Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10776

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments

Countries
India

Agency(ies)
UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)
National Biodiversity Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy
Gender Equality, Climate Change, Focal Areas, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Transform policy and regulatory environments,

Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Threatened Species, Plant Genetic Resources, Invasive Alien Species, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Tourism, Fisheries, Infrastructure, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Acess to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Wetlands, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Tropical Dry Forests, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Conservation Finance, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Sustainable Land Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Livelihoods, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Climate Change Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Climate resilience, Innovation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Exchange, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Targeted Research, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Significant Objective 1

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

Submission Date

10/4/2023

Expected Implementation Start

3/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

2/28/2029

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)

463,600.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	4,000,000.00	23,465,258.00
BD-2-7	Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate	GET	880,000.00	6,161,021.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**4,880,000.00**	**29,626,279.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local development planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India, and create platforms for replication.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Mainstreaming biodiversity across two productive and protection landscapes in India	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 1**: Enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for high-biodiversity landscapes developed and implemented *Outcome-level Indicators:* *Indicator 6:* *Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering 200,528 hectares improved by at least 15 points from the baseline* *Mudumalai Tiger Reserve: 66* *Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve: 67* *Nokrek National Park: 52*	**Output 1.1** Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes **Output 1.2** Landscape-level plans identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development **Output 1.3** Institutional and technical capacities strengthened through mainstreaming biodiversity into capacity development system for	GET	2,500,822.00	15,757,053.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		Balapakram National Park: 55 *Siju Wildlife Sanctuary: 35* <u>*Indicator 7:*</u> *Improved institutional capacities for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning (as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score)* <u>*Indicator 8:*</u> *Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into 445 Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans*	rural development **Output 1.4** Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting **Output 1.5** Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level **Output 1.6** Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
			management actions			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes	Investment	**Outcome 2:** Enhanced financing and engagement by public and private sectors to implement actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use by building on lessons from BIOFIN *Outcome-level Indicators:* *<u>Indicator 9:</u>* *At least three new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes* *<u>Indicator 10:</u>* *Funding (or goods and services to the value of) at least $50,000 for each of the 40 champion*	**Output 2.1**: Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed and tested. **Output 2.2:** Biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures promoted to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use. **Output 2.3:** Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments	GET	1,216,844.00	7,708,205.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		village clusters, for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources *<u>Indicator 11:</u>* *At least 30% increase in capacity of block and district officials to effectively use new financial instruments (as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard)*				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Knowledge, data management and monitoring for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 3:** Improved understanding of stakeholders across and beyond Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya on the benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development planning *Outcome-level Indicators:* *Indicator 12:* *At least 40% increase in level of awareness of value of and threats to biodiversity, and options for mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development amongst sample of residents across 445 villages, as indicated by score on Knowledge, Attitudes and*	**Output 3.1**: Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes **Output 3.2:** Communication strategy developed and implemented to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development sectors and local level planning. **Output 3.3:** Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in	GET	713,334.00	3,083,011.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		Practices (KAP) survey	national and international fora.			
		Indicator 13: *At least 20 good practices of integrated conservation, sustainable resource use and access and benefit sharing captured and disseminated at the state and national level*	**Output 3.4:** Replication of best practices at regional and national level			
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	Project Monitoring and Evaluation		GET	219,000.00	1,539,005.00
			Sub Total ($)		**4,650,000.00**	**28,087,274.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)		
GET	230,000.00	1,539,005.00
Sub Total($)	**230,000.00**	**1,539,005.00**
Total Project Cost($)	**4,880,000.00**	**29,626,279.00**

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	6,744,307.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Tamil Nadu	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	9,940,041.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Tamil Nadu	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	355,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Meghalaya	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	11,686,931.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	400,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**29,626,279.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, will provide national level support in mainstreaming biodiversity across the two productive landscapes of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya via enabling coordination, regulatory and institutional framework for planning, management and decision-making for the biological landscapes (Component 1); improving financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes (Component 2); strengthening knowledge management, communication and digital information management for improving the integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India (Component 3); as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E). This includes funds from central government schemes to be spent in Meghalaya from the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat scheme; and central government scheme funds to be spent in Tamil Nadu ? from Project Tiger; the Establishment, Conservation and Management of Biosphere Reserves; and National Afforestation Programme. The Government of Tamil

Nadu will provide state level support in mainstreaming biodiversity across the Sathyamangalam landscape including the districts of Erode, Coimbatore and Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. Investments mobilized in this landscape will be made through the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, from the state-level schemes for Forest Protection; Consolidation/Demarcation of Forests; Elephant Rescue Programme and Management; Sub-mission on Agro-Forestry; and Reafforestation of Degraded Forests. This also includes investments through the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in Tamil Nadu, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MG-NREGS). The Government of Meghalaya will provide state level support in mainstreaming biodiversity across the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape including the districts of West Garo, East Garo and South Garo in Meghalaya. Investments mobilized in this landscape include investments through the Meghalaya Forests and Environment Department, from the following state-level schemes: Forest protection; Demarcation and Consolidation (including Extension) of Forest; Conservation of Orchids and Multiplication project; Plantation of Medicinal Plants; and Payment for Compensation for Depredation by Wild Animals. Investments will be made through the Community and Rural Development Department including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MG-NREGS). Finally, investments will also be made by the Department of Agriculture, through the Soil and Water Conservation Department, from the Jhum Control Scheme. ---------- ---------- Note: The below information is added in the CEO ER (paper) above the Table of Sources of Co-financing but there is no available space in the portal to add this information. The confirmed sources of co-finance to the project are summarized in the table below (and see co-finance letters as Annexes 13 a-d). Please note that private sector engagement is an important part of the project design, as outlined in Component 2 ?Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes?. Although it was not possible to secure private sector co-finance before commencement of project implementation, the leveraging of private sector investment during the project is critical, and will be tracked and reported on in each annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR), using data generated through the completion of the project tracking tool in Annex 23 Biodiversity Priority Action Tracking Tool, which captures cash and in-kind contributions from public and private sector co-financiers, leveraged during the project in support of implementation. In addition, Activity 2.1.4 involves the design of a comprehensive ?Tracking tool for biodiversity finance?, to be used for measuring new sources of finance coming in to fund priority biodiversity actions in champion villages, and for use by the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape plans. Activity 2.3.4 will apply the new tool with leadership of champion villages, the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,880,000	463,600	5,343,600.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**4,880,000.00**	**463,600.00**	**5,343,600.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	150,000	14,250	**164,250.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**150,000.00**	**14,250.00**	**164,250.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
243,260.00	200,528.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
243,260.00	200,528.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Balpakram National Park	NA	National Park	22,000.00	22,000.00			55.00		

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Mudumalai Tiger Reserve	NA	Strict Nature Reserve	32,099.00	32,099.00			66.00		
Nokrek National Park	555547551	National Park	47,480.00	4,748.00			52.00		
Santhyaman-galam Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary	NA	Strict Nature Reserve	141,161.00	141,161.00			67.00		
Siju Wildlife Reserve	NA	Habitat/ Species Management Area	520.00	520.00			35.00		

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
4000.00	4000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
4,000.00	4,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
320000.00	272000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
320,000.00	272,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Angratoli	NA		3,011.00		
Baghmara	NA		4,391.00		
Coimbatore Forest Division	NA		123,265.00		
Emangiri	NA		829.00		
Erode Forest Division	NA		82,144.00		
North and South Nilgiris Divisions	NA		51,294.00		
Rewak	NA		647.00		
Tura Peak	NA		419.00		

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	5994373	5349603	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	5,994,373	5,349,603		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2023			
Duration of accounting	20			

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	4,000	4,000		
Male	4,000	4,000		
Total	8000	8000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Core Indicator 1 - Includes 3 Protected Areas in Meghalaya covering 27,268 hectares (Nokrek National Park ? 4,748 hectares, Balpakram National Park ? 22,000 hectares and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary ? 520 hectares) and 2 PAs in Tamil Nadu covering 173,260 hectares (Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve of 141,161 hectares and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve of 32,099 hectares).0 Total for CI 1: 200,528 hectares Core Indicator 3 ? Restoration activities (to be financed through existing government schemes unlocked through project planning activities) will be carried out over 4,000 hectares of forested land or degraded forest land, restoring ecosystem functioning and biodiversity, through natural regeneration, clearing of invasive alien vegetation, enrichment planting, and intensive mixed-use agroforestry. These restoration actions will be informed by the landscape level plan, as well as communities? own wishes (with Free, Prior and Informed Consent), and their spatial extent and results will be captured in the tracking tool for the plan. Examples of restoration interventions and impacts on state of forest degradation, working on the basis of state of degradation in the FAO EX-Act tool are: None ? 0; Very Low ? 1; Low ? 2; Moderate ? 3; Large ? 4; Extreme - 5: (a) Clearing of invasive alien vegetation by Forest Department working with tribal communities to clear (and process wood from) Lantana camara and Prosopis julifora from Reserve Forests (from 3 to 0, avoiding 4). However, the benefit from the clearing of invasive alien vegetation is not included in the estimates because the net carbon effect over 20 years of clearing invasive alien vegetation is not obvious as it is not clear that it would lead to net mitigation and it is unlikely that it will be equivalent to bringing degraded land to tropical dry forest state. (b) Regenerative mixed-use agroforestry on highly degraded communal forest land, through Gram Panchayat leasing land to Dalit women?s groups, e.g., growing indigenous fruit trees, spices and medicinal plants along with vegetables, food and fodder crops for sale (from 4 to 1, avoiding 5) (c) Intensification of mixed-use agroforestry in former monocrop tree plantations on communal lands under Nokma-led traditional village councils, using nitrogen-fixing crops and cultivation of valuable medicinal species (from 2 to 1) (d) Enrichment planting in Sacred Groves, demarcated by Gram Panchayats or tribal communities for protection, with enrichment planting of indigenous tree species (from 2 to 0, avoiding 4) (e) Natural regeneration by Village Councils, allowing land formerly under jhum (shifting cultivation) to recover over time, with strict exclusion of resource use (from 4 to 2, avoiding 5) Total for CI 3: 4,000 hectares Core Indicator 4: Area of landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas) ? this will be achieved through two distinct sets of activities (Total 272,000 ha, made up of 6,000 ha (a) + 266,000 ha (b)): (a) Improved management practices in 6,000 hectares of communally owned land in the 40 champion village lands, identified as having high potential to help fulfil the landscape level plan. These improved practices may include: ? Cultivation of food crops and commercially valuable species on common lands using an agro-ecological approach (Tamil Nadu) ? Land use decisions to provide spatial solutions to human wildlife conflict,

