UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023



Reporting from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE THIS PIR

- 1. Instructions in blue are directed to Task Managers / Administrative Officers
- Instructions in red are directed to Project Managers and Executing Agencies
 When filling up the respective cells, use the Normal style from the template. The text will look like this.
- 4. Fields in green are new additions since last year's PIR.

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1. Project details

This entire table is to be prepared by Task Managers

	GEF ID.: 5203	Umoja WBS: SB-008696			
Identification Table	SMA IPMR ID: 35104	Grant ID: S1-32LDL-000045			
Project Title	Project Short Title: EbA II Catalyzing Ecosystem Restoration for Climate Resilient Natural Capital and Rural Livelihoods in Degraded Forests and Rangelands of Nepal (The project)				
Duration months Planned Age	48 months 51 months				
Project Type	Full size Project				
Parent Programme if child project	N/A				
Project Scope	National				
Region	Asia Pacific				
Countries	Nepal				
GEF Focal Area(s)	Climate Change				
GEF financing amount	USD 5,246,475				
Co-financing amount	USD 22,365,714				
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	August 12, 2015				
UNEP Project Approval Date (Decision Sheet)	Insert the date as per Decision Sheet				
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	May 25, 2018				
Date of Inception Workshop, if available	10 March, 2019				
Date of First Disbursement	February 1, 2019				
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2023	USD 2,878,619				
Total expenditure as of 30 June 2023	USD 3,036,279 (Project disbursement USD 2,473,045 up to 31 March 2023 and UNOPS disbursement USD 563,234 up to December 2022)				
Midterm undertaken?	Yes				
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken	19-30 September, 2022				
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken					
Completion Date Planned – original PCA	31 May 2023				



1.2. Project description

Background and scope of the project

Nepal is ranked one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural desastres and is exposed to different hazards such as flood, landslides, glacial lake outburst flood, thunderstorms, cold wave, droughts and earthquakes. The country is also highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change leading to consistent rising trends in annual mean temperature, extreme rainfall events, increasing frequency and intensity of floods, GLOFs and droughts. In view of the above, efforts are being made to explore options in which nature can provide solutions to the development challenges, enabling local communities and societies at large to adapt and cope with the effects of climate change on the long run. This project intends to build, consolidate and value add on the good practices and lessons learned from earlier flagship EbA and EbA south projects and other similar practices conducted by the government and development partners.

Project implementation modality

The project is being implemented by MoFE as the lead executing agency and UNEP as the implementing agency. Department of Livestock and Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) are the collaborating partners. At the local level, the project works closely with the four Municipality and six Rural Municipalities and three Division Forest Offices to implement field level activities.

The project covers two distinct physiographic regions; midhills -Accham and Salyan districts and high mountain-Dolakha district. A total of ten local municipalities (four Municipalities and six Rural municipalities) come under the project jurisdiction. Achham district has three municipalities; Sanfebagar Municipality, Ramaroshan and Mellekh Rural Municipality. Salyan district has Bangad-Kupinde Municipality and Kumakh-Malika Rural Municipality. Similarly, Dolakha district has Bhimeshwor and Jiri Municipality and Gaurishankar, Kalinchowk and Shailung Rural Municipality. A total of 18 wards of the ten Municipalities are under the project working areas. Each one of the project districts has six working wards. Achham district has six wards (Babla, Bhatakatiya, Ramaroshan, Rishidaha 1, Rishidaha 2, and Sodasha), six wards fall under Salyan district (Devasthal, Ganjaripipal 6, Ghanjaripipal 7, Mulkhola 4, Mulkhola 5, and Suikot 2) and Dolakha district has six wards (Khare 8, Lakuridanda 9, Lapilang 5, Lapilang 6, Magapauwa 4 and Jiri 5). A total of 11,453 households with a population of 56,170 will benefit from EbA interventions



Outcome 1: increased capacity of Government Officials and Local User Groups to implement

EbA through enhanced institutional arrangements, inter-sect oral collaboration

and research

Outcome2: National Policies and strategies strengthened to promote EbA implementation

Outcome 3: EbA implemented and monitored by User groups to restore forests and

rangelands in the mid-hills of Accham and Salyan and high mountains of Dolakha

to decrease the sensitivity of local communities to climate change

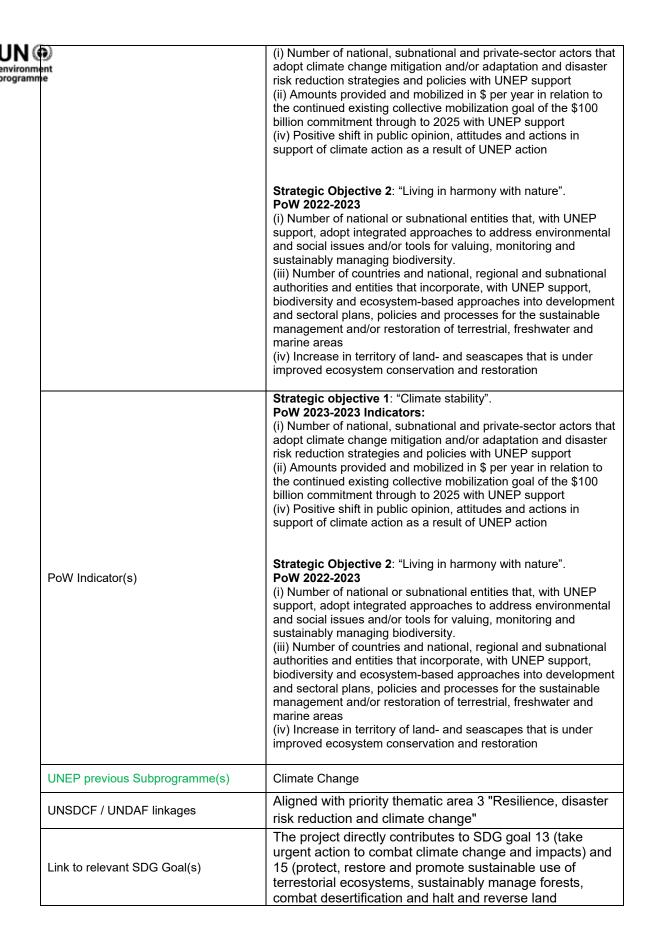
1.3. Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division,
Name of co-implementing Agency	NA
Executing Agency(ies)	Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE)
Names of Other Project Partners	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD)
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Jessica Troni
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Moon Shrestha
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Bwiza Wameyo Odemba
UNEP Support/Assistants	Linda Choge, Ruth Mutinda
EA Manager/Representative	Dr. Buddi Sagar Poudel
EA Project Manager	Mr. Top B. Khatri
EA Finance Manager	Mr. Shreedhar P. Adhikari
EA Communications Lead, if relevant	Currently vacant

2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW and UN

	Specify the relevant Expected Accomplishment(s) & Indicator(s)	
UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)		
	Strategic objective 1: "Climate stability". PoW 2023-2023 Indicators:	



degradation and halt biodiversity loss) conserve and restore terrestrial and fresh water ecosystems (15.1), end deforestation and restore degraded forests (15.2), Protect biodiversity and natural habitats (15.5).
13.1: Strengthen resilience and capacity to climate-related hazards.
13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies and planning (contribution to local policies and planning)
13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change adaptation.
13.4: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for
effective climate change-related planning in LDCs. 15.1: End deforestation and restore degraded forests
15.2: Protect biodiversity and natural habitats
15.5: Halt biodiversity loss

2.2. GEF Core Indicators:

GEF Core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results.

As the GEF Project No 5203 is a GEF 5 project, it is not applicable for this project under this report.

lu di a stava	Targ	ets – Expected Value		
Indicators	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total target	Materialized to date
Insert relevant indicator	Fill	Fill	Fill	Describe any progress made towards delivering the stated indicators.
Insert relevant indicator	Fill	Fill	Fill	Describe any progress made towards delivering the stated indicators.

2.3. Implementation Status and Risk

[complete the fiscal year and select 1st PIR; 2nd PIR; Final PIR; select HS; S; MS; MU; U; HU; unknown; not rated to rate the progress towards outcomes and outputs in third and fourth lines; select H; S; M; L; to rate risks for the fiscal year you are reporting in the fifth line. Add more columns if needed]

THOIC CONTINUE IT THOO GO	, a j				
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
PIR#	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	S	MS	S	S	S
Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	S	MS	S	S	S
Risk rating (section 4.2)	M	L	L	Ĺ	L



UN Summary of status. Please structure as follows, highlighting progress, challenges and main programme achievements, as needed:

Major Highlights:

UNEP commissioned a mid-term review of EbA II from September 19- 30, 2022. The MTR rated the project as satisfactory, determining that "the project has achieved a lot under difficult conditions. It is relevant and effective and relatively efficient and sustainable. Most of the challenges encountered have been dealt with in the most effective way by the PMU and UNEP team, and progress is well advanced on many activities beyond the Mid-Term targets. As a result, the project demonstrates a rating of Satisfactory"

The Seventh Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting, chaired by the Secretary of MoFE approved the proposal for the No Cost Extension Plan for EbA II. As approved by the PSC and endorsed by the Ministry of Finance for the no cost extension of the project until 2024, the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) of the project document was amended to reflect the changes. The letter to this effect has been communicated between CCMD/MoFE and UNEP for needful documentation.

