Consultation and Disclosure Mechanisms

This ESMP has been prepared in a participatory manner, and a community consultation will be carried out before implementing the activity to consult the local communities regarding the planned project activities, solicit their opinions, and enable them to question proposed mitigation measures.

For the improvement of alpine meadow, the consultation has already been carried out with 5 yak herding families who use the alpine grasslands in Yakchu and the same people also use the activity are being migratory herders. The meetings have discussed the objectives of the Juniper de-branching interventions, and its benefits for them and the wildlife. BFL's ESS, and GRM mechanisms were also communicated.

For the maintenance of water supply at Nabji Park Range Office, consultation meeting will be conducted before implementation of the activity with the Korphu Gewog Centre since the Park Range Office share the compound with the Gewog Centre. The consultation will also include the nearby residents who will be indirectly affected by the maintenance work.

For plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde, consultation meeting will be conducted with the Gewog Administration with the Tshogpas before the implementation to inform the local stakeholders of the activities and solicit additional ideas and traditional knowledge for the implementation of the activity.

For construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed, consultation meeting will be conducted with the local stakeholders and farmers to discuss and solicit their opinions before the implementation of the activity for it to have maximum impact and benefit to the community.

The full English version of this ESMP, as well as an executive summary in Bhutanese, shall be disclosed on the website of MoENR and WWF, Bhutan Program. Hard copies of the ESMP should also be available at the PA Management Office and at the PCU Office. The copies of ESMP will be shared with relevant local elected leaders for compliance.

10. Stakeholder engagement plan

The stakeholders involved in the activity will be engaged during the process of implementation of the activity in following manner:

- For the alpine grassland improvement activity, the local yak herding communities will be engaged during the activity implementation as helpers, mainly to dispose the branches;
- For the Maintenance of Water supply at Nabji Park Range office, consultation meeting will be conducted before its implementation (October, 2023) with the Korphu Gewog Centre solicit inputs and support for the activity;
- Plantation of bamboo at landslide prone area in Korphu Damde; the Gewog administration shall be consulted before its implementation; and
- For construction of river bank protection wall at Tongtong Maed, the activity will be carried out in collaboration with the Trong Gewog Administration and in consultation with the local farmers.

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 shall 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. Legionella pneumophila) 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 of 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 in 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. Personal safety equipment for workers

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 be 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