including siting of water sources away from settlements, creating buffers of non-edible crops, beehives and bamboo hedges (both landscapes) ? Restoration of shared freshwater resources like springs, ponds and wetlands ? Protecting intact areas of forest as Community Reserves (Garo Hills) for biodiversity conservation and wildlife corridors, and genetic pools for medicinal species ? Applying sustainable harvesting protocols for forest produce as basis for processing and ABS agreements (tribal communities in Tamil Nadu, Garo Hills) Sub-total for (a): 6,000 ha Note: As in the PIF, this figure is calculated at around 150 ha/village to be brought under improved environmental and biodiversity friendly forest and land management measures generated through the local planning processes, though only 40 village clusters and their lands will receive intensive technical assistance through the project, and not the 400 villages implied in the PIF. All 445 prioritized villages in the PA buffer zones in the two landscapes will, however, receive capacity development for mainstreaming biodiversity into village level development planning, including strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and production / validation of People?s Biodiversity Registers. (b) Improved management practices in 266,000 hectares of state-owned Reserve Forests (which are OECMs rather than strict PAs) through integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into forest working plans, drawing on the landscape level plan, and capturing results in the tracking tool for the plan. This will include planning for cooperation with communities on forest protection, restoration, alien clearing, HWC mitigation, improved connectivity and ecotourism (with implementation funded through government budgets and schemes). The relevant Reserve Forests in Sathyamangalam landscape covering 266,000 ha, are made up as follows: Erode Forest Division 82,144 ha, North and South Nilgiris Divisions approx. 51,294 ha, Coimbatore Forest division 123,265 ha. The Reserve Forests of 9,297 ha in the project landscape in Garo Hills are made up as follows: Tura Peak 419 ha, Emangiri 829 ha, Rewak 647 ha, Baghmara 4,391 ha, Angratoli 3,011 ha. Sub-total for (b): 266,000 ha Total for CI4: 272,000 ha Core Indicator 6: It is anticipated that over a period of 20 years from 2023, that emissions of 5,349,603 tons of Co2-equivalent will be avoided, as a result of two sets of interventions: 1) 4,000 ha of degraded forest land (outside of PAs) will be targeted for restoration-related interventions, improving carbon sequestration in these areas compared with the situation without the project in which they continue to degrade; however, the benefit from the clearing of invasive alien vegetation (in 2,200 ha) is not included in the estimates because the net carbon effect over 20 years of clearing invasive alien vegetation is not obvious as it is not clear that it would lead to net mitigation and it is unlikely that it will be equivalent to bringing degraded land to tropical dry forest state. 2) Deforestation will be slowed, compared with the situation without the project through better management of 200,528 ha inside PAs (of which 143,096 ha are forested); and 266,000 ha of forest outside PAs (of which 187,134 ha are forested). Refer to Annex G and the EX-ACT spread sheet (Annex 15c to the UNDP-GEF Project Document). Core Indicator 11: Around 8,000 people (50% women) will directly benefit from the project ? either through involvement in small-scale enterprise development centred on forest products, cleared alien biomass, value-addition to products, ABS agreements and ecotourism, or through involvement in

capacity development programmes for local governance institutions, self-help groups, local officials etc, developing capacity for integrating biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use into rural development planning and budgeting. This will include specialized training of specific groups in women?s leadership and financial resource mobilization and tracking.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

India is a megadiverse country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, with a wide array of ecosystems and habitats. With only 2.4 % of the geographical area of the world, India has nearly 8% of the globally known floral and faunal species. Over 100,690 species of fauna and over 47,800 species of flora have been documented in the 10 Biogeographic zones of the country that supports four of the 34 globally recognized biodiversity hotspots, represented by the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, the Northeast and the Nicobar Islands. India is also an acknowledged centre of crop diversity and crop wild relatives. Conservation is a tradition in India, cultures, traditions and festivals of India centre around the rich biological resources and traditional knowledge associated with it. However, the biodiversity is under immense threat in these two landscapes, as in many of India?s high-biodiversity landscapes where production and conservation co-exist.

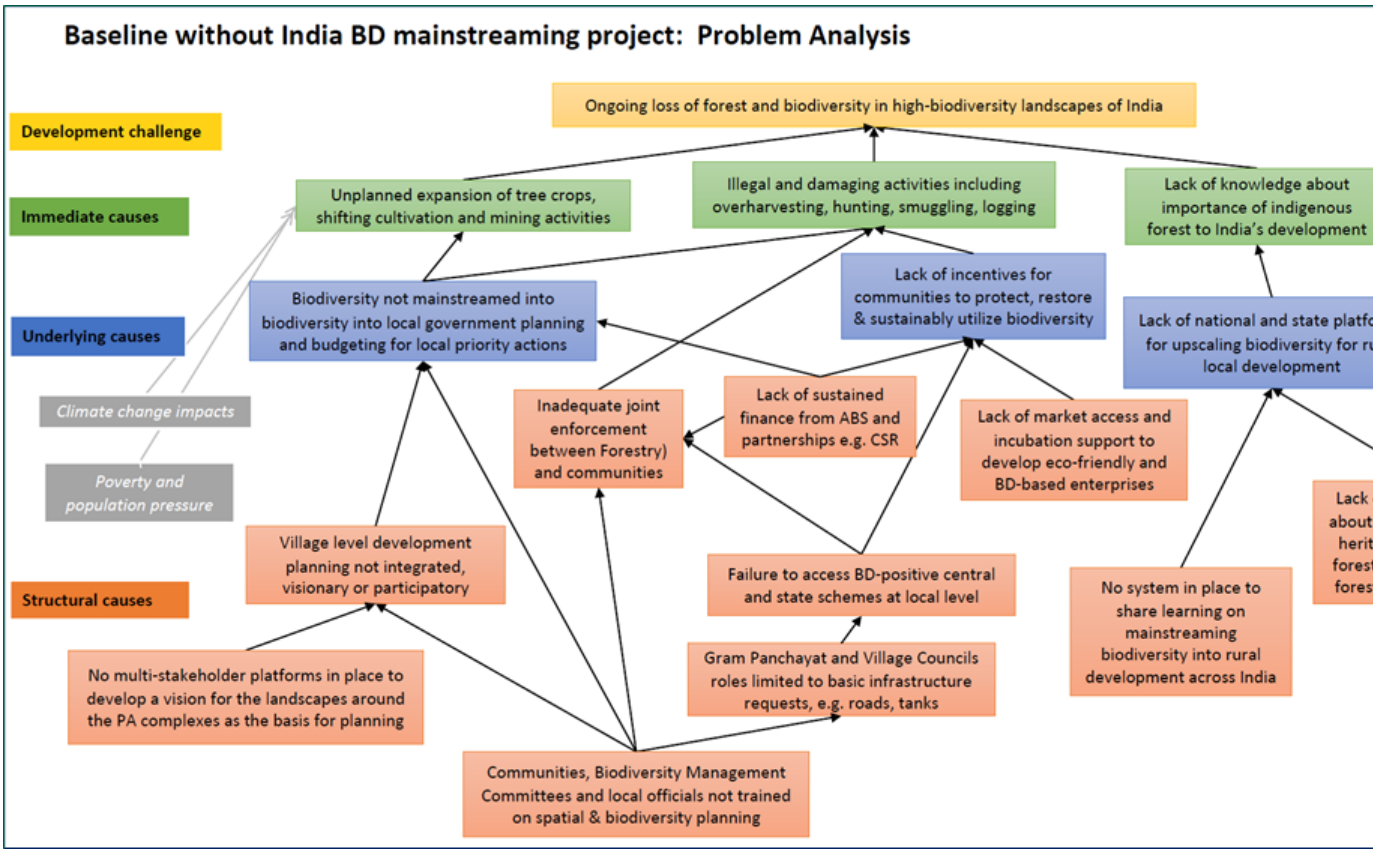
India?s remaining high biodiversity landscapes, including the Sathyamangalam landscape at the intersection of Western and Eastern Ghats, and the densely forested Garo Hills landscape in Meghalaya, face a number of challenges from the spread of human settlements, agriculture and mining, over extraction of forest resources and illegal logging and hunting, exacerbated in some areas by climate change and the spread of invasive alien species. In many cases, forest fringe communities no longer access significant quantities of forest resources but bear the full brunt of living in proximity with wildlife, regularly losing crops, livestock and even lives. The key development challenge to which this project responds is the continued loss and degradation of natural habitat, including forests, wetlands, and other important natural resources, in the absence of opportunities to maximize benefits derived from these natural ecosystems for local communities. Underlying this continued biodiversity loss is a lack of incentives for conservation, but also the lack of integrated, participatory, and visionary planning for the use of land and natural resources, that would mitigate human-wildlife conflict and maximize both conservation and development benefits.

In the Sathyamangalam landscape of Tamil Nadu, many forest-adjacent communities no longer access any products from the wild, as the tiger reserves have been expanded, prohibiting this. Tribal communities living in hamlets inside protected areas retain their traditional use rights, but both the forest dwellers and forest edge communities suffer extensive losses of crops and livestock from wild animals like elephant, leopard and wild pig. Lack of planning for land use means that edible crops are often grown right up the forest edge, worsening exposure to damage, and some communal lands are degraded and underutilized. For India, conservation of biodiversity is crucial because it is directly linked with providing livelihoods and improving socio economic conditions for millions of its inhabitants, thereby

contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation (see *Annex 19a* and *b* Landscape Profiles 1 and 2 for further detail on biodiversity and threats).