The MTR also acknowledged the proposal for no-cost extension made by the PSC meeting and made certain recommendations; such as realigning the RRF with updated targets and indicators, preparion of a project exit strategy and the completion of the restoration targets. Likewise, the MTR also recommended focusing more on monitoring and results verification and including safeguard measures.

Major progress:

During this reporting period, the project has undertaken various activities under the three outcomes. The detailed progress is presented hereunder.

The first introductory meeting of the EbA Technical Working Group (TWG) was held on 28th July 2022, The TWG, comprising 18 members from Government, Academia and civil society organizations, serves as a coordination mechanism to provide technical guidance for the EbA II project. The second meeting of the TWG took place on 23rd December 2022, where the meeting featured presentations on the various technical products developed for their concurrence. The TWG plays the role of a clearing house mechanism and knowledge hub for EbA matters and conveys key messages of EbA to the IMCCCC.

Likewise, PMU organized series of training sessions on EbA planning and implementation for government officials at federal and provincial levels, as well as community leaders and ward officials. A total of seven training events were held, where 138 participants were trained. The training has resulted in improved understanding with a 31% average increase in awareness level.



Government officials have now internalized EbA planning, while community leaders and ward environment programme officials can effectively differentiate between EbA and CBA and avoid maladaptation.

Likewise, PMU organized orientation programs for students that have received research grants through NAST to undertake research on EbA topics. The orientation was provided in two locations Institute of Forestry Hetaunda, and Faculty of Agriculture at Far Western University in Tikapur, on January 30th and February 3rd, 2023, respectively. A total of 125 participants, benefitted. NAST has awarded research grants to 22 students of bachelor's and master's degree of which 10 are female. With the research works undertaken by the students, it is expected that the knowledge and understanding on EbA will deepen further across the academic circles and discourses.

Likewise, validation workshops for EbA Educational Toolkits for students were conducted in the field. The key contents of the education tool kits were shared and discussed to solicit valuable feedbacks. Six school green clubs and students' teachers' network has been established.

As per the teachers' MoU signed between Bhimeshwor Municipality, and the project, the Municipality has developed and published the curriculum for grades 6-8 and will be rolled out from this academic year. PMU aims to replicate this curriculum across the country with the support of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, a member in the Project Steering Committee. Plans are underway to execute this strategy within the third quarter 2023. This plan once materialized will have a watershed effect in internalizing EbA measures through learning. Similarly, the project has produced and aired a radio jingle and dialogue-based PSA through the Community Information Network (CIN) to extend EbA's outreach reach and raise awareness. These materials were broadcasted through a network of 318 community radios across the country. reaching out to over 9 million people. Realizing its positive feedback, PMU plans to continue airing until the end of December 2023.

To educate and raise awareness at the grassroots level, the project has developed a video

documentary promoting EbA actions and resilience-building measures. The documentary has been uploaded in project website and YouTube page https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loA7j2piq91. over a period of 7 months, the documentary has been



watched and reviewed by more than half million viewers.

Marcus Nield and Artus Jama UNEP Communication team, Nairobi conducted a field visit to Dolakha to capture footage, pictures of the project sites and to document field stories from the ground. They employed an aerial drone to capture the images. These communication materials



UN will be used for social media, a web story on the UNEP website, and will be showcased during the programme Seventh GEF Assembly to be held at Vancouver, Canada between 22-26 August 2023.

https://www.thegef.org/events/seventh-gef-assembly#documents

At the local level, projects marked the International Mountain Day with the theme "Women Move Mountains" at Jingale Tal meadow in Ramaroshan Rural Municipality, Achham district. The event served as a sub-national awareness campaign.

Alongside, an exposure visit for Environmental Journalists from the mainstream media was organized to *Salyan* and *Accham* to showcase project interventions and to deepen their understanding of ecosystem-based adaptation measures. As a result of the visit, nine articles have been produced and published in local and mainstream media. A total of seven journalist took part. On June 5, WED, EBA II teamed together with NTNC/Central Zoo and Friends of Zoo (FOZ) to organize a national campaign to raise awareness on environmental issues, ecosystem-based adaptation and civic engagement. Over 3000 school students from 80 schools participated on this occasion.

Under outcome 2:

Under this outcome, three draft policy briefs aimed at influencing the policy arena have been developed. These include a) rangeland restoration b) Integration of EbA into Community based Forest management and c) Restoration & enhancement of agroecosystems through plantations and agroforestry on private lands.

Under Outcome three, the project has undertaken a wide range of activities ranging from restoration works to community livelihood options to build community resilience.

A total of 138 hectares of degraded forests have been restored this year with a cumulative restoration of 274 hectares to date. Additionally, 66 hectares of degraded rangelands have been restored this year, with a total cumulative restoration of 217 hectares. A total of 79,500 saplings/rhizomes were utilized for both the restoration works. Furthermore, a total of 24 Community Forestry Operational Management Plans (CFMP), have been updated with the integration of EbA critera, reaching a total of 132 updated CFMP to date.

Likewise, 117 hectares of terraces have been improved/constructed this year to a cumulative improvement of 490 hectares of terraces for the conservation of agricultural land and control of torrents/runoff. Similarly, a total of 88 filtering dams have been constructed this year, with a cumulative total of 126 filtering dams constructed to date. These filtering dams play a crucial role in slowing runoff, reducing water erosion, retaining sediment, and promoting water filtration. Additionally, 21 water conservation ponds have been constructed this year as part of our water conservation efforts, with cumulative total of 64 water conservation constructed/rehabilitated so far. Similar, under CLIPs a total of 10 events of beekeeping training



UN phave been provided in 10 palikas. A total of 318 beehives have been distributed to improve environment programme household income.

Audit exercise of 2021 has been conducted by OAG-Kuber N Bhattarai & Co, Chartered Accountants and the team undertook a field visit to Accham and Salyan from 31 October to 9 November 2022. The field trip was delayed owing to prolonged monsoon season and damaged road conditions.

A high-level field monitoring visit to Dolakha was conducted by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) led by the Secretary and Chief of Planning Division, NPD and NPC from 10th to 11th March 2023 and observed some key interventions undertaken by the project. The Secretary, who is the PSC Chair, of EbA II appreciated the works undertaken till date and provided strategic guidance.

Likewise, a policy level visit by members of the PSC undertook a field visit to inspect and monitor EbA works from 14th to 17th June 2023. The members included joint Secretary from DoFSC, Joint Secretary, MoALD, Director, NPC, Joint Secretary, DoLS, Representative MoFAGA. The visiting team observed interventions in Bhimeshwor Municipality, Kalinchowk and sailing. A debriefing session was organized at CCMD/MoFE, where the team reflected on the observation made and provided valuable inputs for further upscaling. One of the outcomes of this policy level visit has been that NPC has asked EbA II to come up with a project concept note (PCN) to be showcased in the NPC project bank.

Some key challenges encountered during the reporting period include:

- a) Local elections: The local elections disrupted the work pace to some extent as the sitting Municipal heads were busy in canvassing and paid little attention to our work. And after the elections, the newly elected leaders had to be sensitized and coached, where the PMU had to re-do a whole set of sensitization and oririentation programme for the newly elected polictical leaders adn excutives all across the district.
- b) Prolonged and intense monsoon: the country has been experiencing prolonged and intense monsson season for the last two years and given the por infrastrucure, this made extremely difficult to move around the landscape and often field sites were completely inaccessible during the monsoon season. As a result, the Audit field visit was delayed and could only take from 31October to 9th November 2022. Similalry, 60 HHs members of the CFUG in Kumakh 2, Salyan have lost their private lands due to heavy mud slides last year The private land were planted with bamboos/nigalos, Timur and Amriso rhizomes (broom Grass) as parto of the community livelihood improvement plan. The total loss amonuts to



NPR 921,250 (USD 7,370), where the contibution from the Project and local were NPR 737,000 & NPR 184,2000 respectively.

