



GEF-7 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's Protected Areas and Critical Corridors			
Country(ies):	Nepal	GEF Project ID:	9437
GEF Agency(ies):	WWF-US	GEF Agency Project ID:	G0012
Project Executing Entity(s):	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Submission Date:	11/22/2018
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Expected Implementation Start	02/25/19
		Expected Completion Date	02/25/24
Name of Parent Program	NA	Parent Program ID:	NA

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
BD4 Program 9	Outcome 9.1 Increased area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management.	GEFTF	2,232,416	14,231,576
LD2 Program 3	Outcome 2.2: Improved forest management and/or restoration	GEFTF	1,382,416	8,812,856
LD3 Program 4	Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities based on gender sensitive needs.	GEFTF	850,000	5,418,722
SFM2 Program 5	Outcome 3: Increased application of good management practices in all forests by relevant government, local community (both women and men) and private sector actors.	GEFTF	2,232,416	14,231,576
Total project costs			6,697,248	42,694,730

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To promote integrated landscape management to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife						
Project Components/ Programs	Component Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: National capacity and enabling environment for cross-sectoral coordination to promote forest and landscape conservation	TA	Outcome 1.1: Improved inter-sectoral coordination from Federal, State to Local level for sustainable forest management and integrated landscape management Outcome 1.2: Capacity increased for multi-stakeholder and cross-sector landscape and forest planning and	Output 1.1.1: Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms established to support integrated landscape management for conservation outcomes at different levels Output 1.2.1: Conservation Leadership Training provided Output 1.2.2: Training courses provided on key subjects for integrated landscape management for responsible	GEFTF	1,014,710 BD4-9: 800,000 SFM2-5: 794,582	10,165,413

		management	federal and state government staff Output 1.2.3 Small grants for innovation in ILM in TAL corridors and PA buffer zones.			
Component 2: Integrated Planning for Protected Area Buffer Zones and Critical Corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape	TA	Outcome 2.1: Improved corridor planning for TAL corridors (Brahmadev, Karnali and Kamdi) Outcome 2.2: Improved participatory planning for sustainable management in Banke-Bardia Complex	Output 2.1.1: Biodiversity surveys, socio-economic surveys, and local stakeholder consultation for Brahmadev, Karnali, and Kamdi corridors to determine feasibility of appropriate models for community-based natural resource management Output 2.2.1: Land uses, biodiversity values, forest carbon, and key threats assessed, mapped, reported and disseminated to identify priority villages in Banke-Bardia complex Output 2.2.2: Forest Operational Plans and State Sector Strategies developed or revised for priority forest areas, incorporating the assessment from 2.2.1	GEFTF	505,620 BD4-9: 156,750 LD2-3: 300,000 SFM2-5: 500,000	6,099,249
Component 3: Forest and wildlife management for improved conservation of targeted protected area buffer zones and corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape	TA/INV	Outcome 3.1: Sustainable forest management practices that strengthen livelihoods and biodiversity conservation Outcome 3.2: Improved management of human-wildlife conflict Outcome 3.3 Enhanced	Output 3.1.1 Training and tools for local government on SFM Output 3.1.2 Technical support to CFUGs, BZCFUGs and land holders for forest management Output 3.1.3 Sub-grants for community SFM Output 3.2.1: Pilot methods to reduce infrastructure-related wildlife accidents Output 3.2.2: Guidelines, training and facilities for human-wildlife conflict response Output 3.2.3 Community based HWC prevention and management Output 3.3.1 Community-based	GEFTF	3,668,521 BD4-9: 499,999 LD2-3: 1,082,416 LD3-4: 850,000 SFM2-5: 437,834	18,297,738

		capacities of government and community in curbing wildlife crime	Anti-poaching Units functional in priority areas Output 3.3.2 Training and operation support to national park staff, rangers and WCCBs on wildlife crime management			
Component 4: Knowledge management and M&E	TA	Outcome 4.1: Improved coordination and dialogue on integrated landscape management from the local to national level Outcome 4.2: Project monitoring system operates, systematically provides information on progress, and informs adaptive management to ensure results Outcome 4.3: Project lessons shared	Output 4.1.1: Annual forums to share information on ILM among key stakeholders Output 4.1.2: Mass awareness on biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management Output 4.2.1: Participatory planning and M&E system Output 4.3.1: Project lessons captured and disseminated to project stakeholders and to other projects and partners	GEFTF	1,189,976 BD4-9: 456,750 SFM2-5: 500,000	6,099,248
Subtotal					6,378,827	40,661,648
Project Management Cost (PMC)				GEFTF	318,421 BD4-9: 318,421	2,033,082
Total project costs					6,697,248	42,694,730

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Ministry of Forests and Environment	In-kind		36,961,653
GEF Agency	WWF-US	In-kind		783,077
CSO	WWF Nepal	In-kind		4,950,000
Total Co-financing				42,694,730

TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=a+b
WWF-US	GEFTF	Nepal	Biodiversity	n/a	2,232,416	200,917	2,433,333
WWF-US	GEFTF	Nepal	Land Degradation	n/a	2,232,416	200,917	2,433,333
WWF-US	GEFTF	Nepal	Multi-focal	SFM	2,232,416	200,918	2,433,334

		area				
Total GEF Resources				6,697,248	602,752	7,300,000

D. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

E. PROJECT’S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEF 7 CORE INDICATORS

Project Core Indicators		Expected at CEO Endorsement
3	Area of land restored (Hectares)	4,050
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)	229,500
	Total area under improved management (Hectares)	233,550
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)	1,270,919
11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	14,936 Women 15,024 Men

The Results Framework (Appendix A of this document, section 7 of ProDoc) provides additional information on the core indicators, including methodologies used.

PROJECT TAXONOMY

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	demonstrate innovative approaches		
Stakeholders	Indigenous peoples		
	Private sector	Individuals/entrepreneurs	
	Beneficiaries		
	Local communities		
	Civil society	Community based organizations	
		Non governmental organizations	
		Academia	
	Type of Engagement	Information dissemination	
		Partnerships	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	Communications	Awareness raising	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development		
	Knowledge generation and exchange		
	Learning	Theory of change	
		Adaptive management	
		Indicators to measure change	
	Innovation		
	Knowledge and learning	Knowledge management	
		Innovation	
		Capacity development	
		Learning	
	Stakeholder engagement plan		
Gender Equality			
	Gender Mainstreaming	Beneficiaries	
		Women Groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender Results Areas	Access and control over natural resources	

		Participation and leadership	
		Access to benefits and services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising	
		Knowledge generation	
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity		
		Protected Areas and Landscapes	Terrestrial protected areas
			Productive landscapes
			Community-based NRM
		Species	Illegal wildlife trade
			Threatened species
		Biomes	Wetlands
			Rivers
			Tropical rainforests
			Grasslands
	Land Degradation	Sustainable land management	Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands
			Ecosystem approach
			Integrated and cross-sectoral approach
			Community-based NRM
			Sustainable forest management
Rio Markers			

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;

There have been no significant shifts in the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers to be addressed by the project since PIF approval. Trends of local population growth and in-migration have continued, exerting additional pressure on the forests and other habitats of the TAL in certain localities. Economic development has been quite rapid in terms of new road networks and irrigation schemes, and this is set to continue and perhaps intensify under the new restructured government after a settling in period. Significant additional information was obtained on the distribution and intensity of threats to biodiversity across all TAL corridors and PA buffer zones, presented in Project Document section 1.2. This clarified that certain threats (eg forest fires, uncontrolled grazing and human wildlife conflict) are pervasive across the landscape, and that certain corridors (eg Karnali and Kamdi) are subject to more than one critical threat (see Tables 1-1 to 1-4 in the project document). Similarly, the key barriers remain largely unchanged although there is a new backdrop of unclear roles, responsibilities and relationships of different layers of governments under the new administrative restructuring including changes in the structure of ministries and other agencies that intensifies the need for strengthening capacity for intersectoral coordination and technical capacity for leading integrated landscape management at various levels of government. The detailed barriers have been elaborated in Project Document section 1.3.

2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

Nepal is emerging from a long period of political instability, during which frequent changes of national government had detrimental effects across all sectors. However, with a new Constitution approved in September 2015, the organs of a new government structure being put in place (Federal, seven State and 753 Local government bodies), local elections held in 2017, and all levels of government including Local, State and Federal governments and administrations starting work, there is a new opportunity for reconstruction and development that gives emphasis to more local and regional authority over natural resource management and conservation. This represents the most significant change in the baseline scenario, and consequently, this project comes at a very dynamic time, with significant political, economic and social changes still underway in Nepal. This situation presents challenges for both project design and implementation in terms of the ongoing institutional restructuring to introduce three levels of government, but also opportunities to participate in the establishment of new mechanisms for a more integrated, inclusive and bottom-up approach towards natural resource governance. The key stakeholders to be engaged under the new government structure are summarized in project document section 1.1, and the overall policy, legal and institutional situation is elaborated in section 1.6 and Appendix 13.