In Garo Hills, forested areas near to communities? villages are increasingly being converted to perennial tree crop production, such as betel nuts, coconuts, oranges and cashews, causing irreversible loss of indigenous forest fauna and flora, and ecosystem services. Shifting cultivation or *jhum*, practised sustainably by Garo peoples for centuries for subsistence food production, is in some areas now being practised extensively to supply local markets, with insufficient years allowed between cycles for forest recovery[1][1]. Core protected areas are well managed, and some communities have set aside land as protected Community Reserves (covering a total of 3,136 hectares in the three project districts), in other communally owned forests and the smaller state-owned Reserve Forests, unplanned or illegal (without the permission of the traditional leaders, the Nokmas) mining and timber extraction, as well as unchecked wildfires, are degrading the forest. As cultivation expands into areas previously used by wildlife for movement, loss of lives and damage to crops are increasing, and harvesting of produce like fruits, medicines, bamboo and grass is becoming more dangerous.

As shown in the diagram below, India?s high biodiversity landscapes are continuing to experience loss of biodiversity, as indigenous forests are degraded by illegal or unplanned overextraction of resources, and by outright loss to cultivation of perennial food and tree crops, often in an extensive pattern and/or with low yields. Some of the structural causes underpinning these unsustainable practices are shown in the diagram ? including the lack of effective platforms for landscape wide multi-stakeholder planning, and the lack of integration of biodiversity actions and business opportunities into local development planning and budgeting. Communities, once highly dependent on forest resources, are deriving fewer benefits and traditional knowledge on the use of medicinal and other species is not being passed on systematically to the next generation as in the past. At the same time as forest benefits are declining, expanding protected areas combined with growing populations and unplanned agricultural development are resulting in increased proximity and conflict between humans and wildlife. Nationally, there is a need to promote an understanding of the value of India?s biodiversity heritage, and how indigenous forest lands can be protected and restored, while maximizing benefits to local communities. Central government?s focus on afforestation is important for the purposes of meeting the country?s forest cover target in the NDC but tends to result in expansion of monocrop plantation forest. Plantations have the benefit of crop income and carbon storage but lack the multiple benefits of indigenous forest ? a high diversity of species, forest produce for tribal peoples, and source material for agroforestry and commercial exploitation of indigenous species, habitat for wildlife, and benefits related to the water cycle (replenishing groundwater and creating rainfall).



Barriers to biodiversity conservation: Although the institutional mechanisms and regulatory frameworks are in place for local involvement in deriving benefits from biodiversity conservation, and for village-level development planning, across India these mechanisms are not yet being used to their full potential, and much remains theoretical. For example, BMCs exist everywhere on paper, but most are yet to become operational. Some States have paper PBRs, but most were not drawn up in a participatory manner and not accessible digitally. Village level development planning is meant to be integrated, strategic, participatory, and strategic in theory, but in practice consists of limited interactions between local governance institutions and block and district officials to request limited infrastructure inputs, with opportunities to access myriad biodiversity-relevant schemes (see *Annex 21*) going largely untapped. Effective implementation of both development planning and biodiversity management is currently blocked by a number of barriers: ***i) there is a lack of effective strategies, mechanisms and tools for mainstreaming priority actions for biodiversity conservation at the local, district and landscape levels;*** ii***) there is inadequate funding to integrate biodiversity conservation programs into local and district level economic development planning and implementation;*** and iii) ***institutional mechanisms, tools and knowledge for upscaling this ?biodiversity for development? approach nationally are inadequate.***

In relation to biodiversity finance, BIOFIN India has highlighted three key mechanisms with potential in these landscapes - identifying untapped potential for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements benefiting custodians of traditional knowledge on forest products, for Corporate Social Responsibility

support for forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises, and for local community access to existing additional government schemes. UNDP India?s Country Programme Document 2018-2022 notes that implementation of central and state schemes faces several challenges, including a ?lack of systematic analysis on value-chains and producer-cooperative opportunities that leaves a gap in understanding how to effectively include those at the bottom of the pyramid. Inadequate policy frameworks and capacities often miss the opportunity to link natural resources management with sustainable livelihoods opportunities. Not least, cultural barriers that prevent women?s engagement in economic life are holding back India?s economic future.? Without an inclusive and participatory approach to village and district development planning that includes women and men in planning and decision-making for natural resource utilization, degradation of natural ecosystems will continue, and opportunities to achieve development benefits based on biodiversity will be lost.

With increased awareness, stakeholders in these landscapes can come together around a vision of maximizing benefits for all ? doing proactive land use planning to promote connectivity for wildlife (such as the endangered Asian elephant and Hoolock Gibbon), while guiding damage-causing animals away from human settlements, putting in place buffer zones and barriers to keep them away from crops and villages. Planning can also enable restoring degraded forests and promoting mixed use, intensive agroforestry, and fodder production in the forest margins, with seed material collected from the forest. Much more can be done to promote small businesses based on the harvesting (sustainably by tribal people) cultivation and processing of India?s rich natural heritage of useful forest species for food, traditional medicine, crafts, construction, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries etc. The development planning system that is set up to involve local communities and their Panchayati Raj / traditional governance institutions, as well as the architecture for maximizing biodiversity benefits through BMC structures and PBRs capturing traditional knowledge, provide a powerful framework for meeting these challenges.

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[1] In the past, the *Jhumming* cycle was about 20 years, but it has now been reduced to 3-5 years in the western part and 1-3 years in the central and eastern parts of Meghalaya (Kaul, Tiwari, Kyarong, Dutta, and Menon, 2010). *Jhumming* has resulted in large-scale deforestation, soil erosion, nutrient loss and invasion of weeds and other species.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

During the PPG phase, an up-to-date analysis was conducted of recent and current related initiatives supported by the Government of India and its development partners, which the final project is designed to build on and complement, as set out in the table below. These include other projects funded through the GEF Trust Fund and the World Bank, and bilateral cooperation between the Governments of India and of Japan and Germany. The new GEF project (referred to as ?the BD project? in the table below), is designed to build on this baseline of work and to ensure synergy with partners? work and avoid duplication. The JICA initiative with the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency is particularly closely aligned to the GEF project objectives, and coordination between the two projects will be a priority. The

table below is divided into two parts ? Part I provides more detail on current and recently completed initiatives with relevant lessons learned, and Part 2 highlights initiatives running concurrently with the BD project ? for coordination and synergy.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Part I: Current and recently completed initiatives with relevant lessons learned		
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project ? JICA and State of Tamil Nadu	The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project was financed by the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), which provided USD 71 million from 2011-12 to 2018-19. The project has been instrumental in reducing the threats to the native Biodiversity of the State and in enhancing the natural resource base besides improving the capacity of field staff. 80 million seedlings have been planted under Tree Cultivation in Private Lands from the beginning of the project covering an area of 1.43 million hectares farmland benefiting 87,299 farmers.	Useful lessons include the importance of strengthening of partnerships between conservation institutions (PAs and Forest Reserves) and Gram Panchayats and communities living in the vicinity of these areas to engage in resource protection through increased surveillance, monitoring and patrolling; monitoring threatened species; developing strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, wildlife crime and illegal logging.
India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) ? GIZ and CII	The India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) was formed through a project funded from 2012-2017 by the German Government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), working with MoEFCC and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), and aiming to engage businesses in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The CII-hosted platform continues to operate today has 48 companies as members, who have signed a self-declaration to mainstream sustainable management of biological diversity in business, with 84 Biodiversity Champions working towards mainstreaming biodiversity at corporate and site level.	The IBBI will be an important focus of engagement for Activity 2.1.3 of the BD project ? developing champion village resource mobilization strategies, including accessing Corporate Social Responsibility funding to support the implementation of biodiversity priority actions mainstreamed into local development planning.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in India ? BMZ with MoEFCC	**This German Government-supported project** with MoEFCC from 2012 to 2020 through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has increased the awareness among a wide range of stakeholders both public and private about approaches towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This includes ongoing support to the **India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)** and to a **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) India Initiative** assessment of the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for mainstreaming as factors in development planning and decision-making. **The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership** strengthened the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu and selected Biodiversity Management Committees.	The BD project can learn from the results of the TEEB study, including 12 field-based primary assessments of biodiversity and ecosystems with relevance for policymakers, feeding this into Activity 1.3.1 developing new curricula with State Institutes of Rural Development. Activity 2.2.7 to develop new Access & Benefit Sharing agreements can build on the GIZ-NBA work to create awareness among commercial users of bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge for the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
Environmental Benefits of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA-EB) ? BMZ with MoRD	**This German Government-supported project** from 2013 to 2019 through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supported the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India and three states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan on establishing innovative models for holistic watershed and landscape based MGNREGA activities, using remote-sensing Geographic Information System (GIS) for Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) planning by 10,000 Gram Panchayats for MGNREGA (since the scheme mandates 60 per cent of its total expenditure every year (to be on NRM including water harvesting and conservation, afforestation, plantation, land and soil development.	Although the project was focused on NRM and not biodiversity, lessons can be learnt on how the MGNREGA scheme was leveraged, and the power of landscape-wide planning. The project was successful in afforestation of barren hillocks and renewal of cascade tanks in Andhra Pradesh, and block plantations preventing soil erosion in Chhattisgarh, with legal usufruct rights granted to SHGs. Other technical innovations included groundwater recharge wells, root zone water harvesting systems, drainage line treatments and participatory irrigation management.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions ? UNEP with NBA	The project on Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Provisions, carried out from 2014 to 2015, was implemented by the MoeFCC through the National Biodiversity Authority, received USD3,5 million in funding from the GEF and supported by UNEP. The objective was to increase the institutional, individual and systemic capacities of stakeholders to effectively implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Rules 2004 to achieve biodiversity conservation through implementing ABS agreements in India. This project was implemented in 10 states: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Odisha, Telangana, Tripura, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, with collaboration with the 10 State Biodiversity Boards.	A total of 244 ABS agreements have been signed in India, with the most famous ones being for commercial use of Red Sanders wood, Neem leaves and Pepsico?s agreement with coastal communities in Tamil Nadu to pay for access to seaweed and traditional knowledge on its uses. The BD project Activity 2.2.6 aspires to add two more agreements through the BD project, potentially including *Citrus spp.* from Meghalaya.
Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) ? IFAD with MBMA	The Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) is a state-wide project of Govt of Meghalaya supported by a loan of USD 50 million from IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). Running from 2015 to end of 2022, implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, it aims at improving family incomes and quality of life in rural Meghalaya through expanded and sustainable livelihood opportunities adapted to the hill environment and effects of climate change. Megha-LAMP has had positive results in 1,350 villages in 18 blocks across all 11 districts - supporting new livelihood opportunities linked to markets (e.g. piggery, aromatic plants, beekeeping, spices); establishing Integrated Village Cooperative Societies; and implementing Natural Resource Management Plans on land (erosion control, degraded land reclamation); water (check dams, ring wells, spring tap chamber, irrigation canals); catchments (contour trenching and bunding, terracing, afforestation, desiltation).	The Megha-LAMP project has registered 300 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) and trained them to run loan businesses and run aggregation centres. The services offered by successful IVCS can be tapped into by the BD project beneficiaries to expand businesses once established through the project.
Part II: Initiatives running concurrently with the GEF project ? for coordination and synergy		