Risk Rating: EbA II has rated the Project as satisfactory for the following reason. PMU has already achived the outputs of the technical capacity building & education and awareness under Outcome 1, while under Outcome two all three policy briefs and one EbA upscaling strategy has been developed. Under Outcome three, all targets have been achieved except the targets on restoration for which plans have been prepared to achieve the targets by June 2024. Given the achievement made in all the outputs it would be prudent to provide a satisfactory rating. Alongside, the MTR has also rated it satisfcatory and mentions that the Project is well on track and is geared towards meeting its intended outcomes by the extended period.

The MTR yielded the following observations:

Effectiveness

At mid-term, the achievement of the three outcomes of the project is on track but will depend on the achievement of some key remaining outputs (fully mobilizing the Technical Working Group, launching national awareness campaigns, upscaling of school curricula, developing the upscaling strategy, speeding up reforestation etc.). In particular, for outcome 1 to be realized increasing the development and dissemination of knowledge and lessons from the program requires particular focus, and for the achievement of outcome 2 the upscaling strategy needs to be finalized and taken onboard (adopted) by the Ministry of Forestry and Environment as well as other relevant line ministries prior to project closure.

Efficiency

The project has experienced various delays during implementation, related to lengthy project negotiations that took 3.5 years, the political restructuring, government processes (fund flow through the line ministry budget information system [LMBIS] and procurement according to the Public Procurement Act [PPA]), and the Covid-19 pandemic; the latter which effectively delayed implementation of the project by one full year. It deserves mentioning though that despite lengthy lock-down during the pandemic, the PMU was able to achieve headways on some activities, which did not require personal interaction and field visits.

Key lessons

The mid-term review yielded the following key lessons:

1. The categorization of the budget is key to efficient budget implementation.



- 2. Provincial and municipal ownership is key to implementation of activities.
- The disconnect in areas increases transaction costs, complicates monitoring of activities, and does not maximize benefits.
- 4. EbA investments are still experimental making it difficult to show a large impact, which in turn makes it challenging to argue for scaling up.
- 5. Capacity building is a key activity aimed at driving ownership and awareness.
- 6. Continuous consultation with local government and project beneficiaries is important.
- 7. Collaboration and integration of local communities and wards enhances monitoring of activities and increases ownership.
- 8. EbA activities lends itself well to integration of components related to local waste management and behavioral change on waste.
- 9. Proper monitoring of environmental and social safeguards as well as the implementation of the GAP is vital.
- 10. Training/sensitization of journalists is a successful pathway for raising awareness of the importance of the project activities and garnering local/national support and acceptance.

2.4. Co-financing

Planned Co-finance. Total: USD 22.365, 714

Actual to date: USD 19,747,049 (88.29% as of June 30, 2023) The co-financing partners are Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas, (ASHA), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP2) and Adapting to Climate Induced Threats to Food Production & Food Security in Karnali Region of Nepal (CAF-Karnali) and a co-financing plan was developed with a total of USD 22,365,714.

The previous year co-financing expenditure were reported amounting to USD 12,546,879 (56.10% against the total co-financing). For this reporting period July 2022 – June 2023, a co-financing expenditure amounting to USD 7,200,170 has been reported. The cumulative co-financing expenditure till date stands USD 19,747,049 (88.29% against the total co-financing).

Co-financing expenditures by partners have contributed largely to building the technical capacity of national and local stakeholders by



undertaking a host of adaptation measures to deal with the risk of climate changes and build the safety net of vulnerable communities.

The co-financing expenditure report covering the period July 2022 - June 2023 is enclosed in Annex 2 of this report.



Annex 2_Cofinance report of EbA II_Jul207

Progress

2.5. Stakeholder engagement

Date of project steering committee meeting

Project Steering Committee meeting were conducted as follows:

- 7th PSC meeting, 18 September 2022
- 8th PSC meeting, 9 January 2022
- 1st TWG meeting, 28th July 2022
- 2nd TWG meetings .23rd December 2022
- High level field monitoring visit, 10-11 March, 2023
- Policy level field visit, 14-17 June 2023

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https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bRYdX2nh5WPIZOhlzwF zGNmVlvIjCNW?usp=drive link

Stakeholde r engagemen t

The MTR states the following:

The Steering committee is established and functioning well and the working relationship between the PMU and project partners has been positive, constructive, and effective. Information exchanges is regular and constructive between the PMU and UNEP.

Interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries on the ground confirms that the municipalities and the communities in the wards where activities are implemented express that the project is deemed highly relevant to help build resilience. Furthermore, communities communicate that project management goes through great lengths to consider local needs and priorities and integrate these into the project design and implementation.

The project has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to ensure stakeholder engagement, avoid negative impacts, and enhance stakeholder ownership. The SEP incorporates input from a wide range of stakeholders and experts, including information from the baseline report, workshops, and field interactions. It provides opportunities for key actors and stakeholders to be involved at various stages, along with a grievances redress mechanism (GRM). Regular financial and external audits, including Public Hearing Public Auditing (PHPA), enhance accountability. The SEP promotes collaboration, transparency, and meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

The project actively engages central-level stakeholders through PSC meetings, providing updates on the plan, work progress, and implementation issues. PSC



members from various ministries and departments are involved in decision-making processes.

At the subnational and local levels, municipalities, wards, and local user groups play a direct role in planning, implementing, and monitoring project interventions. Project DPCs communicate with municipal leaders and ward chairs for identification of intervention sites and implementation of the activities in an amicable manner. Site selections for interventions are headed by the ward chair and ward members, community meetings are held to solicit inputs on the programme and plans identified and activities are implemented through the local user group committee. While CAO and Municipal heads monitor the works after completion and approve the budgets and expenditures upon public hearing. So there ia a mechnasim in place from the apex level to the field implementers that reflects strong ownership. In Accham, a separate EbA implementation committee is in operation that is responsible for the overall planning and execution of activities. Likewise, an all-political party mechanism has been constituted and is operational in Ramaroshan Achham to provide guidance, monitor and resolve local issues if any. In Babla, local beneficiares are made to sign a commitment letter to ensure local stewardship of the interventions undertaken.

Participants for trainings are selected in consultation with MoFE and MoALD for central level capacity-building trainings. District-level line agencies contribute to the development and implementation of training materials, guidelines, and toolkits. Teachers and students participate through the teacher-student network for educational toolkit design. The CEPA strategy and dissemination framework serve as key tools for engaging the general public, including national awareness campaigns on EbA. During the reporting period, 138 local stakeholders representing federal to local levels (10 municipalities) received basic orientation on EbA measures. Trainings for technical person and newly elected (21 April 2023) officialsat the field level.

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https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KQ5CK9lZj2L0s9InboBaGfPMM9_cl-xy?usp=drive_link



have a gender action plan?

Yes

Gender mainstreaming

During this reporting period, the project has undertaken activities in line with the Gender Action Plan (GAP). The Community Livelihood Improvement Plan (CLIPs) ensures the inclusion of at least 30% women in Income Generating Activity (IGA) groups. Special attention is given to developing climate-resilient livelihood options for female-headed households. The NGGE has reviewed the gender action plan (GAP) and accordingly developed various traning modules and session plans while conducting central and field level training activities, especially focusing on the participation of the women. Accordingly, the project has conducted separate trainings targeted to women participants at the district levels. Gender-disaggregated data and targets have been generated to guide interventions on the ground.

MOFE has its own gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan along with gender focal person. Since EbA II is executed by MoFE, following the implementation of the gender action plan under the project, the follow up actions including monitoring will be continued by by gender focal person from the MOFE. Link to CC and Gender mainstreaming strategy of ministrycc and GESI strategy, MOFE (2020-2027) is.

 $\underline{https://www.mofe.gov.np/uploads/documents/gesiclimate-chnq-repnepali1625885588pdf-9628-989-1657876169.pdf}$

To address gender considerations, a plan developed by PMU as discussed above gender-responsive activities and training has been designed and implemented. The aim is to involve and engage women in all aspects of the project, enhancing their knowledge, skills, and capacity to adapt to climate change impacts. The project places significant emphasis on gender and social inclusion, given that 52.21% of the population in the project districts are women, with Dalit, Janjati, and BCTS populations comprising 16.3%, 28.2%, and 55.5%, respectively.

The project at its initial stage has developed a policy review action plan aligned with the GAP. This report informs the integration of gender and social inclusion (GESI) issues and action plans at all project levels, including capacity building trainings. As part of the capacity building measures on EbA. Two targeted trainings were conducted for 40 women stakeholders in Dolakha and Salyan districts on EbA planning and implementation. In technical capacity building trainings, 29% women's participation was ensured



among a total of 808 participants across 26 events. Among the 130 group members in the 13 CLIPs IGA groups, 57% are women.