The baseline scenario also includes a more comprehensive description of the major projects being implemented in the TAL (including the TAL programme, Hariyo Ban and Forest Investment Plan) as well as the diversity of NGO supported conservation initiatives. In general, the baseline remains very strong and there is good scope for coordination and synergy with ongoing and planned initiatives. See prodoc section 1.4 for the baseline analysis; Table 1-6 for a summary of baseline investments; and Section 1.5 for coordination with related initiatives including Tables 1-7, 1-8 and 1-9 in the Project Document.

3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The proposed GEF Alternative is highly consistent with the PIF, with no change in the GEF focal area strategies being addressed, for which targets have been confirmed (through the related GEF Core Indicators) – see Part I E above. Indicator targets have been established for all expected Outcomes, as presented in Annex A of this document.

It should be noted that the project, whilst not being officially part of the GWP, will also contribute to the GEF Global Wildlife Program¹ objectives by enhancing the conservation of important tiger, rhino and elephant populations in the TAL (as well as other threatened species targeted by the GWP such as leopard, pangolins and turtle species).

The scope of the GEF Alternative remains the same – in building capacity for coordination and implementing integrated landscape management across Nepal’s Terai Arc Landscape. The project target area for Components 2 and 3 has been confirmed as the Bardia – Banke National Park Complex, focusing on the buffer zones for these PAs and Kamdi and Karnali Corridors. Khata Corridor was not included as it has received intensive attention recently through the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation and WWF TAL Programme. The full rationale for selection of the target area is given in Appendix 4 of the Project Document.

One change to Component 2 is that it will no longer target Protected Forest status for Brahmadev, Karnali and Kamdi Corridors in view of feedback from national and local stakeholders during the PPG, which indicated a preference for improving community based governance of these corridors based around a strategic framework. The expected approval of new protected area legislation in 2019 will make available additional options for community based governance of conservation areas that can be taken into consideration. A second change to Component 2 is that the project will no longer revise/develop seven corridor plans – this output has been removed. These corridor plans were completed in the period since PIF approval, and are effective until 2026.

¹ GEF Program: Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development (GWP) (9071), under the GEF Programmatic Approach to Prevent the Extinction of Known Threatened Species

Over the five year project period, the project objective will be achieved through the implementation of four interconnected components. The expected Outcomes and Components of the Project are given in Table B above, and detailed in Section 2.2 of the Project Document. They are summarized as follows:

Component 1: National capacity and enabling environment for cross-sectoral coordination to promote forest and landscape conservation

Outcome 1.1: Improved inter-sectoral coordination from Federal, State to Local level for sustainable forest management and integrated landscape management. The project aims to support strengthened inter-sectoral coordination for integrated landscape management in order to achieve sustainable development and conservation outcomes at different levels of governance in view of the recent restructuring of the government institutional framework. The project aims to strengthen coordination mechanisms through legal/administrative recognition of the coordination bodies (where necessary); ToR review and improvement; membership to include relevant stakeholders (including CSOs, LCs and IP representatives); rules and procedures reviewed to be fit for function; and facilitation of planning and organization of meetings; observation visits to related stakeholder meetings in TAL. The activities in this outcome will connect with the stakeholder coordination forums and knowledge management in Outcomes 4.1 and 4.3, and build capacity for coordination at state and local government levels that will support the implementation of corridor assessments and plans in Component 2 and field activities in Component 3.

Outcome 1.2: Capacity increased for multi-stakeholder and cross-sector landscape and forest planning and management. This outcome aims to strengthen the vision and understanding of integrated landscape management among the key stakeholders in the TAL, building the constituency for effective implementation and updating of the TAL Strategy 2015-2025.

Component 2. Integrated Planning for Protected Area Buffer Zones and Critical Corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape

Outcome 2.1: Improved corridor planning for TAL corridors (Brahmadev, Karnali and Kamdi). The project will support biodiversity and socio-economic surveys and stakeholder consultations for Brahmadev, Karnali and Kamdi corridors (see Annex E1, and Corridor Profiles in Project Document Appendix 1) to analyze the feasibility for proposals for improved governance. These assessments would also be used to inform Key Biodiversity Area assessments for the three corridors (see also Outcome 2.2). Based on the outcome of the feasibility study, if there is sufficient biodiversity value and community support, the area will be proposed for an appropriate community-based natural resource management modality in order to achieve improved governance and sustainable management of forest resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services under the State government. The activities in this outcome for the three corridors will directly support management planning support in Outcome 2.2 and forest and wildlife management interventions in Component 3.

Outcome 2.2: Improved participatory planning for sustainable management of Banke-Bardia complex. During project preparation, two PA buffer zones and two corridors were selected as target areas for project interventions in Components 2 and 3, namely Bardia and Banke NP buffer zones, and Kamdi and Karnali corridors (see Annex E2). The rationale for the selection of the target areas is given in Project Document Appendix 4, notably a focus on the Bardia-Banke protected area complex as a key area for biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and resilient community livelihoods.

A range of assessments will be conducted to determine and map conservation and socio-economic priorities for the two PA buffer zones and corridors of the Bardia -Banke complex, which will also be used (see Outcome 2.1) to inform Key Biodiversity Area assessments for Banke NP, Kamdi and Karnali Corridors. Based on these assessments,

participatory processes will be conducted to develop Forest Management Operational Plans for priority community forest areas, and to develop or revise Forest Operational Plans and/or sustainable forest management plans for three critical corridors– Brahmadev, Kamdi and Karnali (see Annex E1, Corridor Profiles in Project Document Appendix 1). These would be based on a common roadmap/guidelines that reflects the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management principles for government and community management forest areas.

Priority will be given to low input areas such as the northern buffer zones of Bardia and Banke NPs, where communities are more marginalized, inaccessible and facing environmental issues. While government co-financing is anticipated to cover the development or revision of its plans, the GEF project will provide the TA needed to strengthen the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into these plans (e.g. retention of forest habitat strips along the boundaries of community forests, etc). The activities under this component will directly contribute towards the forest and wildlife management, and community livelihoods support for the target areas under Component 3.

Component 3. Forest and wildlife management for improved conservation of targeted protected area buffer zones and corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape

Outcome 3.1: Sustainable forest management practices that strengthen livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

The project will build capacity and provide resources for sustainable forest and associated habitat management approach for villages, CFUGs and local government support staff in priority forest areas in the targeted buffer zones and corridors that incorporates biodiversity conservation and includes rehabilitation of degraded habitats and productive lands. This outcome will support capacity development and on-ground implementation of community forest and corridor management plans developed in Component 2, focusing on the priority intervention sites identified in Outcome 2.2.

Outcome 3.2: Improved management of human-wildlife conflict. The project will provide support for implementation of strategic, community-based approaches to human wildlife conflict mitigation, to reduce impacts on local communities as well as incidents of wildlife killings as retaliation to human wildlife conflict. It will also build capacity of Community Based Anti-Poaching Units and Protection Forest Councils for patrolling and reporting on illegal activities. This outcome will connect with the project's efforts to strengthen capacity for coordination at various levels in the landscape in Outcome 1.1, including at District and Municipal levels, and involving the WCCBs, also facilitated by the stakeholder events in Outcome 4.1.

Outcome 3.3: Enhanced capacities of government and community in curbing wildlife crime. Outcome 3.3 will build capacity of Community Based Anti-Poaching Units and government bodies (e.g. Protection Forest Councils) for patrolling and reporting on illegal activities. This outcome will connect with the project's efforts to strengthen capacity for coordination at various levels in the landscape in Outcome 1.1, including at District and Municipal levels, and involving the WCCBs, also facilitated by the stakeholder events in Outcome 4.1.

Component 4. Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcome 4.1: Improved coordination and dialogue on integrated landscape management from the local to national level. The project will focus on strengthening coordination and dialogue through annual forums among the coordination groups active at various levels. This is a cross-cutting outcome, supporting interventions across all three other components.

