

# Asia's Linear Infrastructure safeGuarding Nature (ALIGN)

The ALIGN Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to conserve biodiversity and support livelihoods in response to Asia's rapid expansion of linear infrastructure, especially roads, railways, and power lines.

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT'S GOAL?

To enhance the development and implementation of effective, high-quality linear infrastructure safeguards that support people and conserve nature.

## WHAT WILL THE PROJECT DO TO ACCOMPLISH THIS?

- 1. Strengthen policies and practices.** Support work by key stakeholders—including governments, the private and financial sectors, nongovernmental and Indigenous peoples' organizations, and local communities—to develop, adopt, and strengthen policies and practices that advance natural resource safeguards for linear infrastructure aligned with international practices, norms, and standards.
- 2. Enhance partnerships.** Generate and strengthen partnerships to promote planning, development, and investment in linear infrastructure safeguards that contribute to community well-being and improve ecosystem health, productivity, and resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- 3. Develop capacity.** Increase on-the-ground stakeholder capacity to manage natural resources and deliver sustainable infrastructure services by creating or sharing knowledge, best practices, and training materials.

## WHAT RESULTS WILL THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

- 1. Revised policy frameworks that strengthen high-quality natural resource safeguards for linear infrastructure development** in key ministries, national and international financial institutions, and private sector organizations.
- 2. Increased implementation of natural resource safeguards for linear infrastructure in compliance with internationally accepted standards** by government agencies, the private and financial sectors, local communities, and others.
- 3. Expanded awareness of the value of natural resource safeguards for linear infrastructure as a key method for advancing sustainable development** through influential events, education, and strategic communications by national and regional coalitions and civil society organizations.
- 4. Greater knowledge and understanding of high-quality natural resource safeguards for linear infrastructure and the capacity and incentives to apply them at every stage of the project life cycle** by staff at government agencies, financial institutions, and private companies.

## WHERE DOES THE PROJECT TAKE PLACE?

Implementation is underway throughout Asia, with a particular emphasis on three focal countries—India, Mongolia, and Nepal—where governments and communities have been committed to advancing the development of wildlife-friendly, climate resilient, and environmentally sustainable infrastructure and improving safeguard policies. Within these countries, the project will focus on collaborative action in landscapes where biodiversity could be significantly impacted by linear infrastructure.

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT BUDGET AND DURATION?

\$6.03 million over four years, from October 2021 through September 2025.

## WHO IS IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT?

WWF, the global conservation organization, in partnership with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, a nonprofit with expertise in reducing the impacts of linear infrastructure on biodiversity.

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Visit the project's website at [alignproject.org](https://alignproject.org) for updates and educational resources.

## WHOM CAN I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

[Sandesh Hamal](#), Chief of Party, ALIGN Project, WWF-Nepal

[Swarnima Shrestha](#), Regional Communications Specialist, ALIGN Project, WWF-Nepal