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In the mid-mountain areas, where men often migrate for work, women's involvement in project interventions is significantly increasing. On average, approximately 53.3% of women have been engaged in various project interventions: 54% in rangeland restoration, 53% in forest restoration, 52% in terrace improvement, 52% in bio-engineering measures, 51% in filtering dam construction, 54% in conservation/recharge pond construction, and 57% in CLIPs. These interventions also provide opportunities for seasonal employment and cash income for women.

The project has been successful in generating employment opportunity to the women. The involvement of women in implementation of recharge pond construction and operationalization are very high compared to other activities.

SN	EbA actions on the grounds	% of women
		enagged
1	Rangeland restoration	54
2	Forests restoration	53
3	Terrace improvement	51
4	Bio-engineering measures	52
5	Filtering dam construction	51
6	Conservation/Recharge Pond	54
	construction	
7	CLIPs	57

This also provides an opportunity for seasonal employment and cash income for women.

2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk ? No
New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?



(To be filled in by TM and EA)

No, the project has not received any complaints/grievances so far regarding social and environemtal issues as EbA interventios are conservation friendly and pro-poor.

Environmental and social safeguards management

The project has established a Safeguard Risk Identification framework (SRIF) categorizing it as having low risk and no new risk has been identified in this reporting period. MTR observed that Social and environmental safeguards are partly in place, but MTR observed that the project needs to strengthen the capacity to consistently monitor the implementation of the SRIF. MTR recommended "R2 - Update the social and environmental safeguards and implement mitigation measures in the project to ensure accurate management of waste and labor risks. All project sites need to be immediately assessed for breaches in social and environmental safeguards and plan needs to be put in place to ensure proper mitigation of safeguard risks. In particular, the project needs to focus on the management of waste and labor hazards related to barbed wire and standstill water in ponds" The project is in the process of recruiting new M&E expert with revised ToR, which includes monitoring of SRIF implementation. Upon onboard of the new M&E Officer, the information related to social and environmental safeguard will be updated and appropriate mitigation measures will be planned.

The DPCs have been oriented on these aspects. The TOR of the M&EO has been aligned and adjusted accordingly. During the AWP planning workshop in 2023, the DPCs, CCMD team, and PMU engaged in discussions regarding potential SRIF issues. The activities were carefully reviewed during the planning phase to identify any risk-oriented elements.

As part of the process, the PMU has developed an Activity Implementation Guideline (AIG) to offer strategic direction during the implementation of activities on the ground. Additionally, working procedures are formulated annually and authorized by the executing agency (MoFE).

EbA II has provided training and guidance to the District Project Coordinators (DPCs) and field stakeholders regarding the Safeguard Risk Identification Framework (SRIF). The PMU places a high priority on addressing risk issues during the implementation of activities, and safety measures have been put in place. The PMU has ensured that the DPCs,



District Forest Offices (DFOs), and implementation partners are aware of the SRIF and its importance. The SRIF checklist is reviewed annually to identify any potential risks associated with the implemented activities.

2.8. Knowledge management

Knowledge activities and products

The MTR determined the following:

All stakeholders met during the MTR mission were aware of the project. Communication activities and channels were well-targeted towards some key audience (schools, national government, local authorities, national and local media etc.). PMU has developed a Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) strategy in 2021, which guides the activities on capacity building and the communication strategy for the project from the central level to the field level. The CEPA is clear and strong with good messaging on EbA and a plan for raising awareness and spreading knowledge and capacity.

The project has created various knowledge products, which have been made available on the project website (ebaii.mofe.gov.np/) for convenient access by project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Knowledge products:

- Guideline for Research Grants
- Concept note on EbA Technical Working Group,
- EbA protocols
- CLIPs prioritized option and implementation procedure.
- Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) strategy its Dissemination Framework
- EbA Activity Implementation Guidelines
- Manual for Ecosystem based adaptation Capacity
 Building training to Government Officials
- Community Level EbA training manual
- Guideline for EbA mainstreaming in LAPA process.
- Restoration of Degraded Private Land through
 Plantations, Natural Regenerations and Agroforestry
- Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Adaptation into Community-Based Forestry Management.



 Mainstreaming EbA in Community Forestry Operation Plan (CFOP)

Management tools:

- Gender Action Plan (GAP)
- Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF)
- Restoration plan for forest and rangelands
- Stock taking of cost-effective EbA approaches.
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

https://ebaii.mofe.gov.np/storage/documents/sep-eba-iipdf-8028-475-1648711025.pdf

Besides, the policy briefs are under different stage of reviewing by the CCMD, MoFE. Once they are endorsed/ finalized the document would be shared to all the stakeholders as well as published as appropaite. Later, these documents will be available on the website of MoFE and EbA II.

Main learning during the period

The project has gained valuable insights through various learning experiences, which have impacted its implementation in different ways. Some of these key learnings include:

- Establishment of the EbA Implementation Committee at the district level, involving direct stakeholders, has resulted in synergistic effects during the planning, implementation, and monitoring of interventions.
- An all-party mechanism representing all political parties in the area has been formalized at the ward level in Accham to monitor project interventions and resolve local issues upfront, ensuring greater accountability and governance.
- To reduce the rate of mortality, plantation activities have been strategically scheduled after the onset of monsoon season from this year.
- Timely orientation and training on EbA planning and implementation to newly elected Municipal leaders, executives and technical personnel has great impact in the understanding and clarity towards smooth implementation of EbA activities on the ground.

18



- Effective collaboration and coordination among multiple stakeholders, including three tiers of government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and research institutions, have been key to successful EbA implementation. Collaborative approaches facilitate sharing of knowledge, resources, and expertise, and enable integrated and holistic approaches to address climate change impacts.
- Recognizing the value of local knowledge and involving communities in decision-making processes helps ensure that EbA interventions are contextually appropriate, sustainable, and locally supported. The project has adopted the local knowledge on restoration (watershed conservation, water source conservation, regeneration) and livelihoods enhancement (*Timur*, *Chiuri* processing).
- Mass media (electronic and print) have played significant roles in engaging stakeholders at the grassroots and district levels, fostering collaboration and participation.

2.9. Stories to be shared

Storie s to be share d

Currently PMU has developed nine stories of impact on the following headings:

- Building ecosystem resilience through productive land protection initiative in Gaurishankar-8
- Solutions in focus: Leveraging collective power in Magapauwa-4.
- More than just adaptation: Co-financing solution to disaster risks in Lapilang-
- Protecting people and cropland through community managed filtering dams in Bhatakatiya, Ramaroshan Rural Municipality
- Enhancing soil fertility through terrace improvement in Mellekh Rural Municipality
- Conservation pond contributes to increase discharge duration of springs in Babla, Achham district.
- Restoration taking roots in Bangad—Kupinde Municipality—1, Salyan district.
- Towards improving livelihoods through CLIPs as climate—smart income generating activity



 Local Lamche Potato (LLP) multiplication for local race of potato conservation and improvement of community livelihoods is succession under Ecosystem based Adaptation-II Project.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yNnkjZA_bRwBJW6XDAF5llKDpLRs8toD?usp=drive_link

3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the **UNEP Task Manager**¹ will make an overall assessment and provide ratings of: (i)rogrammProgress towards achieving the project Results(s)- see section 3.1

(ii) Implementation progress – see section 3.2

Section 3.3 on Risk should be first completed by the Project Manager. The UNEP Task Manager will subsequently enter his/her own ratings in the appropriate column.

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives)

[copy and paste the CEO Endorsement (or latest formal Revision) approved Results Framework, adding/deleting outcome rows, as appropriate]

¹ For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.



Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
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² Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

Objective: Increased capacity of national and local government institutions in Nepal to adapt to climate change by implementing EbA in degraded forests and rangelands in mid-hill and high mountain areas.	1. The degree to which capacity of targeted government institutions is strengthened at national and sub-national levels to identify, prioritize, implement, and assess the effectiveness of EbA interventions 2. A number of beneficiaries benefitting from project interventions disaggregated by gender.	Government Institutions at federal and provincial levels are in the process of identifying climate change risks. However, they are not acquainted with the EbA interventions to address climate related risks. As a result, management systems are not in place to implement EbA, and this approach is not included in budget allocations.	Approximately 200 beneficiaries will directly benefit from the project interventions.	The increase of at least 3 in the capacity score of each institution (max 10, Min 0) Over 1220 beneficiaries will be directly benefitted from project interventions		A total of 17 knowledge products have been developed till date. These tools and guidelines are being used as a resource material for imparting training for a wide range of participants during the trainings and other project interventions. Similarly, pre and post training evaluation system has been introduced to measure the changes in the level of understanding of the participants. As per our record, an average 31% increase in the level of understanding has been recorded. During the reporting period, a cumulative total of 25,820 (46%) beneficiaries have been found engaged in the project interventions through 4,470 (39%) households. against the population of 56,170 project beneficiaries from 11,453 households. Among them, 53% women are direct beneficiaries, and the ethnic composition comprises of Dalit, Janjati are others represented by 16,3%, 28,2% and 55,5% respectively. To ensure gender equality, a Gender Action Plan has been developed, which guides the implementation of gender-responsive activities. It is noteworthy that, on average, approximately 53 % of women have actively participated in various project interventions as follows: i) Rangeland restoration - 54%; ii) Forests restoration - 53%; iii) Terrace improvement - 52%; iv) Bioengineering measures - 52%; v) Filtering dam construction - 51%; vi) Conservation/Recharge Pond construction - 54%; vii) Community-led Initiatives and Practices (CLIPs) - 57%. The baseline report mentions that 11,453 HH are the beneficiaries of the project. Of the total population, 52.21% comprise of women. The ethnic composition comprises of Dalit, Janjati are others represented by 16,3%, 28,2% and 55,5% respectively. In line with this, the Gender Action Plan has been prepared based on which gender responsive activities are under implementation. During the activities implementations till the reporting period, a total of 8,679 women are directly engaged in project interventions such as i) Rangeland restoration, 59%; ii) Forests restoration 51%; iii) Terrace improvement, 61%; iv)	
Outcome 1 Increased capacity of government officials and local user	1. A technical working group with a mandate to identify, prioritize and monitor EbA established	The technical working group does not exist.	An EbA Technical Working Group (TWG) has been formed and at least two meetings held.	At least 5 TWG meetings held to influence policy arenas through IMCCCC.	95%	Two TWG meeting was held respectively on 28th July, and 23rd December 2022. A third TWG meeting is planned for 3 quarter of 2023. (Six Technical products discussed and approved)	S

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
groups to implement EbA through enhanced institutional arrangements, inter-sectoral collaboration and research.	within IMCCCC 2. Number of the national, district and local officers and community members with the capacity to identify, prioritize and implement EbA	Zero	During the mid-term, at least 75 government officials from three tiers of government are trained, of which 15% are women	By project endpoint, at least 150 officials are trained, of which 30% are women.	95%	A total of 138 Officials have been trained on EbA, during this reporting period by organizing 6 events, of which a total 23 from Federal Government Officials, 61 from province Level Government officials and 54 from Community Leaders and Ward Level Officials. As of now, a total 519 (26% female) Officials have been trained by organizing 26 events. Target of 150 has already been achieved, however focus has been to train additional 25 federal level Government Officials, which will be done by second week of august 2023.	S

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
	3. Number of national campaigns implemented by the project to increase public awareness on EbA.	Zero	At least one national awareness campaign held.	At least two national awareness campaigns organized.	80%	The project organized a national campaign on 5 June 2023 during World Environment Day, with a call to restore ecosystem in Nepal. The campaign was participated by over 3000 school children representing 80 schools rallying around the major area of central Lalitpur, Patan Durbar Square calling for environmental and adaptation attention and civic response. Likewise, the project also celebrated International Mountain Day on 11 December 2022, with the theme "Women Move Mountains" at the meadow of Jingale Tal of Ramaroshan Rural Municipality, Achham district as subnational national awareness campaign. In order to raise the awareness on EbA, the project has produced and aired a radio Jingle and dialogue-based PSA through 318 Community radios/FM. As a result of positive feedback, the project is planning to air the Jingle and PSA for another six months. Similarly, in a bid to educate the above program at the grass roots level, the project has also produced EbA video documentary, focuses on the ongoing EbA actions and resilience building measures on the ground targeting key stakeholders and general public. As a part of dissemination and communication, the documentary has been uploaded on EbA II website, YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loA7/2pigg In connection with the same, Mr. Marcus Nield, UNEP Communications Specialist carried out field visit in Dolakha district to capture high-quality aerial footage, photographs, project video of the Project activities for social media, a web story for the UNEP website through drone and showcase these communication materials during the seventh GEF Assembly in August 2023. Likewise, 3000 copies of EbA posters, 2000 copies of EbA fliers have been produced and widely disseminated. With the objective of showcasing the project interventions, the project has organised seven days exposure visit for seven environmental journalists to project working sites. As a result, nine articles were published locally and nationally.	0)

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
	4. Number of educational tools including research findings developed by a project that is being used by government institutions to integrate EbA in the educational programmes and national planning.	Zero	Four tools developed.	Four tools developed.	80%	The project developed a short documentary, animated video, EbA primer, EbA handbook, education tool kits based on five pillars EbA curricula for grade 6-8, established six Students-Supervisor network and conducted EbA related activities. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-kmnGrpAMs3hougQERqmrbqFdXs-vA7Z?usp=drive_link	S
Outcome 2: National Policies and strategies strengthened to promote EbA implementation.	1. Number of policy briefs to guide the revision of the policies/ strategies to integrate EbA.	Strategy/policy are inadequate to integration of EbA as part of an adaptation strategy in Nepal.		At least one policy brief is developed that has guided the revision of national policy/strategy.	80%	The project has developed three final draft policy briefs on: Restoration of Degraded Private Land through Plantations, Natural Regenerations and Agroforestry Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Adaptation into Community-Based Forestry Management. Rangelands Restoration and Management MTR highlights that efforts have been made to ensure continued cross-sectoral alignment and coordination on EbA and the project is aligned with similar activities in Nepal related to climate change, agriculture, and forestry. Efforts are in place to coordinate with these during implementation.	S
	2. Up scaling strategy for EbA in forests and rangelands developed.	No EbA up scaling strategy developed to date in Nepal.	EbA up scaling strategy developed.	Up-scaling strategy developed.	60%	The project has developed a draft EbA up-scaling strategy. It will be finalized by the end of third quarter, 2023.	S
	3. Financing plans developed for EbA, including proposed budget allocations.	No financing plans for EbA exist to date in Nepal.	Draft financing plan developed.	Financing plan developed.	60%	The project has developed draft EbA Financing Plan. It will be finalized by the end of third quarter, 2023.	S

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target a of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
Outcome 3 EbA implemented and monitored by user groups to restore forests and rangelands in the mid-hills of Achham and Salyan and high mountains of Dolakha to decrease sensitivity of local communities to climate change.	1. A number of ha of forests restored by the project in selected wards using EbA ³ .	Baseline report has identified a total of 2,937 ha of degraded forests.	400 ha of forests restored using EbA.	1000 ha of forests restored using EbA.	28%	A total of138-hectare of degraded forests have been restored during the porting period. A total cumulative 274 hectare of degraded forests have been restored till date. A tota79,500 seedlings/rhizomes of various special planted. Notable among them are Timur, Okhar, Thingre salla, Khasr Cheuri, Ritha, Khair, Tanki, Koiralo, Badahar, Bamboo and Nigalo. A total 450 HHs of CFUG members are directly benefited with the engagement nursery related work, bedding, pitting, plantation and restoration works. S. R/Municipalitas Restored (ha) Cummulative tilldate S. R/Municipalitas Restored (ha) Cummulative tilldate 1. Bhimeshwor 9.5 10.6 2. Shailung 3. Kalinchowk 4.82 9.51 4. Jiri 5 31.2 5. Gaurisankar 6. Bangad Kupinde 58 92.03 7. Kumakh 1.23 9.24 8. Sanfebagar 13 92.12 9. Ramaroshan 25 41.1 10. Mellekh 21 58.2 Total 137.55 274 Until the reporting date, the progress of restoration is 27.4% of the target plantaty year in 2024.	s s s, f n

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only				0 June 2023	-	Progress rating ²
	2. A number of ha of rangelands reseeded by the project in selected wards using EbA ⁴ .	As per Baseline report, local demand for restoration of 703 ha rangelands across 3 districts.	200 ha of rangelands restored using EbA options.	At least 450 ha of rangelands restored using EbA.	50%	report grass of deg CFUC fencin	ting p , Jai ; , , Jai ; , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	0 hectare of degraded eriod by planting 12,7: grass, Amriso and Nard rangelands has been bers are directly benantation, seeding and R/Municipalities Bhimeshwor Shailung Kalinchowk Jiri Gaurisankar Bangad Kupinde Kumakh Sanfebagar Ramaroshan Mellekh Total activity, the project has get of 450 ha.	20 seedlings/rhizomespier grass). A total curn restored till date. A refited from this interverother related work. Restored (ha) during reporting perodd 7 12.5 8 7.1 8 6 5.4 7 9 70	s of (Clover, Rai mulative 217 hectare total of 980 HHs of ention in clearing and Cummulative tilldate 25 5.2 37.5 18 17 19 23.53 16 30.8 24.97 217	
	3. A number of operational management plans updated to include EbA interventions as part of VDC adaptation strategies.	Zero	80 operational management plans updated.	100 operational management plans updated.	132%	A tota have In this	al of 1 been s rega	32 Community Forest updated with integrati ard, 132% progress ha 100 CFMP.	on of EbA criteria.	,	