Outcome 4.2: Project monitoring system operates, systematically provides information on progress, and informs adaptive management to ensure results. The project will build the capacity of project staff for effective project

management at all levels of organization through establishment and sharing of clear procedures, orientation and training in line with WWF requirements as GEF Implementing Agency

Outcome 4.3: Project lessons shared. In order to support the replication and upscaling of project outcomes, the project will support knowledge management through online and physical documentation and sharing of results and lessons. This is a cross-cutting outcome, supporting interventions across all three other components.

4) Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies

The proposed approach is aligned with the GEF 6 Focal Area strategies:

By working in the community forest and agriculture lands in protected area buffer zones and corridors in the priority landscape of Nepal, the project will mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes (**BD-4**) and specifically support **Program 9**: Managing the human-biodiversity interface. The project recognizes that protected areas in Nepal are embedded in a landscape of mixed uses, including forest-use areas, rural settlements, and agricultural lands. The project recognizes that sustainable management in the landscape contributes to protected area security, biodiversity conservation outside protected areas, and sustainable local livelihood provision.

Interventions led by law enforcement agencies, local government and Community Forest User Groups will assist to reduce threats to globally significant biodiversity (**BD-2**) and prevent the extinction of known threatened species (**Program 3**), particularly tiger, Asian elephant, and greater one-horned rhinoceros (also vultures, gharial, two pangolin species and many other globally threatened species). This supports the Aichi Target 12, to prevent extinction of known threatened species and improve their conservation status. Project efforts will focus on securing the connectivity and quality of wildlife habitats, strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies, science-based participative wildlife monitoring, and coordination between local anti-poaching and wildlife crime control bodies.

The project contributes to the goals of generating sustainable flows of ecosystem services from forests (**LD-2**), specifically through landscape management and restoration (**Program 3**), and reducing pressures on natural resources by managing competing land uses in broader landscapes (**LD-3**) by implementing sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach (**Program 4**). Project interventions in priority sites will improve agriculture and livestock productivity while also delivering benefits of reduced land, forest, and grassland degradation. At the national and landscape level, the project will support institutional structures and capacity, policies, and practices for integrated natural resource management.

The project will deliver benefits across the GEF SFM objectives, including integrated land use planning, cross-sector planning, and integrating SFM in landscape restoration; but will most comprehensively contribute to the goal of capacity development for SFM within local communities (**Program 5**) under **SFM-2**. The project will provide support to communities, government staff and others, in the form of training and equipment for application of sustainable forest management practices in target areas, to deliver SFM with LD and BD co-benefits.

See Section 2.3 of the Project Document.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing

The project design is consistent with the incremental cost reasoning presented in the PIF, and is detailed further in the incremental cost reasoning (2.5) section of the project document.

The proposed project builds upon a strong national commitment to landscape planning and conservation led by the Ministry of Forests and Environment and identified in the *Terai Arc Landscape Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025*. This strategy is the guiding document and key policy priority for development and conservation in TAL over the next ten years. Despite strong commitment and progress made to date in TAL, there is insufficient traction and capacity to remove the institutional barriers to achieving landscape level conservation goals, despite the urgency of deforestation and forest degradation, and associated biodiversity and ecosystem services losses. In the baseline situation, the institutional capacity for forest protection from the landscape level to more localized buffer zones and critical corridors is insufficient, and threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services from the population pressures and the agriculture and infrastructure sectors in TAL will continue to grow, and will lead to further habitat fragmentation and destruction, increased greenhouse gas emissions from forest loss and degradation, further land degradation, and species loss due to a lack of habitat connectivity and direct loss of wildlife to poaching and human wildlife conflict retaliation.

The addition of GEF financing to the baseline scenario described will help drive the transformational change required to address the challenges to biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation to enable landscape conservation in Nepal and on-ground in the TAL. The GEF funds will incrementally build on and add value to the ongoing investments in the TAL by realizing a more integrated approach for inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination to enable integrated landscape planning and management, from the national to local level within the landscape. This will involve strong coordination of plans and programs of different sectoral agencies; synergies among different sectors and programs/projects; and promotion of conservation friendly infrastructure development.

The incremental funds from GEF will focus efforts and resources in protected area buffer zones and corridors to build on the government and donor's existing strong baseline for species and forest management and law enforcement in the protected area core zones. Through supporting cross-sector coordination and planning, training and equipping DNPWC, DoFSC and the State and Local government line agencies, and supporting local communities and community forest user groups for on-ground interventions to protect forests and species, GEF finance will facilitate increased protection of protected area buffer zones and corridors. Building on international best practice and lessons from the UNDP-GEF WTLCP, and the GEF finance together with the baseline will develop a consistent and integrated approach to landscape conservation at the national level, and will implement this approach on-ground for the TAL.

Some variations that have arisen during the PPG stage are as follows:

GEF Trust Fund financing: There has been substantial change in budget allocation among components compared to PIF stage. See ProDoc sections 8.1 and 8.2 for budget details.

Component 1 on national capacity and enabling environment has reduced from \$1,594,582 at PIF to now \$1,014,710. This reduction is reflective of the new federalist government structure in Nepal, put in place in 2017-2018, after PIF submission. There is now less control of landscape resources at the central level, and responsibility delegated to the States. As such, support at the central level has been reduced.

Component 2 on integrated planning for buffer zones and corridors of TAL has reduced from \$956,750 at PIF to \$505,620. This reduction is due to two technical changes: (i) PIF included doing feasibility for protection forest status for 3 corridors, and this has since been dropped following feedback from stakeholders; and (ii) one output on developing/revising management plans for all 7 corridors has been dropped, as all plans were revised since PIF submission.

Component 3 on forest and wildlife management at the site level has increased in funding from \$2,870,240 at PIF to \$3,668,521. This reflects the call from government and other stakeholders to have a strong focus on on-ground investment in sustainable forest management and wildlife conservation.

Component 4 on KM and M&E has increased in funding from \$956,750 at PIF to now \$1,189,976. This increase comes from addition of some activities on public engagement in integrated landscape management.

Co-financing: Co-financing remains in line with the PIF. The PIF listed Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation as well as Ministry of Population and Environment (APEC) as co-financing sources. These ministries have been merged and now fall under MOFE, which represents the main source of co-financing for the project – see Table C of this document, and ProDoc section 8.3 for more detail.

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

During the PPG, the target areas for intervention at various levels have been defined through GIS mapping, and included in the project Results Framework indicators (including the GEF Core Indicators at Objective level). The anticipated global environmental benefits arising from project implementation include ‘maintaining globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society’ and ‘sustainable land management in production systems’, which will be achieved by restoring 4,050 hectares of land and bringing 229,500 ha under improved practices – for a total of 233,550 under improved management. The project will also provide ‘support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path’ by mitigating 1,270,919 metric tons of CO₂e.

In addition, the project will contribute directly towards the conservation and sustainable management of the globally significant Terai Duar Savanna and Grasslands and Eastern Himalayan Subtropical Broadleaf Forests ecoregions, and more than 30 globally threatened species including important populations of the tiger, Asian elephant and greater one-horned rhinoceros. The effective protection and management of such tigers, rhinos and elephants, together with other species such as Indian and Chinese pangolins, leopard and turtles that have been significantly targeted by poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in Nepal and elsewhere, will also contribute towards the goals of the GEF-supported Global Wildlife Program in addition to the nominated GEF Biodiversity programs.

The Global Environmental Benefits are detailed in section 2.4 of the Project Document.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

These aspects are generally consistent with the PIF. Additional points are:

The project will work with the new government structure to build capacity for integrated landscape management and improved inter-sectoral coordination in order to orientate the new bodies and establish new mechanisms towards effective implementation of the TAL Strategy (and any preparations needed for its revision).

The project will embrace a range of innovative approaches that are appropriate for scaling up. These include: real-time SMART for anti-poaching patrols, the SAFE approach for managing HWC and innovative response methods, application of SFM approaches to community forestry, sustainable livestock management practices, fire risk reduction involving community engagement on clearing fire-lines, incentives for afforestation on private land, etc. Beneficiary communities and other communities in the landscape will have the opportunity through the project to participate in community-based learning and lesson exchange on interventions. There is great potential for upscaling through additional governmental support from ongoing programs on community and leasehold forest development, national forest development and management and soil conservation programs.

Additional information is provided in section 2.9 of the Project Document.

1b. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

The project addresses the Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal, as defined in the Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025 for the Terai Arc Landscape (Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (2015)). The landscape covers an area of 24,710.13 km² across 18 Districts in the lowlands of Nepal, extending from the Indian border to the north-facing slopes of the Churia Range (see map in Annex E1), 26.744° to 29.150° Latitude and 80.060° to 85.513° Longitude.