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project - World Bank and State of Meghalaya	The Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP), being implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) from 2018 to 2023, utilizes a USD 48 million concessional loan from the World Bank (IBRD). The project supports communities across the State on preparing and implementing community landscape plans for restoring degraded forest, springs and water bodies, soil and water conservation, nature-based tourism, agro-forestry and homestead forestry. So far Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs) have been established in 400 villages and have implemented 3,734 interventions over 18,126 hectares. The MCLLMP is also rolling out a Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme supporting villages, communities, clans or individuals who commit to conserve and protect an area of over 5 hectares of Natural Forest for a minimum of 30 years ? Rs 8,000 (USD 100) per ha per year for 5 years, and additional amounts if registered as a Community Reserve, or if very dense forest, a Sacred Grove, or in an eco-sensitive zone around a Protected Area.	Despite little or no overlap in the official implementation periods of the MCLLMP and BD projects, the PES scheme set up through MCLLMP will continue. Coordination with the PES scheme and supporting BD project beneficiary communities to access it will be an important incentive and will contribute to the BD project?s goal of unlocking finance for conservation. The MCLLMP project has also highlighted a key reform in the forest sector which the BD project can build on: (i) Strengthening Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in forest management by working on traditional forest laws to align with state forest plans and updating based on landscape planning, (ii) bringing convergence between forests plans of the State and Village NRM plans, and (iii) bringing ADCs, State Forest and other stakeholder departments together at the institutional level platform to discuss convergence.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement Project (MeCFLIP) ? JICA with MBDA	The Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement Project (MeCFLIP) is running from 2020 to 2030, with a concessional loan of USD 78,000 from JICA, and government co-finance, executed by the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority. The objective of the project is to restore and conserve natural resources within the villages throguh: Sustainable forest management in 500 communities (participatory land use planning, afforestation, fire management, rejuvenation of springs/water streams, registration of community reserves, soil and water conservation); ii) Community development and livelihood improvement (infrastructure development, value chain development, production and processing of forest products, horticulture, livelihood oriented forestry including medicinal plants and bamboo cultivation, livestock raising and seed capital to 500 local communities), iii). Institutional strengthening (e.g., capacity development for communities and institutions, support to 1,000 Self Help Groups, community gender sensitization). Spatial targets include: restoring 22,500 ha of degraded forest areas (including reclaiming of shifting cultivation area); 1,600 ha of Timber Resources (with Enrichment Plantation). The project start has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and villages are currently being selected.	Coordination with the MeCFLIP project will be essential for the BD project (Meghalaya landscape), given the strong thematic overlaps. In the case that some of the same villages are included in both projects, it will be essential distinguish between the contributions of the smaller more biodiversity-focused GEF project (e.g., building BMCs) and the larger JCA-funded interventions. The JICA teams can also play a role in the landscape level planning work for the larger Nokrek-Balpakram complex.
Project Mongma Rama: Protecting the Garo Green Spine ? WTI and WLT with Govt of Meghalaya and ADC	Since 2003, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), supported by World Land Trust (WLT) have been working with Garo Hills communities, the Autonomous District Council and Meghalaya State Forest Department to create three elephant corridors that link an entire network of protected areas: the Garo Green Spine. A new phase of work from 2021-2026 has raised USD 425,000 in public and corporate donations to create a fourth corridor, strengthening resilience against fragmentation and degradation. The project aims to increase the total area under conservation by: (a) legally notifying larger lands for wildlife conservation, (b) restoring *jhummed* fallow lands, (c) sensitising local communities about the importance and benefits of wildlife conservation through campaigns, (d) optimising social and biodiversity benefits by strengthening livelihood and employment opportunities, (e) reducing the people?s dependency on forests through the use of fuel efficient stoves on a pilot basis to reduce fuel wood extraction, and (f) sharing experiences, learnings and success models with the public through workshops and meetings. The initial goals are to protect a total of 2,000 ha through community-run reserves; restore 170 ha through 125,000 native trees; hire three watchers from local communities, and bring a total of 15,000 ha under biodiversity-friendly community plans.	The Garo Green Spine concept will likely be an important part of the landscape level plan to be developed through the BD project?s multi-stakeholder platform - connecting the fragmented forest patches located between the West Garo Hills and Nokrek National Park, with a view to establishing an unbroken wilderness link with Balpakram National Park. In particular, the two projects should cooperate closely on supporting government and communities to expand community reserves.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance ? UNEP	This GEF 7 project (ID 10204), from 2022-2027, Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance, is supported by UNEP and has multiple executing entities including the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare (MoAFW); and (MoEFCC); The project aims to reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains and public- private finance.	While there is a priori no geographic overlap, this mainstreaming project also includes multi-stakeholder coordination and plans to work with Gram Panchayat in SLM and biodiversity conservation in micro-production landscapes and extrapolated to the landscape level. It also entails strengthening producer organizations, financial instruments, public-private partnerships and sustainable production systems.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
& IUCN with MoEFCC		
Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in India, UNDP with MoEFCC	The Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in India, UNDP from 2021 to 2026 plans to have interventions in a number of States, including Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, and notably in Khasi Hills, nearby one of the target landscapes. The project will bring important learning in terms of community small grants to conserve biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources, stimulating agro-ecological practices by small farmers, biodiversity-based organic green product developments, creation of stakeholder platforms, landscape governance arrangements, private-civil society partnerships, etc.	This programme plans interventions in one of the landscape sites in Meghalaya providing opportunities for learning and sharing lessons on using small grants to conserve biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources, stimulating agro-ecological practices by small farmers, biodiversity-based organic green product developments. Potential exists for learning exchanges through Activity 3.3.2 of the BD project.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) ? UNDP with Govt of India	The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) is a UNDP-managed global partnership with funding from the European Commission and the governments of Germany, Switzerland, Norway, and Flanders seeking to address the biodiversity finance challenge in a comprehensive manner. The aim is to define biodiversity finance needs and gaps with greater precision through detailed national-level assessments, to determine challenges and opportunities for resource mobilization, and to build a stronger case for increased biodiversity investment. BIOFIN India is anchored in MoEFCC and hosted in the National Biodiversity Authority, collaborating with UNDP and other partners to implement the BIOFIN methodology at the national level, and pilot it in the States of Maharashtra and Uttarakhand ? with 5 other states and 1 Union territory to follow. The project has supported the government in assessment of the national level finance gap for implementing the National Biodiversity Action Plan and identified 12 country specific finance solutions in a national biodiversity finance plan. Three solutions are being piloted to demonstrate its potential to leverage finance for biodiversity in the country: mainstreaming biodiversity in public finance (in agriculture sector), Corporate Social Responsibility and Access and Benefit Sharing.	The BD project will take forward the three prioritized biodiversity finance solutions of BIOFIN India through Activity 2.1.3 in which champion villages will develop resource mobilization strategies focused on a. Central and state government schemes and missions, b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements, and c. Corporate Social Responsibility. For the latter, BIOFIN?s detailed review of 60 public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations to assess their expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation will be drawn upon. The project?s Output will also apply BIOFIN method and approaches in supporting local governance institutions, communities and officials to develop their capacity to access additional financial resources, and also to track biodiversity-relevant expenditure.

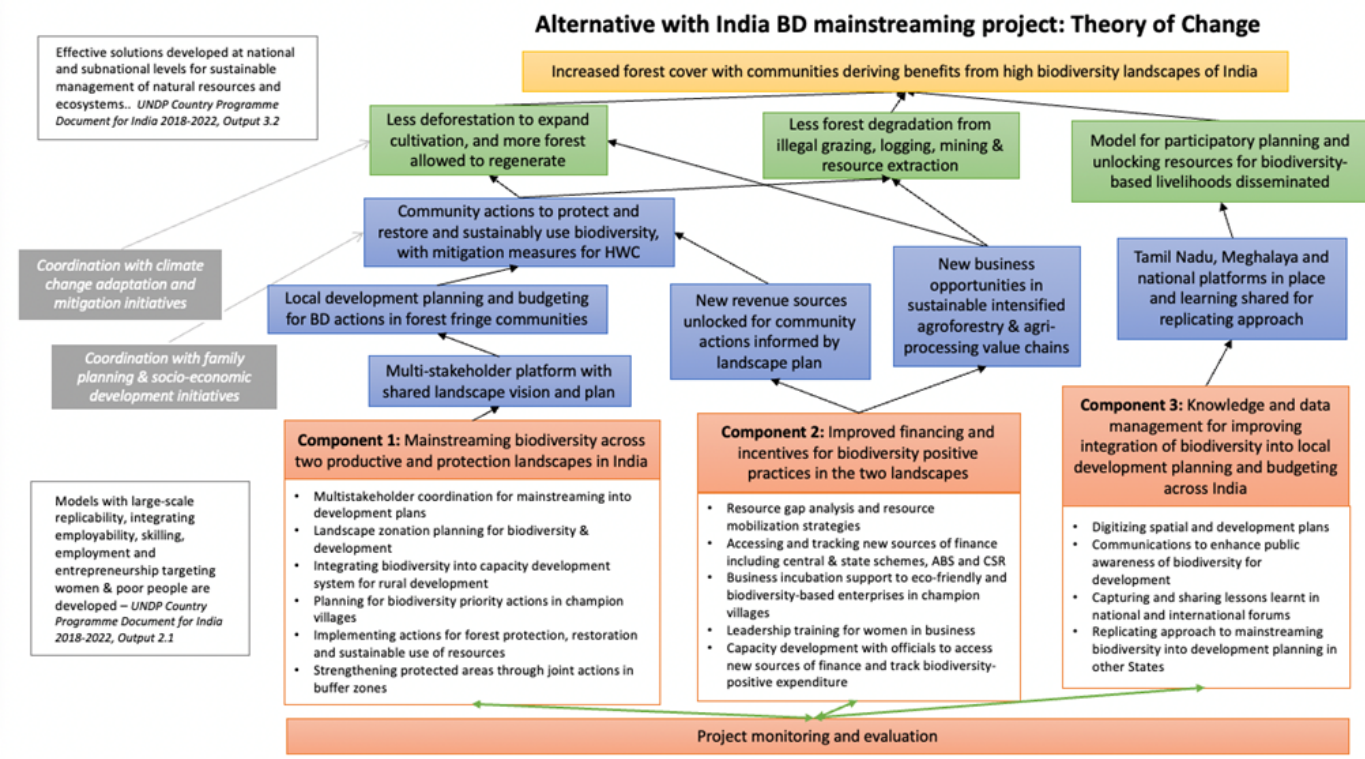
3) The proposed alternative scenario, with a description of outcomes and components of the project

The project structure and design remains highly consistent with that of the PIF, and the focal area strategies are addressed as before.