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4. Number of techniques introduced in selected wards to conserve topsoils and water.	Zero	60 ha of improved terraces, 18 filtering dams, 18 water conservation ponds and 12 community rainwater harvesting devices constructed in selected	720 ha of improved terraces, 36 filtering dams, 36 water conservation ponds and 24 community rainwater harvesting devices constructed in selected		cumula agricult	ative ture es of	ha terrace has been 472-hectare of terra land and control torra agricultural land has b R/Municipalities Bhimeshwor Shailung Kalinchowk Jiri	aces has been im ents/runoff till date.	proved to conse Approximately 1	erve
		Wards	Wards	80%	5 6 7 8 9 1	o. o. o. o. o. o. o. o. o. o.	Gaurisankar Bangad Kupinde Kumakh Sanfebagar Ramaroshan Mallekh Total ss on improved terrachis has been one of t	10 5 7 10 22 23 117 ces is 65.56% again	25 45 57 58 64 75 472	
				350%	A totof period. benefiti erosion filtering Similari during have be 36 no be to benefities.	f of 8 . A total ting 1 n, retal g dan rly, a the reseen of benef efit, the	38 filtering dams have tal cumulative of 126 fil 1230 HHs. This interval in sediment, and properties as 350 % against to total 21 no of water comporting period. A total constructed till date, 17 fitting 923 HHs. In additional interval in the sequence of	Itering dams have be vention would slow romote water filtration the target of 36 nos onservation ponds had a cumulative 64 water 77% progress againstion, the conservation, about 210 hectare so provide a source	en completed till or runoff, reduce won. The progress benefiting 820 Favore been constructed to the project target the project target in ponds are reposes of agricultural late of drinking water	late later on lHs. leted inds let of rted land.
				177%	the rep	orting een c	6 no of bio-engineering g period. As of now a done. A total 210 HHs a agriculture land protec	cumulative 12 bio-e are benefited with an	ngineering measu	ıres

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²

Zero. 2 CLIPS developed and implemented.	10 CLIPS developed for forests, rangelands	60%	hav	e completed. A to 30 HHs are directly	otal 12 activities are y benefiting from the	e under implement below mentioned	ation. A total of CLIPs activities.	S
			δ.			Beneficiaries	Status	
	ecosystems of and implemented in selected wards.			Bhimeshwor-9	Turmeric, Timur and Amriso cultivation, Beekeeping training with	307	All completed and operational	
				Shailung	Turmeric and Amriso cultivation, Bee Keeping training and hive distribution,	210	completed	
			١.	Kalinchowk	Bee Keeping training and hive distribution, Tunnel farming,	180	Completed	
				Jiri-5	Allo processing center established, orange farming, Tunnel farming.	360	Completed	
				Gaurisankar	Bee Keeping training and hive distribution	80	Completed	
			j.	Bangad Kupinde	Chiuri Butter production, processing and promotion center establishment	480	completed	
			' .	Kumakh	Timur grading and processing center established.	410	On-going	
				Sanfebagar	Beekeeping training and hive distribution, Turmeric Processing Training, Herbal tea producton training, Napier	330	Completed	
	developed and	developed and forests, implemented. and agro ecosystems of and implemented in selected	developed and forests, rangelands and agro ecosystems of and implemented in selected	developed and forests, rangelands and agro ecosystems of and implemented in selected	developed and implemented. developed for forests, rangelands and agro ecosystems of and implemented in selected wards. Shailung . Shailung . Kalinchowk . Jiri-5 . Gaurisankar . Bangad Kupinde	developed and implemented. developed for forests, rangelands and agro ecosystems of and implemented in selected wards. Simplemented in selected wards Shailung Shailung	developed for forests, rangelands and agro ecosystems of aind implemented in selected wards. Right Right	developed and implemented. 8

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of- project target	Progress as of current period (Numeric, percentage, or binary entry only	s	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023		Progress rating ²		
						30	Mellekh	Beekeeping training and hive distribution, Allo processing training, Nepali Lokta paper production, Herbal tea production training, Promotion of Alainchi and Amriso in the lower catchment of Kailash Khola, Bee hive production training. Beekeeping training and hive distribution, Conservation, production and promotion of local potatoes and Ginger	360	Completed	

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress) HN(a)

Outputs/Activities ⁶	Expected completion date ⁷	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁸ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁹			
COMPONENT 1: Local and national institutional capacity development								
Output 1.1: Technical working group on EbA established within the IMCCCC	3 rd Quarter 2024	90 %	95%	Two TWG meeting have already being held respectively on 28th July, and 23rd December 2022. A third TWG meeting is planned for 3 quarter of 2023. The progress is in line with the planning; however, meetings could not be held earlier due to covid pandemic. The TWG meeting will be held bi-monthly as per the decision made on the first TWG meeting to provide necessary guidance and inputs to the technical products developed by EbA II.	S			
Output 1.2 Training provided for national, district and local stakeholders on identifying, prioritizing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating EbA interventions.	3rd Quarter, 2023	80%	95%	A total of 138 Officials have been trained on EbA, during this reporting period by organizing 6 events, of which a total 23 from Central Government Officials, 61 from District Level Government officials and 54 from Community Leaders and Ward Level Officials. As of now, a total 519 (26% female) Officials have been trained by organizing 26 events. The project has already achieved the target; however, a training program is being planned for 25 Central Government Officials during the third quarter of 2023 with the available resources for capacity enhance of the concern stakeholders.	s			

⁶ Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project logframe (and workplan) or in any updated project revision.

⁷ The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).

⁸ As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g., access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.

⁹ To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager

Outputs/Activities ⁶	Expected completion date ⁷	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁸ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁹
Output 1.3: National campaigns implemented, and district level collaboration facilitated on EbA approaches and benefits, including lessons learned in Component 3.	4th Quarter, 2023	50%	80%	The project organized a national campaign on 5 June 2023 during World Environment Day, with a call to restore ecosystem in Nepal. The campaign was participated by over 3000 school children representing 80 schools. Likewise, the project also celebrated International Mountain Day on 11 December 2022, with the theme "Women Move Mountains" at the meadow of Jingale Tal of Ramaroshan Rural Municipality, Achham district as sub-national national awareness campaign. In order to raise the awareness on EbA, the project has produced and aired a radio Jingle and dialogue-baed PSA through 318 Community raidos/FM. Produced EbA video documentary, focuses on the ongoing EbA actions and resililence buildfing measures on the ground targeting key stakeholders and general public. Communication team from UNEP captured high-quality aerial footage, photographs, project video of the Project activities for social media, a web story for the UNEP website through drone and showcase these communication materials during the Global Environment Facility Assembly in August 2023. Likewise, 3000 copies of EbA posters, 2000 copies of EbA fliers have been produced and widely disseminated. With the objective of showcasing the project interventions, the project has organised seven days' exposure visit for seven environmental journalists to project working sites. One national awareness campaign has been planned at the end of the year 2023.	S
Output 1.4: Primary, secondary and tertiary educational programmes developed on EbA best practices.	4 th Quarter, 2023	70%	80%	The project developed EbA primer, EbA handbook, draft EbA curricula for grade 6-8, developed education tool kits based on five pillars, established six Students-Supervisor network and conducted EbA related activities. Some of the key activities are in a final stage such as EbA curricula and tools kits. Once it is finalized, it will be replicated with the support of Ministry of Federal Affair and General Administration (MoFAGA)	S
Component 2: Policy and strategy strength Output 2.1: Number of policy brief to guide the	ening			The project has developed three final draft policy briefs on:	S
revision of the policies/strategies to integrated EbA	3 rd Quarter, 2023	50%	80%	 Restoration of Degraded Private Land through Plantations, Natural Regenerations and Agroforestry Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Adaptation into Community-Based Forestry Management. Rangelands Restoration and Management 	