During project preparation, two PA buffer zones and two corridors were selected as target areas for project interventions in Components 2 and 3, namely Bardia and Banke National Park buffer zones, and Kamdi and Karnali corridors (see map in Annex E2), 27.853° to 28.693° Latitude and 81.026° to 82.202° Longitude. The rationale for the selection of the target areas is given in project document Appendix 4, notably a focus on the Bardia-Banke protected area complex as a key area for biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and resilient community livelihoods.

2. Stakeholders. Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

The stakeholder engagement plan for the project is presented below, including a description of the stakeholder engagement implemented during project preparation. The timing, resource requirements and responsibilities for planned project activities is given in Project Document Appendix 3. The principal communications support will come from Component 4, which will enable the strengthening of institutional and individual understanding of the mechanisms and approaches to achieve integrated landscape planning and management, where to source information on biodiversity and natural resource status, and information on these resources. The project will support the enhanced documentation and sharing of best practices and knowledge arising from project activities, including case studies and technical reports to document best practices and traditional (indigenous) knowledge. This will be achieved through sharing these materials on online project-related websites, social media and a range of outreach and communication materials. It provides for communication of project progress, news, events and publications via a project website; and stakeholder forums at landscape level, as well as engagement of national/local media through sensitization on ILM and trips to view project activities in order to foster outreach and increase the visibility of the project.

The project's communication strategy will be further developed during the project inception period and led by the Communications Officer in the Project Management Unit. The strategy will be reviewed and updated annually throughout the project implementation period in order to allow for adaptive management.

Stakeholder Engagement Activities during Project Preparation. During the project preparation period, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan that was developed. This plan included a list of stakeholders, their mandate, their role in the project, and a plan for consultation (see Table 4-1 in the Project Document for the consultations conducted for each stakeholder). See Appendix 7 in the Project Document for the Project Preparation Stakeholder Engagement Plan. See Appendix 8 for a full record of the consultations conducted during the Project Preparation.

The initial rounds of consultations informed the assessment of biodiversity values and the identification and assessment of the threats facing biodiversity across all seven TAL corridors and all six PA buffer zones, the analysis of barriers towards achieving the project goal, and the description of baseline activities at all levels of governance. These inputs provided the basis for the situation analysis section of the project document (Part 1), including the selection of project target areas, and rolling updates on the rapidly evolving changes in government structure throughout the project preparation process that has been captured in the policy, legal and institutional framework (Project Document Section 1.6 and Appendix 13). The next round of consultations focused on the project target sites, providing detailed baseline information for results framework indicators, gender analysis/mainstreaming and social inclusion, and to conduct FPIC consultations with communities and other stakeholders on the design of proposed activities. The baseline analysis, selection of project sites and design of the project strategy and governance arrangements was guided by a series of national stakeholder consultation workshops.

Stakeholder Engagement during Implementation. The existing roles of stakeholders in conducting baseline governance of natural resource management including protected area, buffer zone and corridor management, wildlife management and forest management are described in Project Document Section 1 (see the overview in Section 1.1). This includes information the roles of concerned institutions in the forestry sector and stakeholders' roles, strengths and capacity building needs. The project seeks to strengthen the engagement of all related stakeholders towards unified and coherent understanding and delivery of integrated landscape management in the TAL, with enhanced capacity for SFM, biodiversity conservation and resilient livelihoods. The four project components each have quite different thematic and geographical scope, and the mechanisms and scope of engagement of stakeholders varies between them. Responsibilities for leading and supporting the implementation of project Outputs and individual activities are described in Project Document Section 2 and in the workplan in Appendix 3, and the engagement of stakeholders in each component is indicated in Table xx in the Project Document.

Overall, this is a multi-level, multi-sector project that will be led by the Ministry of Forests and Environment at Federal level as the national Executing Agency. The project governance arrangements (Section 3 of the ProDoc) describes the project management structure, including the Project Executive Committee (PEC) and Project Advisory Committee (PAC) membership, roles and functions and Project Management Unit (PMU) and Field Support Unit (FSU) staffing. These bodies serve to engage the key stakeholders at federal and state government levels in the decision-making and overall guidance of project implementation.

The PEC includes 14 representatives from the key MoFE Departments and Divisions (DNPWC, DoFSC, Planning, Monitoring & Coordination Division, Environment and Biodiversity Division, Climate Change Management Division, Forest and Watershed Division, Participatory Forestry Division, National REDD Centre), the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, the State Secretaries of the three main States in TAL (3, 5, 7 and Karnali), the MoFE GESI Focal Point, and WWF (as observer/invitee). In addition, the Project Manager and Field Managers will be invited.

The PAC will include 22 representatives from the key Departments and Divisions of MoFE, as well as six other ministries, namely the MoF, MoAD, MoEWRI, MoUD, MoHA, MOFAGA, States 3, 5, Karnali (6) and Sudur Paschim (7), indigenous peoples and local communities, FECOFUN/ACOFUN and WWF Nepal (as an observer).

Detailed information on stakeholder during project preparation, as well as the plan for stakeholder engagement during implementation, are described thoroughly in section 4 of the Project Document.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

- Member of Advisory Body; contractor;
- Co-financier;
- Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;
- Executor or co-executor;
- Other (Please explain) Community Forest User Groups and Buffer Zone User Groups will play significant roles in executing a range of project activities, especially in Component 3.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

The Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) are committed to mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), to ensure that women and men have equal access to, and control over, resources for development, benefits, and decision-making at all stages of development processes, projects, programs or policy. A GESI analysis was carried out during project formulation to develop and implement an integrated action plan (see Project Document Appendix 12) to promote equitable management of benefits such as the use of natural resources among all citizens as described in the Constitution of Nepal, to ensure that GESI is fully mainstreamed in the project design and meets the requirements of the new GEF Policy on Gender Equality². The five domains covered by the GESI assessment are: Access to resources; Roles, responsibilities and utilization of time; Norms, beliefs and perceptions; Laws, policies, institutional practices; and Decision-making processes.

To ensure gender equality and women's empowerment in the project, the project workplan (Project Document Appendix 3) is gender responsive and is reflected in gender responsive budgeting to assure that the project is able to deliver on its gender mainstreaming provisions and demonstrates gender equality in terms of progress and results (see the recommended gender mainstreaming actions in Project Document Appendix 12). The project includes institutional capacity development for gender mainstreaming (GESI related sessions aligned with existing/revised SFM training manuals/packages, staff training, groups and community management). Gender sensitive activities have been integrated into the project plans to ensure the participation of women and men from Dalit and other marginalized communities in decision making, and their participation in various activities. Gender experts are included in the project to provide orientation, training, studies and monitoring.

The project will seek to achieve proportionate representation in project-supported coordination bodies and forestry and livelihood-related groups (at least 33% of women as indicated in the constitution of the GoN). Gender and social inclusion disaggregated targets have been included for appropriate indicators in the project Results Framework (Annex A), including for involvement in field activities, training and receipt of revolving community fund loans. Socio-economic, gender and social inclusion monitoring will track the progress of the project and also its performance in relation to GESI indicators, and progress in gender mainstreaming will be supported by a Participatory Planning M&E Committee.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment? (yes /no) If yes, please upload gender action plan or equivalent here.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;
- improving women's participation and decision making; and or
- generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

² https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.53.04_Gender_Policy.pdf

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? (yes /no)

4. Private Sector Engagement.

The private sector can contribute towards increasing incomes through accessing the market and generating local employment in the rural areas, for instance involving forest and agriculture-based industries. Significantly, private landowners will be involved in project-supported afforestation work in the project corridors and buffer zones in order to implement project plans on the ground. The project will work with WB/Emissions Reduction Program to target the provision of incentives for forestry activities on private land to areas that are strategic for addressing gaps and bottlenecks in corridors and habitat mosaics, and support river corridor planting to combat bank erosion. The project will also seek to incentivize cooperatives and cottage industries through grants for small scale green enterprises, support for business planning in Component 3.