The objective of the project is to mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local development planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India and create platforms for replication. The project strategy involves mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the existing system of village, block and district level planning for rural development in the two States (See *Annex 17a* for a full outline of the

different local governance systems in Tamil Nadu based on Gram Panchayats and in Meghalaya based on traditional village councils inputting into Village Employment Councils, with higher level structures as well, as shown in the table below). This integration will be achieved in the context of landscape level multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together local communities and district government, supported by the Forest and Rural Development Departments, to establish a common vision and land use plan for these two landscapes which include five major Protected areas, as well as Reserve Forest and community-owned forest in their buffer zones (see *Annex 19a* and *19b* Landscape Profiles).

A landscape level plan will thus form the basis for developing capacity to mainstream biodiversity into local development planning and carrying out priority biodiversity actions in terms of the landscape plans that maximize benefits for communities and for biodiversity (Component 1). Incentives for such biodiversity actions in 40 champion village lands will be created through accessing new sources of biodiversity finance, building on the BIOFIN approach; and through support to local forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises (Component 2). The model piloted and the lessons learnt will be shared across Tami Nadu and Meghalaya states, and with the other States of India through the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRDs), and the central government departments supporting panchayat raj institutions, rural development, and forest conservation. The diagram below shows the theory of change behind these three interrelated components of work, as well how the project?s outputs, outcomes and results will be monitored and evaluated, with learning fed back into the project to maximize impact through adaptive management.



Key assumptions underpinning this theory of change are that:

1. The Government of India?s myriad missions and schemes at central level and in the two States, as well as parallel donor investments, will address the critical related challenges of reducing population pressure and adapting to climate change.

2. The five Protected Areas (two Tiger Reserves, two National Parks and one Wildlife Sanctuary) at the core of these two high-biodiversity landscapes will continue to be fully funded by central / State government, and enforcement efforts will remain at least at current levels.

3. The project will enable effective coordination across government sectors, leading to better integrated planning for conservation and development. In particular, the key government departments at State level will cooperate effectively ? in Tamil Nadu the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests (and State Biodiversity Board) with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (and State Institute for Rural Development); and in Meghalaya the Department of Forests and Environment (and SBB) with the Department of Community and Rural Development (and SIRD, and Meghalaya Basin Development Authority).

4. The Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (ADC) will be equipped to play a meaningful role in the State & landscape Coordination Committee in Meghalaya, and the ADC?s forestry officials in the project districts will be effectively drawn into project activities and work closely with the Meghalaya State Forest Department.

5. The system of Gram Panchayat and Village Level Development Planning in the two States continues to improve, and to involve local communities in a more meaningful way, with the project providing impetus for a more proactive role by communities.

6. Gram Panchayats in the Tamil Nadu landscape, and Village Employment Councils (together with traditional village councils? input) in the Meghalaya landscape, will use the opportunities posed through the project to go beyond their current narrow focus on planning / making requests for basic village infrastructure to request support from additional existing schemes to enable proactive work on restoring and generate livelihoods from communal forest and other lands.

7. The District Collectors (in Tamil Nadu) and Deputy Commissioners (in Meghalaya) will play a highly supportive role in the project, bringing together all the relevant line departments who can help communities to access funds for local and block level, and hosting the District Coordination Mechanisms.

8. Tribal communities living in hamlets inside the Reserve Forests in the Sathyamangalam landscape, and members of scheduled castes living in Gram Panchayats bordering the Tiger Reserves and Reserve Forests will be drawn into project activities and will be beneficiaries of support to enterprise development.

9. Government authorities in Tamil Nadu will continue to support the granting of leases to landless people from scheduled castes to undertake productive activities on underutilized or degraded communal or state-owned land, at the request of the relevant Gram Panchayat.

10. The 445 villages (see Annex 19b, 19d) whose local governance institutions, community groups and supporting officials participate in the capacity development programme for mainstreaming biodiversity into development, will form a solid core of experience which can then be drawn on by government in rolling out the training across the two States post-project (as well as sharing their learning with other States).

11. Funds will be accessed through existing state schemes for the supply of inputs, equipment and small-scale infrastructure to the eco-friendly and forest-based enterprises supported whose establishment and incubation will be supported through the project.

12. Efforts to restore degraded forest lands through through natural regeneration, clearing of invasive alien vegetation, enrichment planting and practice of intensive mixed-use agroforestry will be successful over time (beyond the project lifespan) in restoring a greater diversity of micro-fauna and flora, as well as the provision of ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and soil fertility.

13. It will prove feasible to establish at least two new Access and Benefit Sharing agreements through the project, with partners making commercial use of an indigenous forest species (of which local communities are the traditional stewards and knowledge holders) who are willing to channel monetary and non-monetary benefits to them in exchange for access to the biological or genetic resource.

14. Women in local governance institutions, in new small enterprises and in existing self-help groups will be successfully empowered through targeted capacity development efforts and will participate fully in project structures, land use planning and livelihoods activities.

15. Small enterprises established through the project will reach break-even before project end and will generate sufficient sales for subsidies to input costs to be tapered off, becoming established as independent and sustainable businesses.

The changes made from PIF stage to Project Document / CEO Endorsement request stage, as a result of work carried out under the Preparation Grant, including further stakeholder consultations, are highlighted and analysed in the table that follows (below which is a full outline of the activities under each outcome and output.

Table showing changes from PIF stage:

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
Project objective	To mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local level self-governance institutional planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India	To mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local **development** planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India, **and create platforms for replication**	Although it is unusual to change the objective, this was recommended by the STAP to simplify it and avoid the confusing term ?institutional planning?. The context of the Panchayati Raj institutions of self-governance can be given in the text. The exclusive focus on the two landscapes underplays the significance of the third component and activities to replicate the approach across and beyond the two states.
Objective-level indicators	The PIF showed five GEF Core Indicators in Table F but did not reflect these in the Project Results Framework. These have now been included in the PRF (in the CEO Endorsement Request and UNDP-GEF Project Document) as indicators for the project as a whole. In the PIF, two of these were used as indicators for Component 1 ? see (iii) and (iv) below in this column.	Indicator 1 (Mandatory Indicator): *8,000 direct project beneficiaries (4,000 women, 4,000 men)*	No change in this number from the PIF. The descriptor of how the beneficiaries are calculated has been adjusted slightly ? see Section E above ? Notes on the GEF Core Indicators.
	The PIF had a Core Indicator on *Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares) - 243,260 hectares*	Indicator 2 (GEF Core Indicator 1): ***200,528 hectares** of terrestrial protected areas to be under improved management for conservation and sustainable use*	The figure here has been corrected. There was a mathematical error in the PIF calculations. Total hectares should be 200,528 ha (instead of 243,260 ha) Nokrek National Park, which is 47.48 km2 in size, was accidentally listed (see Core Indicators Worksheet with PIF) as 47,480 hectares, when it should have been just 4,748 hectares. (Note: This is closely related to the Component 1 indicator for *Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas*)

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	PIF Component 1 indicator *(iii) At least 4,000 hectares of biodiversity rich OECM areas (community reserves, medicinal plant reserves, sacred groves, International Bird Areas, wetlands, Agriculture Heritage Systems, etc.) under improved biodiversity-compatible conservation and restoration practices (restoration financed through non-GEF resources)*	Indicator 3 (GEF Core Indicator 3): *4,000 hectares of land to be restored*	Old Indicator (iii) under Component 1 is now used as an indicator of success in the project?s overall objective ? also a GEF Core Indicator, as in the PIF (see *Annex E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Targets and Worksheet* for details, as well as the Notes on Core Indicators in Section E above.)