Outputs/Activities ⁶	Expected completion date ⁷	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁸ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁹
Output 2.200 pscaling strategy for EbA in forests and rangelands developed.	4 th Quarter, 2023	25%	60%	The project has developed draft EbA up-scaling strategy. It will be finalized by the end of third quarter, 2023.	S
Output 2.3: Financing plans developed for EbA, including proposed budget allocations.	4 th Quarter, 2023	25%	60%	The project has developed draft EbA Financing Plan. It will be finalized by the end of third quarter, 2023.	
Component 3: Demonstration interventions	that increase a	daptive capacity t	o climate change		
Output 3.1: A number of ha of forests restored by the project in selected wards using EbA.	2 nd Quarter, 2024	33%	40%	A total 138 ha has been restored during reporting period. A total cumulative 274 hectare of degraded forests has been restored till date. The total percentage of restoration is 27.4 % progress against the project target of 1000 ha.	S
				Finalization of the identification and mapping of the degraded forest report and its validation took much time than anticipated and hence the progress is less. Likewise, the restoration sites fall under the jurisdiction of DFO, and these officials get transferred regularly. However, the project has made an acceleration plan for restoration in the upcoming year and will meet the intended targets.	
Output 3.2: Number of ha of rangelands reseeded by the project in selected wards using EbA.	2 nd Quarter, 2024	47%	57%	A total of 65.9 ha. rangelands have been restored during this reporting period. A total cumulative 217 hectare of degraded rangelands has been restored till date, under this activity, project has been able to achieve 48% against the project target of 450 ha. However, the project has developed accelerated plan to meet the target by the second quarter of the year 2024.	S
Outputs 3.3 A number of operational management plans updated to include EbA interventions as part of VDC adaptation strategies?	2 nd Quarter, 2023	108%	132%	A total of 24 Community Forestry Operation Management Plan (CFOMP) have been updated during reporting period. A total of 132 CFOP have been updated with integration of EbA criteria. In this regard, 132% progress has been achieved against the project target of updating 100 CFOMP.	HS

Outputs/Activities ⁶	Expected completion date ⁷	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁸ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁹
Output 3.49 Number of techniques introduced in selected wards to conserve topsoils and water	2 nd Quarter, 2023	75%	80%	This year a total 117-hectare terrace has been improved during reporting period. Till date a cumulative 472-hectare of terraces has been improved.	HS
				The progress on improved terraces is 65.56 % against the target 720 hectare.	
		49%	350%	This year a total 88 filtering dams have been constructed during reportin period. A total of 126 nos of filtering dams have been completed till date. The progress on filtering dams is 350%against the target of 36 nos.	
		105%	177%	This year a total 21 nos water conservation ponds have been constructed. A total of 64 water conservation ponds have been constructed /rehabilitated. The progress on water conservation ponds against the target 36 is 177%.	
				Hence, topsoil conservation activities were highly satisfactory, by considering the more achievement against the targets.	
Output 3.5: Community Livelihood Improvement Plans (CLIPs) produced from forests, rangelands and agro ecosystems and implemented with local communities.				A total of 32 livelihood activities plan have been identified by the NNRE expert., of which 12 livelihood options are under implementation. With these a total of 3190 HHs are directly benefited by livelihood options. The delay in rolling out the CLIPS plan took much time than anticipated for finalization and validation from Municipal officials. The	S
	2 nd Quarter, 2024	50%	60%	local elections also played a key role in the delays as it took time to have the newly elected officials to approve the plans. Apart from this, NNRE who is responsible for CLIPS has left the position, however, this responsibility has been transferred to DPC.	

4. Risk Rating UN 6 4.1 Table Ameroject management Risk programme

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating.

Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
Management structure – Roles and responsibilities	L	L
2. Governance structure – Oversight	L	L
3. Implementation schedule	L	L
L4. Budget	L	L
5. Financial Management	L	L
6. Reporting	L	L
7. Capacity to deliver	L	L

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in table B below.

4.2 Table B. Risk-Log

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risk affecting:		Risk Rating							Variation respect to last rating		
Risk	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	MTR	PIR 3 (this PIR)	PIR 4	PIR 5	Δ	Justification	
Information gaps	Example: Outcome 1-3	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	The information gaps of GAP, SRIF SEP has been generated and developed. Regarding SRIF and SEP, PMU will conduct periodic monitoring and address the issues accordingly. This issue has been resolved for now.	
Financial Management			Н	Н	L	L	L	L	L	The high probability of fund diversion on the early part of the project was partly attributed to the new approach for municipal executives. Prior to EbA II, none of the municipal bodies had experience of using external fund (conditional grants) for a set of specific EbA activities. PMU realised this and provided various orientation and technical trainings including preparation of EbA implementation guidelines and working procedures to guide them. As a result, the possibility of fund diversion has been completely ruled out now.	
Lengthy procurement process. Public Procurement Act (PPA) of the Government is lengthy and often time consuming and therefore, procurement delays have been realized from the very start resulting in the delivery of outputs and targets of the project.			М	M		L	L	L	=	It is obligatory to follow the government procedures. CCMD/PMU team will have to be proactive and more vigilant to ensure that paper works are prepared on time and processed for timely execution. As of now, most of the recruitment and procurement has been completed and this issue will no longer be relevant.	

Procurement DPCs has to go through this process. A normal procurement process will take at least 17 weeks to materialize.								
Procedural delays: With the change in the governance structures, Project has been facing procedural delays for the channelization of project funds owing to various tiers of government from federal, provincial and local and subsequent reporting.		М		L	L	L	=	The procedural delays will be inherent and will continue to exist, as the project needs to follow Government rules and procedures.
Disagreement among stakeholders on the allocation of roles in the project			М	L	L	L	ļ	As the project has undertaken central and field level inception workshops during which the stakeholders were informed about their role and responsibilities. PMU also prepares the working procedures for project implementation on the ground. Likewise, a stakeholder's engagement plan (SEP) has been developed to engage them at every level of project implementation.
The limited capacity of institutions to undertake scientifically rigorous research.				М	L	L	1	The project has imparted a series of capacity building measures for wide range of stakeholders. Including AliVE tool training, EbA identification, planning, prioritization, implementation & monitoring. Likewise, project has developed technical guidelines, protocols, manuals, implementation guidelines for building their capacity on EbA. Similarly, an MoU with NAST has been signed to undertake research on EbA
Lack of inter-institutional data sharing or collaboration. Lack of political will to implement					L L	L	↓ =	The project coordinates with relevant partners in sharing relevant data information through the TWG meetings. The PMU has maintained regular good coordination with Ministry and
High turnover of staff members in implementing agencies					L	L	=	collaborative partners both at the centre and field. The project has not faced the issue currently. However, the project has prepared "working procedures" of the project and got it endorsed by Ministry. Thus, even with the changes, the modality will guide the system.
Limited acceptance of EbA by local communities					L	L	=	Inspection workshop held, working procedure developed and implemented, field implementation plan rolled out, orientation on EbA held, GAP developed, and CLIPs rolled out.
Disagreement over the allocation of land for the implementation of project activities.					L	L	=	The project has not encountered this issue yet and if there are any issues, it will be resolved with stakeholder consultation.
Extreme climatic events and climate variability.					L	L	=	None as of now.
Limited local technical capacity hinders project interventions.					L	П	=	TA and thematic expert are providing technical know-how and expertise for building capacity on EbA measures to ensure long-term sustainability of interventions undertaken. The project has collaborated with NAST to undertake research EbA.
Limited commitment/buy-in from local communities.					L	L	=	The stakeholder engagement plan has ensured that there is community buying and also the GAP and GESI has been rolled out as part of the community engagement.
Unsustainable land and natural resource use.					L	L	=	Restoration work related to forest and rangelands will contribute towards the conservation and sustainable use of lands. CLIPS will also ensure the protection and sustainable use of forest resources.

Limited understanding of the difference between "business-as-usual leolestation/restoration of rangelands and EbA by indigenous and local communities			L	L	=	The project has imparted capacity building trainings and awareness raising campaigns to enhance the knowledge and understanding on the importance of EbA measures.
Insufficient surface water and groundwater availability at intervention sites.			L	L	=	Water conservation measures such as conservation ponds, recharge ponds, water augmentation measures including infrastructures such as rainwater harvesting techniques have been undertaken for the conservation and sustainable use of water and wetlands.
Risk k			L	L	=	
Consolidated Project risk			L	L	=	

<u>Table B. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks</u>
List here only risks from Table A above that have a risk rating of M or higher in the <u>current</u> PIR.

		_	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods			
	' '	undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By whom	
Risk						
Risk						

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.



Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate.

To be completed by Task Managers

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment

	Results framework		Minor project objective change
	Components and cost		Safeguards
	Institutional and implementation arrangements		Risk analysis
$\sqrt{}$	Financial management		Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
$\sqrt{}$	Implementation schedule		Co-financing
	Executing Entity		Location of project activity
	Executing Entity Category	$\sqrt{}$	Other

[Annex document linked to reported minor amendment]

Minor amendments

[Provide a description of the change that occurred in the fiscal year of reporting]

The Project has undergone a No Cost Extension period as mandated by the PSC and endorsed by MoF until the end of December 2024. Accordongly the PCA has been amended and recorded by both parties.