5. Risks.

The key risks that could threaten the achievement of results through the chosen intervention strategy are shown in the Table below. The risk rating is based on the probability (P) of a given risk occurring combined with its potential impact (I) on the success of the project. The risk assessment matrix used for scoring is shown in the second Table.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Risks	Risk Rating P= Probability I= Impact	Mitigation Measures
The administrative restructuring of the government system results in lingering uncertainties, lack of clarity on institutional roles and conflicts over jurisdiction that adversely affect natural resource governance, creating impasses and challenges for project implementation	Substantial P= 3 I= 4	The project will, in the context of the newly adopted federal structure with the state system, work with the administrative units at different levels to build capacity, address challenges and capitalize on opportunities for coordination and collaboration, including issues related to land and natural resource use. The decentralization of authority for natural resource management will be leveraged as an opportunity to fully integrate landscape level planning and management at the local level by engaging with State, District and Municipal governments. (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2)
Regional development priorities for settlements, agricultural and irrigation schemes, transportation infrastructure and industry take precedence over conservation and NRM plans supported by the project	Substantial P= 4 I= 4	This is a systemic problem requiring the mainstreaming of environmental and biodiversity safeguards into development planning. The project will support this through capacity development on ILM and environmental management processes for key sectors; awareness raising and engagement of all sectors in project planning and implementation; build capacity for more effective EIA processes; and pilot smart green infrastructure to demonstrate mitigation of impacts for existing infrastructure in environmentally sensitive areas. (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 3.2.1)
Increasing in-migration rates to certain parts of the TAL will increase localized pressures on land and forest resources with consequent loss of forest cover	Substantial P= 4 I= 4	This is a long term issue that requires a strategic response from all levels of government (including providing incentives for migrants to remain / return to source areas). The project will support all levels of government in terms of ILM for the overall TAL and especially planning and management of the PAs, BZs and Corridors, including the following measures: strengthen boundary demarcation for corridors, buffer zones and community forests; strengthen awareness of the law concerning

Risks	Risk Rating P= Probability I= Impact	Mitigation Measures
		encroachment of such areas; build capacity for SMART patrolling for corridors and buffer zones as well as PAs to monitor and enforce encroachment; and provide support for sustainable livelihoods for legitimate residents to reduce pressures on natural resources. (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.2)
Increasing human populations combined with increasing wildlife populations in PA, BZ and Corridor areas will increase prevalence of HWC	Substantial P= 4 I= 3	Build capacity of local government to respond to HWC through a strategic approach that: reduces opening of new farmland and settlement in HWC sensitive areas; reduces existing HWC and risks to life through preventive measures and technologies; compensates losses fairly for legitimate claims. (Output 3.2.2)
Major natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods	Moderate P = 2 I = 4	This is hard to predict, as the impact will vary substantially with the nature and scale of such a disaster and its location. The ability to mitigate such a disaster will similarly depend on these factors. However, the PMU will develop natural disaster response strategy, in line with guidance and strategies of MoFE and WWF Nepal.
Low capacity to disburse project funds	Moderate P= 3 I= 3	Support from WWF Nepal to the government can substantially facilitate recruitment, procurement and subcontracting processes if needed.
Government staff turnover may impede project implementation: inexperienced staff may therefore have to lead on some activities.	Moderate P= 3 I= 3	The project generally aims to build capacity within the government agencies involved in ILM issues, and will train staff from each competent authority, as well as other related agencies. This will increase the depth of experience and skills available both for the project and future work. (Outputs 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 3.1.1)
Institutions governing buffer zones and corridors have inadequate capacity or resources for integrated natural resource planning and management.	Moderate P= 3 I= 3	The project will enhance capacities of villages, CFUGs, and local government staff for sustainable, community-based approaches for integrated landscape management. This will involve building institutional and community capacity to implement interventions to reduce deforestation, and providing technical training and resources for community based approaches to wildlife conservation. (Outputs 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2)
Intended project outcomes for ecosystem management and CBNRM are undermined by climate change and variability, and natural disasters.	Moderate P= 2 I= 3	The integrated landscape management approach of the project will evaluate, where relevant and feasible, potential climate change impacts and incorporate both ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction considerations into planning for corridors, PA buffer zones and community forest areas. This will take into account, for example, increased climate variability, increase in frequency and intensity of natural disasters, and potential species range shifts. (Outputs 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 3.1.1, 4.1.1)
Difficulty in establishing collective support for the integrated landscape management approach among government ministries, NGOs, CSOs, and the private sector.	Moderate P= 3 I= 3	The project will, from the outset, perform multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement by providing support for the Planning, Monitoring and Coordination Division of MoFE and NBCC to coordinate with environment, infrastructure, and development ministries, Wildlife Crime Control Coordination

Risks	Risk Rating P= Probability I= Impact	Mitigation Measures
		Committee (WCCC), and the TAL WG. The collaborative leadership and conservation training will facilitate the engagement of stakeholders across sectors in the integrated landscape management approach. This support will directly contribute to implementation of the Terai Arc Landscape Strategy, which defines development over the next 10 years, and the correlation with the strategy will be clearly defined and communicated to relevant stakeholders. (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.4.1, 1.4.3)

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Risk Assessment Matrix						
		Impact				
		5-CRITICAL	4-HIGH	3-MEDIUM	2-LOW	1-NEGLECTIBLE
Probability	5- CERTAIN / IMMINENT	High	High	Substantial	Moderate	Low
	4- VERY LIKELY	High	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Low
	3-LIKELY	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Low	Low
	2-MODERATELY LIKELY	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
	1- UNLIKELY	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination.

Institutional Arrangement

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal. Under MOFE, DOFSC and DNPWC are the major two departments, responsible for implementing the project's interventions at federal level. The local community groups (e.g. Community Forest User Groups, Buffer Zone User Committees, Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups), municipalities and state government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Division Forest Offices) will be key partners for the implementation at local and state level. MOFE will be responsible for communicating with the national GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) regarding the status of project implementation. WWF as the GEF implementing agency will communicate and coordinate with GEF secretariat as appropriate.

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and Project Executive Committee (PEC) and Project Management Unit (PMU) will constitute the overall governing bodies for the project.

The key function of PAC is: strategic guidance and provide enabling/facilitation for effective implementation across all levels of the government structure.

The key function of PEC is: linking PMU with PAC, endorsement of annual workplan/progress/financial report, and facilitate coordination at all level (federal, state and local). Details and key representation of the project governance bodies, PAC and PEC are described in section 3 of the project document.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be created by the project executing agency, the MOFE. The PMU is a functional structure of the project with major responsibility of developing annual workplan, implementation and monitoring of the activities and reporting. It also functions as secretariat to the governing body (PAC and PEC) and will be hosted by MOFE, Kathmandu.

The project will establish one field office to be located at Kohalpur in Banke District, within the available government premises. To implement the project, a project operation manual (*hereafter the manual*) will be developed to provide overall guidance on project operation. Existing TAL office at Kohalpur, newly established forestry directorate at Butwal, chief warden, Banke National Park and Division Forest Office at Banke will be the center of such coordination.

Field Coordination Committee. This is an ad-hoc/as-needed mechanism that will coordinate and cooperate among the agencies at various levels. The Secretary of MOITFE, State 5 will be the coordinator of this committee.

WWF Nepal will support the executing partner (MOFE) in hiring of the project staff for Kathmandu and Kohalpur as proposed under PMU structure, adhering to the policy and the procedure enunciated by WWF Nepal.

More detail on the above, as well as governance diagrams and a description of project staff positions, can be found in section 3 of the Project Document.

Coordination with other initiatives

The project will align with related initiatives in Nepal during execution through the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan and coordination by the PMU. Relevant initiatives include two GEF projects: Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Vulnerable Watersheds (UNDP/MoFE), and a project to strengthen capacity of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal (IUCN/MoFE). The project will also coordinate with the following non-GEF initiatives:

- **Nepal Emissions Reduction Program (ERP)** - "*People and Forests - A Sustainable Forest Management-Based Emission Reduction Program in the Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal*" (World Bank; \$80-100 million).
- **Forest Investment Program (FIP)**- FIP is a funding window of the Climate Investment Fund (CIF) that empowers countries to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation both inside and outside the forest sector. Nepal's FIP Implementation plan was approved in December 2017 for further development of the projects and it will be implemented for 8 years. The total budget of FIP is USD 24 million.
- **Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM)** – the DGM is also funded by CIF and comes with FIP (World Bank). The DGM aims to enhance the capacity of indigenous people and local communities including women, Dalit, Madhesis and other forest dependent poor to fully engage with the benefits from the investment projects identified in the FIP. A total of USD 4.5 million is available to implement the plan.
- **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** - a GCF proposal is being developed through FAO entitled "Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal". The project aims to enhance the resilience of local communities by restoring and maintaining key ecological functions and introducing climate-resilient sustainable natural resource management approaches in the Churia Region. It ultimately provides benefits to the TAL area, which lies downstream of the Churia region. The project size is 10-50 million USD over 7 years between 2019 and 2025. MoFE is the national executing entity for this project.
- **President Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board (PCTMCFB)** - The total budget of the Board in the TAL districts having PAs and corridors is around 0.70 million USD annually. This covers activities of the District Forest Officers, PAs, District Agriculture Offices, District Livestock Development Officers, and Department of Water Induced Disaster Preparedness.

- **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)** - ZSL is working for conservation while supporting the livelihoods of local communities to improve their well-being.
- **National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)** - NTNC is an autonomous non-profit organization established by a law of Nepal in 1982. It is working in all the PAs of the TAL and Barandabhar, Khata and Karnali corridors.
- **Nepal Climate Change Support Program (NCCSP)/UNDP** – the NCCSP, implemented by the Ministry of Population and Environment (now MoFE) and financed by DFID, aims to help the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Nepal to adapt to the effects of climate change. Total budget for Phase I (2013-2017) was 17.6 million GBP and for Phase II is 22 million GBP.
- **PAANI-USAID** - Working in three river basins- Karnali, Mahakali and West Rapti – the PAANI program has five strategic approaches including management of capture fisheries; integrated water management; regulation and management of local road construction and maintenance; climate change adaptation; and managing invasive species. The Karnali and Lower Mahakali watersheds are in the TAL area. USD 24.9 million of projects under this Program began in April 2016 for five years.
- **Hariyo Ban Program Phase II - USAID** – The main goal of the program is to increase ecological and community resilience in the GoN-identified biodiverse landscapes- Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape (CHAL) and the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), and to improve their conservation and management, reducing climate change vulnerability. This five-year program (July 2016-July 2021) is supported by a grant of USD 18 million from USAID.
- **TAL Programme** – is WWF Nepal’s largest landscape level initiative supporting the government’s TAL program and involves a large number of partner organisations, donor agencies, stakeholders, community-based organisations and local people. The TAL program focuses on restoring the corridors and bottlenecks between important protected areas of Nepal and India using the primary strategy of community forestry.
- **Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPCC)** – established under the former Ministry of Environment and Population with the objective of developing and promoting renewable/alternative energy technologies in Nepal, now under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (see: <https://www.aepc.gov.np/>).

7. Consistency with National Priorities

The project is fully aligned with, and contributes to, national priorities for biodiversity and forests, and contributes directly towards Nepal’s implementation of international conventions, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity. See Project Document Section 1.6 for national policy analysis details.

This project will support the strengthening of three pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), namely conservation, sustainable utilization and benefit sharing through national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Nepal’s *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)*, revised in 2014, is an important means of supporting the CBD. In the context of the NBSAP priorities, this proposed project, through improved protection of buffer zones and corridors, will support the meaningful participation of local communities in the management of natural resources, landscape approaches to address multiple drivers of biodiversity loss, and cooperation among relevant agencies to achieve success in biodiversity conservation. The proposed project will support the implementation of priority actions linked to the NBSAP to meet the Aichi Targets. Among the Aichi Targets, this proposed project will contribute to progress of the following: Aichi Target 5, loss of natural habitat, including forests; Aichi Target 7 concerning sustainable management of agriculture and forests to ensure conservation of biodiversity; Aichi Target 12, on preventing loss of known threatened species; and Aichi Target 14 related to maintaining ecosystem services to contribute to livelihoods.

This project is based on the priorities of the *Terai Arc Landscape Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025* (MoFSC, 2016) and directly supports the implementation of this strategy (hence contributing to the NBSAP). The project will help to address urgent conservation priorities, and tackle persisting and emerging threats to ensure socio-ecological integrity of the Terai Arc Landscape. This project will specifically support the following strategies outlined in the new TAL Strategy: strengthen protected areas, buffer zones and corridors; manage rare and endangered mammals; protect, restore and manage critical habitats; create and revise policies, regulations and action plans; strengthen coordination among law enforcement agencies; mitigate human-wildlife conflict; strengthen and promote sustainable forest management; reduce loss and degradation of forests; and provide local communities with innovative, sustainable economic incentives linked to forest conservation.

The proposed project will help to achieve the goals of the *Nepal National Tiger Recovery Plan to 2020* (2010) and the *Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Nepal* (2016-2020). The Terai Arc Landscape is the NTRP identified priority landscape for tigers in Nepal. Specifically, the proposed project contributes to the NTRP goal to maintain, restore and conserve at least 6,500 km² of additional tiger habitats, and contributes to two of the six NTRP objectives: *Obj.1* create an enabling policy environment for landscape-scale conservation in the TAL; and *Obj.3* manage the TAL as a priority conservation landscape with core areas, buffer zones, and corridors to conserve tigers as a metapopulation with transboundary ecological linkages.

The project will contribute towards the Ramsar Convention, through assisting the government in meeting its obligation to undertake the wise use of all wetlands in its territory. In the context of this project, the TAL has a diversity of biodiversity-rich wetlands, including major river floodplains, freshwater marshes, lakes and smaller water bodies. These support abundant aquatic fauna and flora including globally threatened species such as the gharial (CR), Gangetic dolphin (EN), mugger (EN), red-crowned roofed turtle (CR), three-striped roof turtle (EN), sarus crane (V) and swamp deer (V). Three listed Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) are located in the TAL – Ghodaghodi Lake (Kailali), Beeshazar and Associated Lakes (Chitwan), and Jagadishpur Reservoir (Kapilvastu).

The project is consistent with the *Government of Nepal's Forest Policy* (2015), which identifies community, collaborative, leasehold, protection, buffer zone, religious and private forests as key to provision of social, economic and ecosystems services. The *Forest Policy* outlines forests as critical to reduce the impacts of climate change through adaptation so as to ensure the flow of forest ecosystem services. The *Forest Policy* recognizes forests as a renewable natural resource, which contributes to subsistence livelihoods and recognizes subsistence forest use as a stepping stone to increased application of good forest management practices.

The proposed project will contribute to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) goals and framework and key land degradation related priorities for Nepal. Through integrated landscape management, the project will help to reverse and prevent desertification and land degradation, and help mitigate the effects of drought to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. The proposed project will build on the priorities and lessons from Nepal's *National Action Programme for Land Degradation and Desertification* (2002) and the subsequent stocktaking and national capacity assessment report on land degradation prepared by MoSTE in 2008. The proposed project will address the threats, drivers, activities and targets to combat land degradation that were identified and analyzed in these reports. Further, it will support the priorities of Nepal within the UNCCD framework, namely integrated ecosystem management programs to rehabilitate areas prone to landslides, integrate watershed management activities for water management and food security, and disaster forecasting and relief in the Churia range.

The proposed project will contribute to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), submitted by Nepal to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in February 2016, which outline both the mitigation and adaptation strategies to address climate change. This project specifically aligns with and contributes to the NDC goals by utilizing the landscape approach to resource conservation and management in forest areas; reducing dependency on biomass through the use of alternative energy; maintaining forest cover and enhancing carbon sequestration through sustainable management of forests and improved forest governance to control drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; and institutional strengthening.

The project will also contribute to the *Sustainable Development Agenda for Nepal (2003)* goal of low carbon and green economic growth. The project will work toward the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015 by promoting inclusive, coordinated land management, good governance, and economic development to address the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. It will primarily target terrestrial biodiversity conservation (Goal 15 – Life on Land), but also contribute towards other Goals, including: 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 13 (Climate Action), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The importance of taking a holistic view of the SDGs was spotlighted by WWF at the UN 2030 Agenda High Level Political Forum in July 2018, allowing stakeholders to benefit from potential synergies and advance objectives in several areas at once. Goal 15 – Life on Land will play an integral role in achieving all the others – and vice versa³.

Other national level priorities and policies this project will work in parallel with and build upon include: *Climate Change Policy 2011*, which seeks to address the adverse impacts of climate change and utilize the opportunities created from it to improve livelihoods and achieve climate-friendly physical, social and economic development; and *National Land Use Policy 2012*, which uses available land and land resource for sustainable communities and to achieve economic and environmental development. The project will support the *Environmental Friendly Local Governance Framework 2013* by helping to mainstream environment and disaster management in the local planning process, which will feed into and inform landscape level planning. This framework is critical to development and conservation initiatives in the country moving forward.

8. Knowledge Management. Elaborate the “Knowledge Management Approach” for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project’s overall impact.

The project will promote learning through national and regional inter-sectoral dialogue and coordination for integrated landscape management. This will include convening an annual multi-stakeholder forum to discuss integrated landscape management in TAL, including the management of critical corridors and buffer zone areas, as well as approaches to mitigate the impacts of large infrastructure projects on biodiversity, forests, and local communities. Sharing the approach and progress of integrated landscape management will be a key part of the multi-stakeholder forum. The annual stakeholder forums will provide a mechanism for engaging with related initiatives in Nepal (see Project Document Section 1-5 for description of such initiatives), and scope is provided for learning from international initiatives (eg staff exchanges with successful integrated landscape management examples, inputs on HWC responses, anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade exchange with India, etc).

An online Landscape Knowledge Learning Platform for TAL will be developed and maintained by MoFE as means of sharing information on the biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable use of natural resources in the TAL. In addition, a project website will be hosted and regularly updated to communicate the progress of project activities and

³ Forests and Sustainable Development. The Role of SDG 15 In Delivering the 2030 Agenda. WWF Forest Practice. July 2018.

key outcomes. Important lessons from the project will be documented throughout implementation during regular monitoring and evaluation and reporting. Lessons will be compiled in case studies that can be shared annually or by project close. These case studies will be an important means for the project to promote the exchange of lessons and experiences with other practitioners working on projects in Nepal and other countries. The project will also aim to coordinate with the coordination and knowledge management child project of the *Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development*, for sharing lessons and experiences on the wildlife crime prevention sub-component of this proposed project.

In terms of communications strategy, the project will engage and communicate with stakeholders at federal, state and local levels according to the stakeholder engagement plan (see above). Stakeholders will be consulted and engaged throughout the project implementation phase to: (i) promote understanding of the project's outcomes; (ii) promote stakeholder ownership of the project through engagement in planning, implementation and monitoring of the project interventions; (iii) communication to the public in a consistent, supportive and effective manner; and (iv) maximization of linkage and synergy with other ongoing projects.

Substantial capacity building and awareness raising activities are incorporated within the project's three technical components, with due attention to gender mainstreaming and social inclusion (see above).

The principal communications support will come from Component 4, which will enable the strengthening of institutional and individual understanding of the mechanisms and approaches to achieve integrated landscape planning and management, where to source information on biodiversity and natural resource status, and information on these resources. The project will support the enhanced documentation and sharing of best practices and knowledge arising from project activities, including case studies and technical reports to document best practices and traditional (indigenous) knowledge. This will be achieved through sharing these materials on online project-related websites, social media and a range of outreach and communication materials. It provides for communication of project progress, news, events and publications via a project website; and stakeholder forums at landscape level, as well as engagement of national/local media through sensitization on ILM and trips to view project activities in order to foster outreach and increase the visibility of the project.

The project's communication strategy will be further developed during the project inception period and led by the Communications Officer in the Project Management Unit. The strategy will be reviewed and updated annually throughout the project implementation period in order to allow for adaptive management.

Overall, the project's knowledge management approach will ensure that stakeholders engaged in ILM for the TAL are updated each year on project progress, have the opportunity to learn about various technical themes, and innovative work supported by project grants. Project news and results will also be made available through the website and local language radio programmes. The online Landscape Knowledge Learning Platform for TAL will provide a new avenue for making information available on the biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable use of natural resources in the TAL. The timing and budget for the related activities (mainly in Component 4) are given in project document Appendix 3.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation. Describe the budgeted M & E plan.

The M&E plan for the child project adheres to WWF project management standards and is consistent with GEF RBM policy and guidance. The Project Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for ensuring the monitoring and evaluation

activities are carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner, and for initiating and facilitating key monitoring and evaluation activities, such as the independent external evaluations at the midterm and end of the project. PMU staff involved in carrying out project M&E activities include: the Project Manager; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer; Financial and Administration Officer; and field staff.

The PMU will be responsible for the following M&E activities: Project Results Framework tracking; Annual Work Plan Tracking; Quarterly Financial Reports; Semi-annual Project Progress Reports (PPRs); Project Close Report, and; Annual Adaptive Management Review. The Project Management Unit will receive quarterly field reports from subgrantees/consultants, using a Project Progress Report template. The WWF GEF Agency will be responsible for contracting the consultants for the midterm and terminal evaluation and report, and is responsible for the Annual WWF-GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR); Annual WWF-GEF Monitoring Review (AMR), and; Supervision Mission Reports.

The Results Framework (RF) has been designed to help the PMU plan, execute, monitor and report progress towards expected results in a consistent and routine manner. Performance indicators have been selected with indicators and methodologies clearly defined to enable uniform data collection and analysis. The RF indicators have been aligned with the relevant GEF 6 Focal Area objectives as far as possible, and include the relevant GEF Core Indicators at Objective level. The frequency and schedule of data collection is defined for the project, as well as the roles and responsibilities of project team members. Please see the Results Framework (**Annex A**) for details.

Monitoring and evaluation activities are largely covered by Output 4.2.1, with some input from Project Management. M&E component has been budgeted with USD 311,320 for five years, which includes staff time, office running costs, and project planning, review, monitoring & evaluations and annual audit costs. The total budgeted cost for Monitoring & Evaluation component is 4.6% of the total project cost.

Detail on the project's M&E plan can be found in section 7 of the Project Document.

10. Benefits. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approach adopted by the project necessitates working across multiple scales and stakeholders in the natural resource management sector, including local communities, local forest user groups, and small-scale agriculture users. This recognizes that a sustainably managed landscape and provision of ecosystem services is critical for local livelihood provision, and likewise, sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community land use options are key to landscape conservation. The ILM approach recognizes and seeks to address emerging threats to the ecological integrity of the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), and includes coordination with non-conservation sectors towards reducing such threats. Overall, this approach will aim to sustain the integrity of the protected areas, buffer zones and corridors of the TAL so that key ecosystem services are maintained, watersheds are protected, and ecosystem-based adaptation continues to benefit local populations.

By working in the community forest and agriculture lands in protected area buffer zones and corridors in this priority landscape of Nepal, the project will mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes and contribute towards managing the human-biodiversity interface. The project recognizes that protected areas in Nepal are embedded in a landscape of mixed uses, including forest-use areas, rural settlements, and agricultural lands and that sustainable landscape management contributes to protected area security, biodiversity

conservation outside protected areas, and sustainable local livelihood provision. The project will directly seek to reduce the significant impact of human-wildlife conflict on local populations through strategic approaches.

Interventions led by law enforcement agencies, local government and Community Forest User Groups will assist to reduce threats to globally significant biodiversity and prevent the extinction of known threatened species, particularly tiger, Asian elephant, and greater one-horned rhinoceros (also vultures, gharial, two pangolin species and many other globally threatened species). This supports the Aichi Target 12, to prevent extinction of known threatened species and improve their conservation status. Such species underpin significant nature tourism development benefits at sites such as Chitwan and Bardia, with scope to extend to other areas including community-based tourism initiatives.

The project will contribute directly to the goals of generating sustainable flows of ecosystem services from forests, specifically through landscape management and restoration, and reducing pressures on natural resources by managing competing land uses in broader landscapes by implementing sustainable land management through ILM. Project interventions in priority sites will improve agriculture and livestock productivity while also delivering benefits of reduced land, forest, and grassland degradation. At the national and landscape level, the project will support institutional structures and capacity, policies, and practices for integrated natural resource management.

The project will also deliver benefits across the GEF SFM objectives, including integrated land use planning, cross-sector planning, and integrating SFM in landscape restoration; it will support the development of forest management plans for TAL corridors. It will most comprehensively contribute to the goal of capacity development for SFM within local communities through CFUGs and BZUGs. The project will provide support to communities, government staff and others, in the form of training and equipment for application of sustainable forest management practices in target areas, to deliver SFM with Land Degradation and Biodiversity co-benefits.

The expected number of direct project beneficiaries is given in GEF-7 Core Indicator 11: in total some 14,936 Women and 15,024 Men. In the Results Framework (Annex A), this has been broken down into a) Community members in targeted CFUGs and BZUGs in intervention areas receiving capacity development / training - totaling 29,741 (50% women); and b) Government staff receiving capacity development / training from the project at federal/state/local levels – totaling 220 (30% women).