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	PIF Component 1 indicator *(iv) At least 320,000 hectares (excluding protected areas) under (a) biodiversity-friendly forest and land management practices implemented in 60,000 hectares through integration into local, block and district level development planning and budgeting processes and (b) improved practices in 260,000 hectares of forests through integration of conservation outcomes in forest management plans (extent to be confirmed at PPG stage)*	Indicator 4 (GEF Core Indicator 4): *272,000 hectares of land to come under improved land use practices* a. Improved management practices in 6,000 hectares of communally owned land in the 40 champion village lands b. Improved management practices in 266,000 hectares of state-owned Reserve Forests through integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into forest working plans -	Old Indicator (iv) under Component 1 is now used as an indicator of success in the project?s overall objective ? also a GEF Core Indicator (see *Annex E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Targets and Worksheet* for details, as well as the Notes on Core Indicators in Section E above.) The total area of landscape expected to be under improved management to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas) is decreased from 320,000 to 272,000 hectares (ha). This will be achieved through two distinct sets of activities ? (a) Improved management practices in 6,000 hectares of communally owned land in the 40 champion village lands, i.e., decreased from 60,000 ha in the PIF); and (b) Improved management practices in 266,000 hectares of state-owned Reserve Forests (which are OECMs rather than strict PAs) through integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into forest working plans, i.e. increased from 260,000 ha in the PIF. On the change to (a), as in the PIF, the figure is calculated at around ?150 ha/village to be brought under improved environmental and biodiversity friendly forest and land management measures generated through the local planning processes?, but only 40 ?champion village? clusters and their lands will receive intensive technical assistance through the project, and not the 400 villages implied in the PIF. (All 445 prioritized villages in the PA buffer zones in the two landscapes will, however, receive capacity development for mainstreaming biodiversity into village level development planning, including strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and production / validation of People?s Biodiversity Registers). Please note: Once a costing exercise was done on how to provide meaningful technical assistance to villages that goes beyond identifying to actually implementing priority biodiversity actions, it became clear that the original target of 400 villages for such intensive support was not achievable within the limited project budget. Instead it was decided to support only 40 ?champion village?? clusters and their lands in this intensive manner and to publicize their results in order to achieve a demonstration effect. These champion villages should achieve concrete results on the ground in relation to the planned ?around 150 ha/village to be brought

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
			under improved environmental and biodiversity friendly forest and land management measures?. To attempt to achieve this in all 445 target villages was not seen as realistic within the project budget, and could lead to reporting of inputs rather than concrete results on the ground. As a compromise, it was decided to provide a medium level of support to the 445 villages with high or medium biodiversity within their lands, that will be supported to draw produce/validate People?s Biodiversity Registers, providing them also with support to mainstream priority biodiversity actions into their local development plans, including strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees. This would then form a stepping stone towards taking action along the lines of the champion villages, building on leveraged co-finance gained during project implementation. On the change to (b), the total size of the State-owned Reserve Forests falling into the two project landscapes was calculated as the geographical basis for this indicator (which was left vague in the PIF), and came out slightly higher, as 266,000 ha ? made up of (a) 256,703 ha in the Sathyamangalam-Nilgiris landscape (Erode Forest Division 82,144 ha, North and South Nilgiris Divisions approx. 51,294 ha, Coimbatore Forest division 123,265 ha); and (b) 9,297 in the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape (Tura Peak 419 ha, Emangiri 829 ha, Rewak 647 ha, Baghmara 4,391 ha, Angratoli 3,011 ha).
	The PIF had a Core Indicator on *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e) - 5,994,373 tCO2e*	Indicator 5 (GEF Core indicator 6): ***5,349,603*** *tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions which will be avoided or reduced as a result of project interventions (t)*	This is marginally adjusted from the indicative figure in the PIF, following detailed calculations during the PPG phase using the FAO Ex-Ante Carbon Tool? see *Annex G* to this document and calculations spreadsheet (*Annex 15c* to the UNDP-GEF Project Document).
Project components	**Component 1:** Mainstreaming biodiversity across two productive and protection landscapes in India	No change	

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	Component 2: Improved financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes	**Component 2:** Improved **blended** financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes	Word ?blended? added to show that this remains an important focus of the project.
	Component 3: Knowledge management, communication and digital information management for improving integration of conservation outcomes at local, state and regional levels	**Component 3:** Knowledge **and data** management for improving integration of **biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India**	Original wording implied mainstreaming of biodiversity in development planning at other levels of government, but the focus is actually on creating platforms for replicating the project?s approach of mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning across the target districts and states and in other States of India. ?Knowledge management, communication and digital information management? has also been shortened to ?Knowledge and data management?.
Project Outcome and Indicators for Component 1	**Outcome 1**: Enabling coordination, regulatory and institutional framework for planning, management and decision-making for biological landscapes developed and implemented	**Outcome 1**: Enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for **high-biodiversity** landscapes developed and implemented	There is no need for new regulations as the full system is already in place (on paper) for local biodiversity management and for village level development planning. There is no need for new institutions as there is a full system of governance in place with clear mandates at each level and in each sector - what is missing is the platform for horizontal and vertical coordination.
	Outcome-Level Indicators for Outcome 1:	Reduced from seven to three, with two removed, and two shown as objective-level indicators (along with other GEF Core Indicators).	See below

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	(i)Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering 243,260 hectares improved by 15-20 points from the baseline (to be determined at PPG stage)	*(Ind 6) Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering **200,528 hectares** improved by at least **10 points** from the METT baseline scores (based on two-yearly MEE):* *Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 66* *Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 67* *Nokrek National Park 52* *Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 35* *Balpakram National Park 55*	Baselines now set, based on Management Effectiveness Evaluations (MEE) for 2020-2021 ? see *Annexes 22a to e* to the UNDP-GEF Project Document METT tracking tool. Correction to mathematical error in PIF calculations. Total hectares should be 200,528 ha (instead of 243,260 ha) Nokrek National Park, which is 47.48 km2 in size, was accidentally listed (see Core Indicators Worksheet with PIF) as 47,480 hectares, when it should have been just 4,748 hectares Improvement of 10 points deemed more achievable, given that project is not focused on PA management, except through Output 1.6.
	(ii)Improved institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring landscape level plans as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score	*(Ind 7) Improved institutional capacities for **mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning** (as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score)*	No significant change, just a clear focus on the core institutional capacity being built through Component 1, especially Output 1.3.

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	(iii) At least 4,000 hectares of biodiversity rich OECM areas (community reserves, medicinal plant reserves, sacred groves, International Bird Areas, wetlands, Agriculture Heritage Systems, etc.) under improved biodiversity-compatible conservation and restoration practices (restoration financed through non-GEF resources)	Moved up, to become Objective-level Indicator 3, as with GEF Core Indicator 3 shown in PIF.	Old Indicator (iii) under Component 1 is now used as an indicator of success in the project?s overall objective ? also a GEF Core Indicator, as in the PIF (see Annex E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Targets and Worksheet for details, as well as the Notes on Core Indicators in Section E above.)
	(iv) At least 320,000 hectares (excluding protected areas) under (i) biodiversity-friendly forest and land management practices implemented in 60,000 hectares through integration into local, block and district level development planning and budgeting processes and (b) improved practices in 260,000 hectares of forests through integration of conservation outcomes in forest management plans (extent to be confirmed at PPG stage)	Moved up, to become Objective-level Indicator 4, as with GEF Core Indicator 4 shown in PIF.	Old Indicator (iv) under Component 1 is now used as an indicator of success in the project?s overall objective ? also a GEF Core Indicator (see Annex E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Targets and Worksheet for details, as well as the Notes on Core Indicators in Section E above.)

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	(v)Strengthened connectivity of nationally mapped critical corridors for elephant and tiger conservation falling within the two landscapes	This has been removed as a component-level indicator. (However, an output-level has been developed for Output 1.2): ?*Participatory landscape zonation plan at 1:30,000 scale in place for each of two target landscapes, indicating target areas for land use change to enhance connectivity and wildlife movement corridors?*.	This original indicator was not measurable, and the STAP commented that it was ?logically disconnected from the other elements of the same component.? Instead, since connectivity is a key goal of the participatory landscape-level zonation plans developed in Output 1.2, an output-level indicator referring to connectivity has been included there. Achievement of results related to connectivity will be reflected in reporting on GEF Core Indicator 4: *Total area of land to come under improved land use practices (ha).*
	(vi) Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into 4oo Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans using the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) developed People?s Biological Diversity Registers (PBRs) as vehicles for this integration	*(Ind 8) Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into **445** Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans*	This is effectively unchanged. A multi-criteria mapping exercise was carried out during the PPG to identify all villages in the two landscapes with high or medium biodiversity within their village lands (see *Annexes 19a to d* to the UNDP-GEF Project Document). Following the mapping exercise, the planned number was increased from the indicative 400 in the PIF to an accurate 445. PBRs will also be supported, but the reference to them as the only vehicle for the process of developing biodiversity priority actions seemed inaccurate so this part of the indicator was removed.
	(vii) Population densities of key globally important species in the target landscapes remain stable or increasing from baseline values for 3-4 target species to be identified at PPG stage	This indicator has been removed.	This would not be realistic to monitor within the resources of this project, as the protected areas in question do not have a system in place to track wildlife species populations (other than tigers in the two Tiger Reserves), and population sizes are dependent on many factors, only some of which can be influenced through this project, and even then, only to a small degree.

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
Outputs for Component 1	**Output 1.1:** Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity in two multiple use landscapes	**Output 1.1:** Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity **conservation and sustainable use** in two multiple use landscapes	The outputs remain substantially the same but have been given focus through slightly adjusted wording and a clear set of 4-7 Activities for each one (see *Annex 32* to UNDP-GEF Project Document). Following comments by the GEF secretariat, inputs from the PPG team and discussion with government counterparts, Output 1.7 has been removed as a separate focus of work. Whilst valuable, the work envisaged could almost form a project in itself and cannot be squeezed into the current project. As an alternative, the important ?One Health? messaging has now been included in the public awareness campaign in Component 3, as Activity 3.2.2 Develop messaging and communications sub-strategy on One Health approach, highlighting interconnected nature of human, livestock, wildlife, forest, soil and water health. In addition, a module on this topic will be prepared with the National Institute for Rural development, for inclusion in course materials for local development planning.
	Output 1.2. Landscape level management strategies integrate biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development	**Output 1.2.** Landscape-level **plans identify areas with potential for actions on** biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development	
	Output 1.3: Improved tools and procedures facilitate mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting systems	**Output 1.3 (old 1.4)** Institutional and technical capacities strengthened **through** mainstreaming biodiversity into **capacity development system for** rural development	
	Output 1.4: Institutional and technical capacities strengthened for mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development	**Output 1.4 (old 1.3, no change)** Mainstreaming of biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting	

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	Output 1.5: Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level **Output 1.6:** Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement. **Output 1.7:** Integrated strategies for transitioning towards a green and resilient recovery demonstrated at the local and district level	**Output 1.5 (no change):** Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level **Output 1.6:** Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in **joint forest management actions**	
Project Outcome and Indicators for Component 2	**Outcome 2**: Enhanced financing and engagement by public and private sectors to implement actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use by building on the lessons and learning from BIOFIN.	No change	
	Outcome-Level Indicators for Outcome 2:	Reduced from four to three	See below