Some activities such as as rain water harvesting devices have been dropped and the resources are allocated for construction of recharge ponds. Likewise, AWS (automatic weather stations and long-term research monitoring has been dropped. Similarly as recommneded by the Baseline survey report yak sheds have been constructed. All the above activities were adequately discussed and agreed during the MTR misión.

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions To be the land by Task Managers

environ Version programme	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original legal instrument					
Extension 1	Extension	Extension No cost	23 January 2023	31 December 2024	

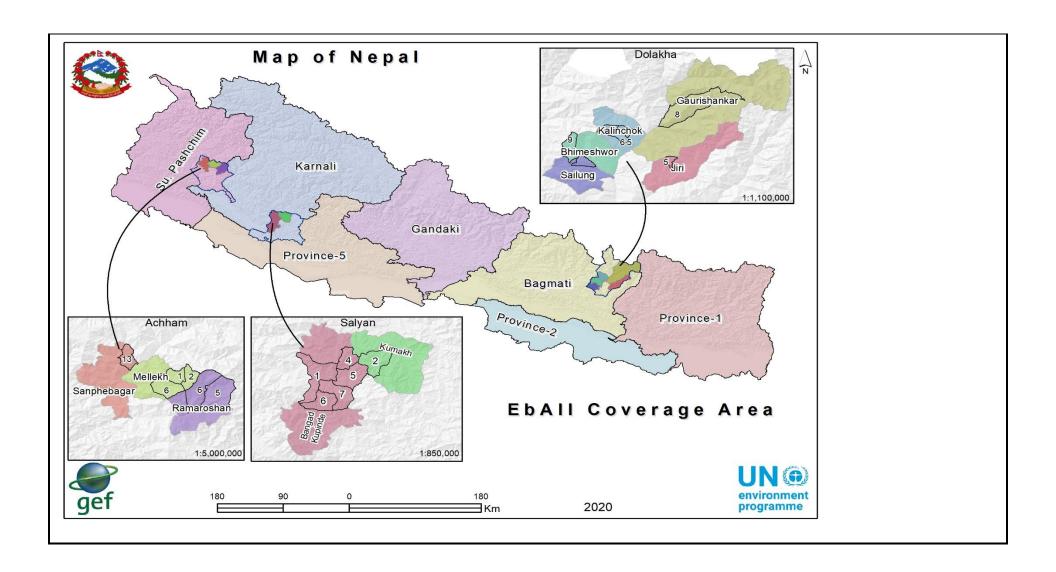
GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field <u>if</u> the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Khare,8	27.7771	86.2217			
LakuriDanda,9	28.1420	82.5610			
Lapilang 5	27.7450	86.1086			
Lapilang 6	27.7377	27.7377			
Magapauwa 4	27.6551	85.9867			
Jiri 5	27.6674	86.2728			
Devasthal	28.5140	82.0282			
Ganjaripipal 6	29.2511	81.0771			
Ghanjaripipal 7	29.3021	81.1021			
Mulkhola 4	28.5398	82.1110			
Mulkhola 5	28.6490	82.3121			
Suikot 2	28.5729	82.1534			
Babla	29.3215	81.2486			

Bhatakatiya	29.2316	81.4039		
Rama	29.2018	81.4135		
Rishida baramme	29.0396	81.2518		
Rishidaha 2	29.1207	81.3197		
Sodasha	29.0664	81.2934		

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions are taking place as appropriate.							
[Annex any linked geospatial file]							
[Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions are taking place as appropriate]							





UN @TERNAL EXECUTION environment

This section is pursuant to UNEP approved Accountability Framework for Directly Executed GEF Projects AND its Operational Guidelines.

7.1 Execution Details

Is this an internally executed project?	NO
What internal execution modality?	NA
Legal Instrument	NA
Name of Executing Unit, Branch, & Division or Regional Office	NA

7.2 Segregation of duties

Have there been any changes to the reporting lines of personnel at IA-EA functions (organigram)?	NO
If yes, explain the changes clearly reflecting the roles and responsibilities within the division between IA and EA functions	NA

IA `EA Task/Project Programme Moon Shrestha Top Khatri Manager **FRO** Jessica Troni Sarad Pageri SRO Mirey Atallah Dr. Buddi Sagar Poudel **Finance FMO** Bwiza Wameyo-Odemba Shreedhar Adhikhari **FRO** Name Name SRO Name Name

7.3 Reporting

Have all reports (finance and progress) been submitted to the GEF Unit?	Yes
If not, what reports have not been submitted and why?	NA

THIS SECTION IS FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY AND WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE DISCLOSED PIR REPORT

REPO	ORT OF PLANNED	AND ACTUAL	CO-FINANCE B	Y BUDGET LINE	2			
Name: MoALD-LDSEP, NCCSP2, NAP, CAFS-K and ASHA								
Project title: Catalyzing ecosystem restoration for resilient natural capi	tal and rural liveliho	ods in degraded	forests and					
rangelands of Nepal								
Project number: 5203								
Project executing partner: Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFl	Ε)							
Project reporting: 2022-2023	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
From: July 2022 (GoN FY 2078/2079)	Prior Year	Cash Cofinance		In-kind Cofinance		Total for year		Cummulative
Γο: June 2023 (GoN FY 2079/2080)	Actual Total	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual**	Planned	Actual	Actual Total
UNEP BUDGET LINE*	A	В	С	D	E	F=B+D	G=C+E	H=A+G
10 PERSONNEL COMPONENT	-	-		_	-			
1100 Project personnel	_			_	_	_		_
1200 Consultants	2,908,882			4,911,978	1,727,983	4,911,978	1,727,983	4,636,865
1300 Administrative Support	538.434			1,130,000	457,116	1,130,000	457,116	995,550
1600 Travel on official business	58,838			1,053,054	20,203	1,053,054	20,203	79,041
1999 COMPONENT TOTAL	3,506,154	_	_	7,095,032	2,205,302	7,095,032	2,205,302	5,711,456
20 SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT	3,200,124			7,075,032	2,200,502	7,025,032	2,203,302	2,711,420
2100 Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for cooperating agencies)	3,540,477			3,927,932	2,099,141	3,927,932	2,099,141	5,639,618
2200 Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for supporting organizations)	3,800,360			5,594,740	1,794,376	5,594,740	1,794,376	5,594,736
2300 Sub-contracts (for commercial purposes)	-			-	-	-	-	-
2999 COMPONENT TOTAL	7,340,837	-	_	9,522,672	3,893,517	9,522,672	3,893,517	11,234,354
30 TRAINING COMPONENT	,- ,,			.)-)-	-)) -	. ,,, ,,,		, - ,
3200 Group training	612,597			1,432,234	454,302	1,432,234	454,302	1,066,899
3300 Meetings/Conferences	28,300			450,826	3,717	450,826	3,717	32,017
3999 COMPONENT TOTAL	640,897	-	-	1,883,061	458,018	1,883,061	458,018	1,098,915
40 EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT	, i			, ,	,	, ,		, ,
4100 Expendable equipment	402,973			901,033	228,164	901,033	228,164	631,137
4200 Non-expendable equipment	9,718			410,826	-	410,826	-	9,718
4999 COMPONENT TOTAL	412,691	-	-	1,311,860	228,164	1,311,860	228,164	640,855
50 MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT					,			
5100 Operation and maintenance of equipment	24,896			634,480	11,978	634,480	11,978	36,874
5200 Reporting costs	-			450,934	-	450,934	-	-
5300 Sundry	-			-	-	-	-	-
5400 Hospitality and entertainment	-			-	-	-	-	-
5500 Evaluation	621,404			1,467,676	403,191	1,467,676	403,191	1,024,595
5999 COMPONENT TOTAL	646,300	-	-	2,553,090	415,169	2,553,090	415,169	1,061,469
TOTAL COST	12,546,879	-	-	22,365,714	7,200,170	22,365,714	7,200,170	19,747,049
* The actual expenditures should be reported in accordance with the specifi	c budget lines of the a	pproved budget (Appendix 2) of the	e project document	in Annex 1	<u></u>		
						Duddhi C D	dal DhD	
Name: Sharad Babu Pageni	Title:	National Project Coordinator		Name:		Buddhi Sagar Poudel, PhD.		
						Duly Authorized (Official of Execut	ing Agency

Name: Signature: Date: National Project Manager Signature: Top B. Khatri Top B. Khatri Buddhi Sagai Toddel, Tib.

Name: National Project Manager Signature: Signature

Signature:	Date:	Date: