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***Please join us for lunch and the launch of***

**The ALIGN PROJECT**

**Asia’s Linear Infrastructure safeGuarding Nature**

**Nature Positive Pavilion**

**12:30 – 13:30 | Thursday, December 15, 2022**

**Hosted by:**

**The United States Agency for International Development,**

**World Wildlife Fund, Center for Large Landscape Conservation**

**Draft Program (December 15, 2022)**

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| **Time** | **Min** | **Topic** | **Speaker** |
|  |  | **Luncheon** | |
| **12:15** | **15** | Lunch boxes and drinks will be provided in the Pavilion | |
|  |  | **Welcome** | |
| **12:30** | **4** | Welcome participants and introduce the event on behalf of the ALIGN Project Partners: USAID, WWF and CLLC. | **Moderator – Ms. Kate Newman**  Vice President, Sustainable Infrastructure and Public Sector Initiatives, WWF |
|  |  | **Opening Remarks** | |
| **12:34** | **5** | Opening Remarks | **Dr. Heather Tallis**  Assistant Director for Biodiversity and Conservation Science  White House Office of Science & Technology Policy |
| **12:39** | **5** | Virtual Opening Remarks | **Mr. Michael Schiffer**  Assistant Administrator, Asia Bureau, United States Agency for International Development (recorded remarks)  **Dr. Mary Melnyk**  Environmental Security and Resilience Division Chief, Asia Bureau, United States Agency for International Development (recorded remarks) |
|  |  | **ALIGN Project Overview** | |
| **12:42** | **8** | ALIGN Project vision, highlighting partnerships and action both on the ground and across the region. | **Mr. Robert Ament**  Linear Infrastructure Ecology Technical Director, ALIGN Project and Senior Conservationist, Center for Large Landscape Conservation |
|  |  | **Country Representative and Partner Remarks** | |
| **12:50** | **6** | Opportunities for ADB to collaborate with USAID and WWF under the ALIGN project | **Ms. Karma Yangzom**  Principal Environment Specialist, Safeguards Review Division and Environment Thematic Group, Asian Development Bank |
| **12:56** | **7** | Representative of the Government of Nepal | **Mr. Megh Nath Kafle**  Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Environment and Head of the Biodiversity Unit |
| **13:03** | **7** | Representative of the Government of Mongolia | **Mr. Purev Tsogtsaikhan**  Head of the Fauna and Flora Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism |
| **13:10** | **7** | Representative of the Government of India | **Mr. J. Justin Mohan**  Secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority |
|  |  | **Audience Participation and Closing Remarks** | |
| **13:17** | **10** | Q&A | Moderator |
| **13:27** | **3** | Closing Remarks |  |
| **13:30** |  | **Close** |  |

**Asia’s Linear Infrastructure safeGuarding Nature (ALIGN) Project**

Asia is experiencing the highest infrastructure investment rates globally, led by transportation and energy sector expansion. Yet much of this planned infrastructure will bisect some of the world’s most biodiverse areas and potentially decrease human and ecological resilience to climate change and degrade vital natural resources that people depend upon for their livelihoods.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing more than $6 million over four years to increase implementation of effective safeguards for linear infrastructure in Asia — including roads, railroads, power lines, fences, and canals. The ALIGN Project will help enhance the capacity of countries to avoid, lessen or mitigate adverse impacts from linear infrastructure development through strengthened policies and practices, shared knowledge, and increased capacity.

The ALIGN Project will be implemented by 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. The project will support efforts in three focal countries — India, Mongolia, and Nepal — and share lessons learned, guidance, and training materials on best practices across Asia.

**Speaker Biographies**

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| **Name** | **Gender** | **Organization** | **Biography to appear on website** |
| Kate Newman | Female | WWF-US | Ms. Kate Newman is WWF-US Vice President, Sustainable Infrastructure, specializing in conservation planning and policy support for infrastructure sustainability in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In 30+ years at WWF, she has worked across biomes and sectors on achieving a harmonious balance between conservation and development and enhancing government/civil society collaboration. |
| Heather Tallis | Female | White House Office of Science & Technology Policy |  |
| Michael Schiffer | Male | USAID | Mr. Michael Schiffer is Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Previously he has served as senior advisor and counselor on the Democratic Staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein’s (D-CA) national security adviser and legislative director. |
| Robert Ament | Male | Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC) | Mr. Robert Ament is CLLC Senior Conservationist and ALIGN Project infrastructure ecology technical director. He leads CLLC’s efforts in advancing conservation of ecological connectivity and landscape integrity. An expert in natural resource safeguards for linear infrastructure, he has 30+ years’ experience in ecology, natural resource management, and environmental policy. |
| Karma Yangzom | Female | Asian Development Bank (ADB) | Ms. Karma Yangzom is the Principal Environment Specialist at ADB responsible for managing environmental safeguards of investment projects in the transport, agriculture and natural resources, and private sectors. She has been an active promoter and implementer of biodiversity-friendly transport infrastructure in ADB financed projects in South Asia for over 10 years. |
| Megh Nath Kafle | Male | Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal | Mr. Megh Nath Kafle is the Joint Secretary, Environment and Biodiversity Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment. He has worked for National Parks in Nepal. |
| Purev Tsogtsaikhan | Male | Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia | Dr. Purev Tsogtsaikhan is the Head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Management of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia. He worked as a Head of the department at the Center for Freshwater Resources Conservation and was a senior biologist at the "Mongol Tul" Foundation for Nature Conservation. |
| J. Justin Mohan | Male | National Biodiversity Authority, India | Mr. J. Justin Mohan is Secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority. He leads its efforts on the conservation of biological resources. He has 21 years of experience in biodiversity conservation, project management, infrastructure development, rehabilitation and development of conflict areas, agriculture, horticulture, groundwater, and forest management. |