PART IV: ANNEXES

Annex A: Project Results Framework (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Please see Appendix 10 of ProDoc

Annex B: Response to Project Reviews (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion, and responses to comments from the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Comment	WWF response
GEF Secretariat Review (received on 25 March & 1 April 2016)	
No comments requiring action at CEO Endorsement stage	N/A
GEF Council Members Comments	
No comments received	
STAP Screening of PIF (17 October 2016)	
The expenditure of \$1.6m on national coordination might normally be criticized as out of balance with field implementation	This budget allocation covers the full scope of Component 1, which is more than national coordination, and also the project context has changed since PIF stage with the introduction of a new government structure, which will require substantial TA and capacity development support to assist the bodies at all levels to take up their new roles / responsibilities for natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in an effective manner. The project has also responded to stakeholder feedback during PPG to facilitate greater innovation and stakeholder engagement across the Terai Arc Landscape by introducing a small grants scheme to support innovative initiatives aligned with the project outcomes.
Having said this, STAP notes that careful thought needs to be given regarding how to develop governance and management capacity in over 700 communities in the buffer zones. Regarding governance, consideration should be given to promoting participatory governance rather than representation forms of governance, and to promoting equitable distribution of information, decision-making and benefit sharing among all members of communities, including women and marginal groups. In terms of resource management, consideration should be given to Namibian-style village scouts and community based "management orientated monitoring systems (MOMS)".	<p>The project will support the development of CBNRM governance arrangements for three corridors in Component 2 – Kamdi, Karnali and Brahmadev Corridors, and strengthen the overall management of all seven Corridors through a common Strategy Framework and updating management plans through stakeholder consultation processes. The project will focus its efforts to strengthen governance, capacity and operation of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) on two corridors and two PA buffer zones, namely Kamdi and Karnali Corridors and Bardia and Banke NP buffer zones (Components 2 and 3), and within these areas to prioritize certain communities for intervention based on biodiversity and socio-economic criteria in line with the GEF resources available.</p> <p>The project will strongly emphasize community-based governance arrangements as advocated by STAP, through building local capacity within Nepal's well-established system of community forest user groups and buffer zone user groups, and promoting equitable distribution of information, decision-making and benefit sharing among all members of communities, including women and marginal groups. The WWF Gender Equity and Social Inclusion analysis (Prodoc Appendix 12) conducted during the PPG has provided relevant recommendations that are integrated into the project strategy.</p> <p>MOMS (a.k.a The Event Book System) has been reviewed during project</p>

Comment	WWF response
	formulation, and this will be presented as part of capacity development for ILM in Component 1, with the possibility of testing it at one or more communities in Output 1.2.3 or in Component 3 in order to provide learning on its practicality in the Nepalese context.

Annex C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 182,000			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Project Preparation	119,273	83,997	71,332
Gender Analysis	7,632	6,581	
Safeguards Analysis	25,440	10,750	
Translations	3,000		3,000
Meetings, Workshops and Travel	26,655	1,340	5,000
Total	182,000	102,668	79,332

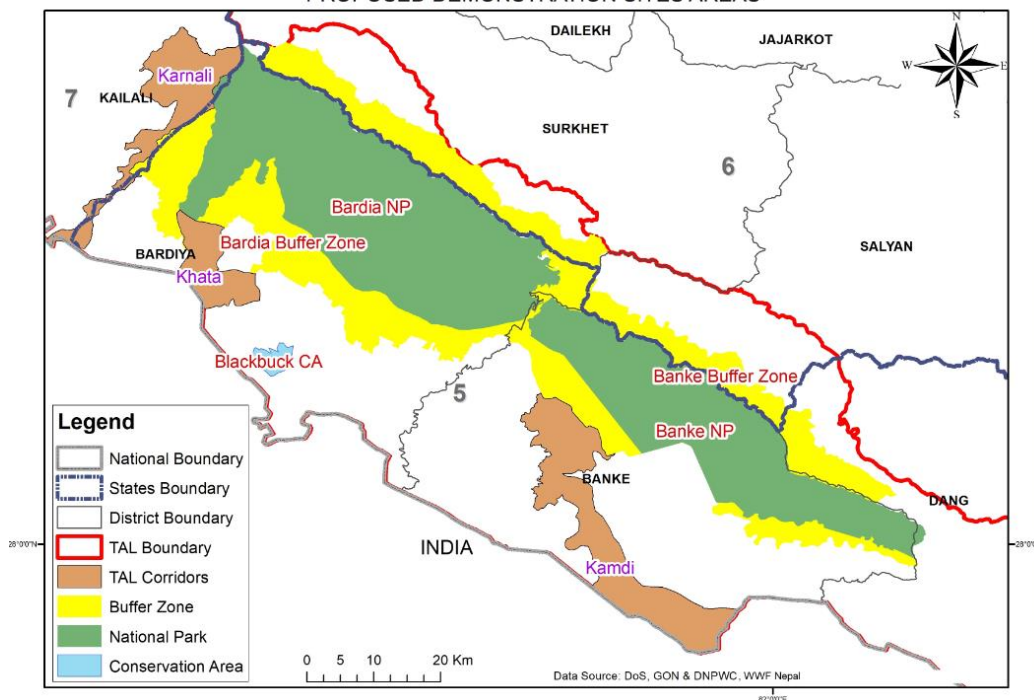
If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

Annex D: Calendar of Expected Reflows (if non-grant instrument is used)

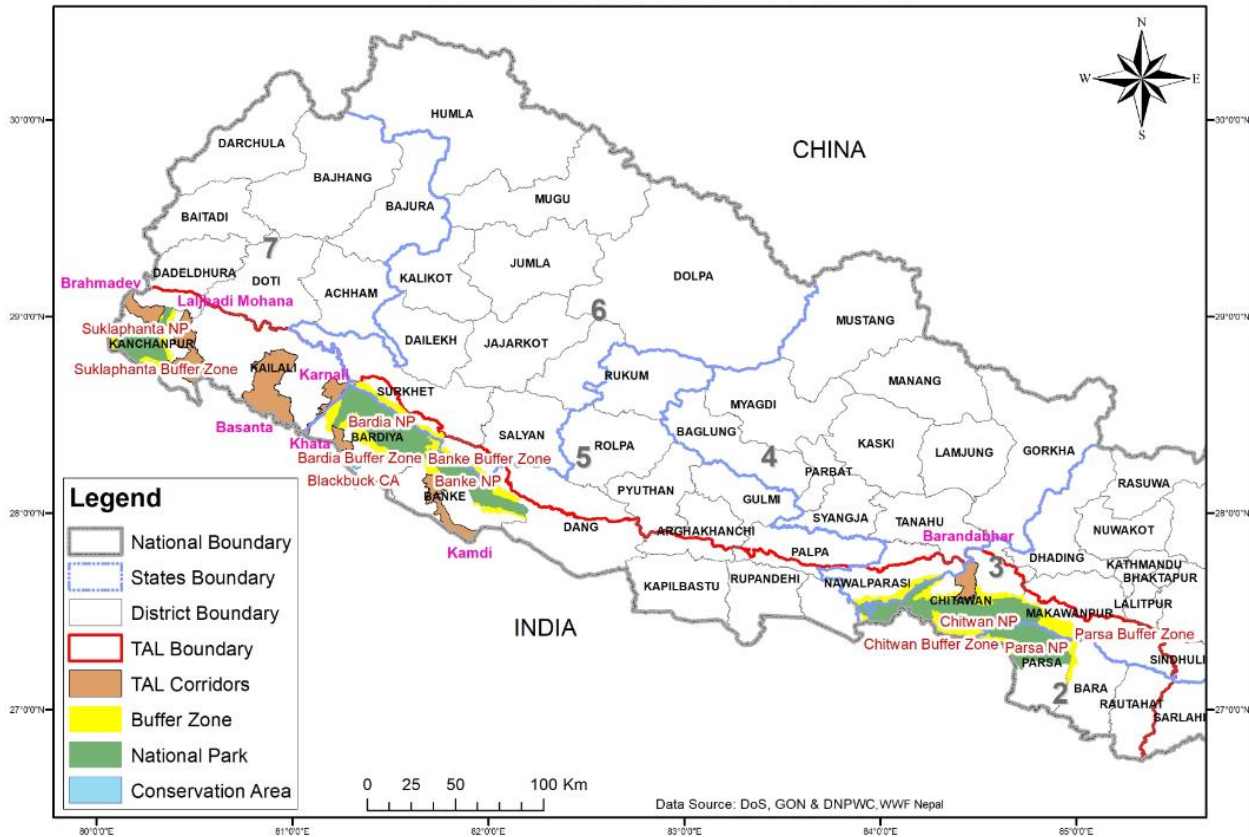
NA

Annex E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION SITES AREAS



TERAI ARC LANDSCAPE- NEPAL



Coordinates:

- TAL Nepal: 26.744° to 29.150° Latitude and 80.060° to 85.513° Longitude.
- Demonstration sites (Banke-Bardia complex including Karnali and Kamdi corridors): 27.853° to 28.693° Latitude and 81.026° to 82.202° Longitude.

Annex F: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table F to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at anytime during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Attached

Annex G: GEF Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part I, item G by ticking the most relevant keywords/ topics/themes that best describe this project.

Attached