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	(i) At least 5 new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes *(ii) At least 8,000 individuals directly benefitting from new and improved forest-based enterprises including access and benefit sharing arrangements for use of biodiversity resources (with at least 50% women beneficiaries)* *(iii) At least 10% increase in funding for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources in selected villages* *(iv) Increase in capacity of small-scale village level enterprises to effectively use new financial instruments (at least 20 enterprises as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard with 50-50 gender balance)*	*(Ind 9) At least three new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes* *(Ind 10) Total amount of new funding for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources in 40 champion village clusters* *Increase in capacity of block and district officials to effectively use new financial instruments (as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard) with baseline established in Year 1*	

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
	Output 2.1: Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed and tested **Output 2.2:** Biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures promoted to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use. **Output 2.3:** Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments	No change	No change

	Original PIF	GEF CEO ER (Changes in bold)	RATIONALE
Project Outcome and Indicators for Component 3	**Output 3.1**: Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes **Output 3.2:** Communication strategy developed and implemented to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development sectors and local level planning. **Output 3.3:** Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international fora. **Output 3.4:** Replication of best practices at regional and national level **Output 3.5**: Improved monitoring and compliance strengthened and supporting integration of biodiversity	**Output 3.1**: Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes **Output 3.2:** Communication strategy developed and implemented to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development sectors and local level planning. **Output 3.3:** Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international fora. **Output 3.4:** Replication of best practices at regional and national level	Outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 remain unchanged. Output 3.5 has been removed in the final project design, and is addressed instead in the project?s M&E system. The focus of Component 3 is now clearly on ?Knowledge and data management for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India?, not only during the project lifetime, but beyond, through mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into existing local governance processes. The original Output 3.5 was more limited in scope, and focused on monitoring of project results specifically, i.e. the project?s Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. The old Output 3.5 has now been removed, and monitoring of project results has now been shifted to be covered through the project?s M&E budget, guided by two sections in the Project Document: *Section V: Project Monitoring and Evaluation*, and *Section VI: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan*. Section V goes into detail on the issues previously covered in Output 3.5 (i.e. ?monitoring of the project outcomes?, ?mid-term and terminal evaluation?, ?monitoring results provide input to enable adaptive management?), and covers the arrangements (and budget) for i) inception of the project; ii) ongoing monitoring and evaluation of project outputs, outcomes and results; iii) monitoring of safeguards and gender compliance; and iv) independent evaluation of project results. Section VI provides a table showing precisely how progress on key outcome indicators will be monitored, including for each outcome: indicators, targets, data sources/collection methods, frequency of collection, responsibility for collection, means of verification, and risks/assumptions.

[1] These are villages with high or medium biodiversity within their village lands, in the two landscapes, identified through a mapping exercise outlined in *Annex 19a* (Tamil Nadu) and *Annex 19c* (Meghalaya) to the UNDP-GEF Project Document. Following the mapping exercise, the planned number was increased from the indicative 400 in the PIF to an accurate 445.

In Annex H: Full Outline of Components, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities, please find a full outline of each of the project outputs (as in the UNDP-GEF Project Document), with the focused and streamlined budgeted activities shown for each output.

Component 1: Mainstreaming biodiversity across two productive and protection landscapes in India

Outcome 1: ***Enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for high-biodiversity landscapes developed and implemented***

To reach the outcome of having an enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for high-biodiversity landscapes, Component 1 involves five outputs. These will put in place, capacitate and operate multi-stakeholder platforms, both to coordinate the project activities in the two States and landscapes, as well as the target districts, and to provide an ongoing forum for support to the process of mainstreaming biodiversity into local governance structures? development planning and budgeting. A strong emphasis will be placed on women?s roles in this process, not only through maximizing women?s participation in these structures, but also through targeted training for women in leadership positions. The outcome indicators for the component as a whole are as follows (see detail in Annex A: Project Results Framework):

? Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering 200,528 hectares improved by at least 15 points from the baseline

? Improved institutional capacities for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning (as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score)

? Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into at least 445 Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans

Component 1 Outputs

Output 1.1 Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes

Output 1.2 Landscape-level plans identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development

Output 1.3 Institutional and technical capacities strengthened through mainstreaming biodiversity into capacity development system for rural development

Output 1.4 Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting

Output 1.5 Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level

Output 1.6 Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions

Component 2: Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes

Outcome 2: ***Enhanced financing and engagement by public and private sectors to implement actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use by building on lessons from BIOFIN***

To reach the outcome of having improved incentives and finance in place for implementation of priority biodiversity actions integrated into local development plans, Component 2 includes three outputs ? these will enable the analysis of biodiversity finance gaps and development of resource mobilization strategies, and will capacitate local officials to track increases in biodiversity spending over time; and will also support communities from amongst the 40 champion village clusters to develop and eco-friendly and forest-based enterprises and value chains, and access scheme funding for equipment (see summary of opportunities in *Annex 21 Baseline report on public finance for biodiversity & financial solutions)*. In addition to business incubation support over time, a specific programme for women in business will develop women participants in new enterprises and existing self-help groups. The outcome indicators for the component as a whole are as follows (see detail in Annex A: Project Results Framework):

? At least three new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes

? Total amount of new funding for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources in 40 champion village clusters

? Increase in capacity of block and district officials to effectively use new financial instruments (as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard) with baseline established in Year 1

Component 2 Outputs

Output 2.1 Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed for landscape and local plans

Output 2.2 Establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

Output 2.3 Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments

Component 3: Knowledge and data management for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India

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Outcome 3: ***Improved understanding of stakeholders across and beyond Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya on the benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development planning***

To reach the outcome of an improved understanding of the approach to mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, in and beyond the project landscapes, across the project States, and in the other States of India, Component 3 involves three outputs. These will involve capturing and sharing lessons learnt within and between the project landscapes, using face-to-face knowledge exchanges, as well as public media campaigns; and providing a pathway to scale in all States of India through the National Biodiversity Authority?s online meetings of State Biodiversity Boards and a national conference. The outcome indicators for the component as a whole are as follows (see detail in Annex A: Project Results Framework):

? Level of awareness of value of and threats to biodiversity, and options for mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development amongst sample of residents across 445 villages, as indicated by score on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey

? At least 20 good practices of integrated conservation, sustainable resource use and access and benefit sharing captured and disseminated at the state and national level

Component 3 Outputs

Output 3.1 Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes

Output 3.2 Communication strategy developed and implemented in project landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning

Output 3.3 Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums

Output 3.4 Replication of best practices at regional and national level in India

4) Alignment with GEF Focal Area/or impact program strategies - no changes from approved PIF.

The chosen strategy is aligned with GEF focal area BD 1-1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors, and also with BD 2-7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate.

In terms of BD 1-1, the project will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use at the landscape level (Outputs 1.2 and 1.5) as well as the local development planning and regional development sectors (Outputs 1.3,1.4 and 1.5), across the two biodiversity landscapes, the latter in key development sector namely agriculture, forest, fisheries, small scale irrigation, animal husbandry and other disciplines and aim to improve/enhance positive environmental practices in these sectors. As part of this effort, it would improve guidelines, protocols and planning strategies and build institutional capacities at the landscape, district, and local levels to better integrate conservation outcomes in respective planning processes. The intent is to use the BMCs as the key vehicle for delivery of conservation actions at the community level, so that local communities become agents of change in managing biodiversity. Without the GEF project, it is likely that there will be limited effort at integration of biodiversity in local development and will result in further loss of biodiversity and associated habitats. This will be corrected through improved mapping and digitization of biological resources at the BMC level (Output 3.1), and developing integrated planning of GPDPs and VECs (Output 1.4). Project components include improved planning processes and addressing direct threat and habitat loss by increasing habitats through improved PA management effectiveness (Output 1.5); enhancing conservation in forests and other natural and productive use areas (agriculture, grazing, etc.); BMC capacity enhancement and preparation and implementation of PBRs; capacity building and improved community surveillance and monitoring to reduce threats (Output 1.3). It will also support community livelihood improvement to reduce unsustainable practices (Output 2.2).

The project will directly address BD 2-7 - improving financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global Protected Area estate. Project components include identification and implementation of blended/innovative/incentive-based finance solutions to bridge the finance gap for implementation of biodiversity actions in particular for promotion of innovative collaborative measures with local communities and OECMs partners to improve and enhance connectivity of habitats, conserve species, strengthen monitoring of species and habitats, improve surveillance, enforcement and threat reduction measures. In this regard it will also demonstrate implementation of locally based financial solutions, such as linking with government sector financing, the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge for improving financing for conservation and community revenue generation as well as supporting small-scale forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises that will build community support for conservation. Additionally, Output 1.5 will focus on enhancing management effectiveness of 5 PAs to enhance connectivity and collaboration with high biodiversity areas (including OECMs) adjacent to the PAs to strengthen and improve the viability of the PA network. As a measure of improving the coverage of protected area estate, Output 1.4 focuses on identifying, mapping and improving management of a range of OECM categories that lie within the landscapes, representing the first major effort in India to leverage OECMs to meet India?s obligation to meeting Aichi target 11.

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

Following a comment from the STAP, the table showing ?Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing? has been redone and is included in the CEO Endorsement request. This now focuses on landscape scale benefits to be accrued directly from the project interventions in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya States:

State of ecosystems under baseline	Summary of GEF scenario	Increment
Biodiversity		

State of ecosystems under baseline	Summary of GEF scenario	Increment
- Limited local community involvement in local resource management decisions; mistrust of government actions and motives; little to no possibility of integrated management of landscapes and limited possibility for promotion of community managed reserves, access and benefit sharing agreements and support for community-based small scale sustainable enterprise development - There is little practical knowledge and experience at the community level in developing and effectively implementing Biodiversity Management Community PBRs, including community governance, nor on the implementation of appropriate financial mechanisms -Deforestation and fragmentation will lead to further loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the reduction of populations of elephants, tigers and other threatened species within the selected target landscapes. - Loss of wetland and forest resources on account of unsustainable resource use practices. - Most biologically rich areas outside PAs are very poorly resourced and small leading to an inability to effectively manage the threats to biodiversity in these areas	Forest fringe communities in the two target landscapes undertake biodiversity priority actions that help fulfil a landscape level plan maximizing connectivity of protected areas, and also promote sustainable livelihoods. Biodiversity priority actions are mainstreamed into local development planning and budgeting, for implementation. Financial resources mobilized to implement improved and effective management and conservation of biodiversity. Enhanced capacities of relevant stakeholders (at all levels) to capture local biodiversity and knowledge in People?s Biodiversity Registers and mainstream biodiversity actions into rural development. Participatory landscape level plans that reduce habitat destruction of endangered species and increase the sustainable use of land/natural resources for community livelihoods. Strengthened landscape management for biodiversity conservation, through enhanced capacities, provision of resources, and coordination of	Improved multi-stakeholder coordination at landscape level enabling collective decision-making and actions for biodiversity conservation at landscape level and strengthened connectivity in nationally mapped critical corridors for elephant and tiger conservation falling within the two landscapes. Biodiversity actions and targets internalized in around 445 village plans with updated / validated People?s Biodiversity Registers capturing local knowledge. At least 200,528 hectares within 5 protected areas in the two landscape sites under improved management for conservation and sustainable use. Habitat degradation and disturbance to globally important species reduced over an estimated 4,000 ha of degraded forest land to be restored through natural regeneration, clearing of invasive alien vegetation, enrichment planting and intensive mixed-use agroforestry. Improved management practices in 272,000 hectares resulting in improved forest and watershed management, biodiversity conservation and improved ecological services through (a) Improved management practices

State of ecosystems under baseline	Summary of GEF scenario	Increment
- Various public and private programs and schemes exist at the central and state level with potential to generate positive biodiversity outcomes. However, the targets and activities of relevant sectors having high impact and dependency on biodiversity and sectors having high potential to influence biodiversity conservation in a positive way are not well aligned. There is also a limitation of replicable and scalable models in priority areas. - First level assessment of finance gap for biodiversity conservation at the national level under the BIOFIN initiative and nascent attempt to pilot few finance solutions in a limited way. - Limited capacities of biodiversity institutions and line departments in implementation of priority actions for biodiversity, mobilising resources for conservation and mainstreaming biodiversity across relevant sectors.	biodiversity conservation action at the community level. Application of OECM approaches to enhance connectivity and protect critical habitats as a policy model. Trained state level government staff and community members are well-capable of managing biodiversity-related conflicts and maximizing cooperation with communities. Biodiversity Management Committees at local level developed to improve and institute biodiversity objectives within their village plans. Cooperative structures developed at local level and supported to establish and sustain forest-based and eco-friendly small enterprises and strengthen value chains.	in 6,000 hectares of communally owned land in the 40 champion village lands; and (b) Improved management practices in 266,000 hectares of state-owned Reserve Forests through integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into forest working plans. 5,349,603 tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions which will be avoided or reduced, over a 20-year period, as a result of project interventions. At least 8,000 people with at least 50% women directly benefiting from improved natural resources and land management practices, community based small scale enterprises and ABS agreements.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) ? no changes from approved PIF

The project is aligned with India?s **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP**, equivalent to NBSAP) and will directly address its targets related to conservation and management of ecologically representative areas, sustainable management of agriculture and forestry, mobilization of resources, environmental education and awareness, management of invasive alien species, access and benefit sharing, and development of biodiversity action plans at all levels of governance. The project will contribute to several of the **Sustainable Development Goals** towards Agenda 2030, including SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17. The project will also contribute to national forest cover targets by protecting indigenous forest, and putting degraded lands under productive agroforestry, and aligning with the **National Agroforestry Policy** that aims at encouraging and expanding tree plantation in complementarity and integrated manner with crops and livestock. This will contribute towards Government of India?s ambitious commitment in its 2016 **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** in terms of the Paris

Agreement, to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by the year 2030.

At State level, the project is in line with **Meghalaya Vision 2030** issued by the State Government, which aims at sustainable community forest management through participatory planning and inclusive growth, along with capacity development for people and institutions concerned. The project will also contribute in achieving the objectives of **North Eastern Region Vision 2020** which aims to alleviate poverty and emphasized inclusive sustainable development through sustainable community forest management, and grassroots planning by adopting a participatory development approach. The project contributes towards two themes in the **Tamil Nadu Vision 2023** ? **Theme 8**: Nurturing a rich heritage and preserving the ecology, which includes conservation of the zoological and botanical diversity of the State, and **Theme 3**: which sets out the State?s vision for a highly inclusive growth pattern, aiming to become a largely poverty-free state with opportunities for gainful and productive employment for all those who seek it, and providing care for the disadvantaged, vulnerable and the destitute in the state.

As an outcome of project implementation, following global environmental benefits will be delivered:

- ? 200,528 hectares within 5 protected areas in the two landscape sites under improved management for conservation and sustainable use.
- ? Improved management practices in 272,000 hectares resulting in improved forest and watershed management, biodiversity conservation and improved ecological services through (a) Improved management practices in 6,000 hectares of communally owned land in the 40 champion village lands; and (b) Improved management practices in 266,000 hectares of state-owned Reserve Forests through integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into forest working plans.
- ? Habitat degradation and disturbance to globally important species reduced over an estimated 4,000 ha of degraded forest land to be restored through natural regeneration, clearing of invasive alien vegetation, enrichment planting and intensive mixed-use agroforestry.
- ? 5,349,603 tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions which will be avoided or reduced, over a 20-year period, as a result of project interventions.
- ? Improved multi-stakeholder coordination at landscape level enabling collective decision-making and actions for biodiversity conservation at landscape level and strengthened connectivity in nationally mapped critical corridors for elephant and tiger conservation falling within the two landscapes.

? Biodiversity actions and targets internalized in around 445 village plans with updated / validated People?s Biodiversity Registers capturing local knowledge.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up ? no substantive changes from the PIF, but more detail provided here.

The project is innovative in bringing together two elements of local governance in India ? on the one hand the biodiversity conservation system with State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and People?s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), and on the other hand the system of local development planning and budgeting ? to unlock biodiversity-positive actions at village level in two high biodiversity landscapes, providing a model for replication elsewhere in India. The model piloted and the lessons learnt will be shared across the States of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, and with the other States of India through the SBBs that are convened together regularly through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The project will help to fulfill the provisions of India?s Biological Diversity Act 2002 in the two target States, by empowering not only the SBBs at state level, but also the BMCs at the local and district levels, which exist everywhere on paper, but are mostly yet to become operational. The BMCs in turn are responsible for the development of PBRs for each Gram Panchayat or Village, and the project will help to shift beyond having PBRs on paper, to having updated PBRs drawn up in a participatory manner and accessible digitally.

India also has an extensive framework for village level development planning through local Panchayati Raj self-governance institutions (including traditional structures in the North-East), and many central and State government schemes exist for financing rural development, into which biodiversity can be mainstreamed. This innovation will be supported by the State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRDs) in the two target States, as well as the National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and central government departments supporting panchayat raj institutions, rural development and forest conservation. Village level development planning is meant to be integrated, strategic, participatory, and strategic in theory, but in practice consists of limited interactions between local governance institutions and block and district officials to request limited infrastructure inputs, with opportunities to access myriad biodiversity-relevant schemes going largely untapped.

This will be addressed with multi-stakeholder participatory planning at landscape level in Component 1, and support to mainstreaming priority biodiversity actions into local development plans in 445 target villages, with targeted capacity building interventions for women and men in local governance institutions, including the socially marginalized. The specialized training material being developed here will then be mainstreamed into the curriculum of the SIRD system in the two States and beyond. Component 2 will include support to local governance institutions, communities and officials to develop their capacity to access additional financial resources, and also to track biodiversity-relevant expenditure. Component 3 will then apply the learning across the rest of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, through organizing workshops in Chennai and Shillong, co-hosted by SBBs and SIRDs, inviting all line departments, district councils and administrations, and participants from local self-governance

institutions and traditional structures, on lessons learnt and outcomes on biodiversity integration in development planning and budgeting processes.

This experience and learning will also be replicated in other States of India, through Activity 3.4.2, implementing an ongoing State Biodiversity Boards learning programme on mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development, including expansion of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Mechanisms (OECMs) - with all 29 State Biodiversity Boards across India, utilizing the monthly online forum of SBBs facilitated by the NBA, with support from SBB interns. Internships will be arranged through government co-finance to the project, placing young women and men in SBBs and SIRDs to promote the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development, building on the NBA-UNDP Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Program.

Through Activity 3.4.3 a national biodiversity mainstreaming conference will be co-hosted by MoEFCC, the NBA, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the central Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the central Ministry of Rural Development, to disseminate lessons learnt on strengthening BMCs and local governance institutions for conservation, restoration and sustainable use in high-biodiversity landscapes. Through Activity 3.4.4. a national replication strategy will be devised, drawing together results from Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya workshops, SBB learning programme and national conference, to develop a pathway to national replication and a national resource mobilization strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, including prioritization of next set of high-biodiversity landscapes, as well as relevant policy notes. This will include developing learning products on project innovations, including mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development, and expansion of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Mechanisms (OECMs) in high biodiversity landscapes.

The project also includes a sustainability strategy for the forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises, which are themselves key to providing incentives for long term biodiversity conservation. Component 2 supports communities in champion villages on establishing, operating, and putting on a sound business footing by project end, at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the six districts. Hands-on support will be provided by full-time Community Facilitators, managing the work of specialized NGO partners and business incubation service providers. Through Activity 2.2.5 they will deliver a customized training and incubation support programme for each enterprise and its governance group/s, including support on installing processing equipment and accessing central and State Schemes and Missions, developing full business plans, including sustainability plan that involves phasing out subsidization of input supply through the project, as cash flow increases. Securing the long-term survival of the forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises by placing them on a sound business footing is crucial for the continuation of the incentive they provide for biodiversity conservation, and the model they provide for replication within and beyond the project landscapes.

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[1] These are villages with high or medium biodiversity within their village lands, in the two landscapes, identified through a mapping exercise outlined in Annex 19a (Tamil Nadu) and 19c

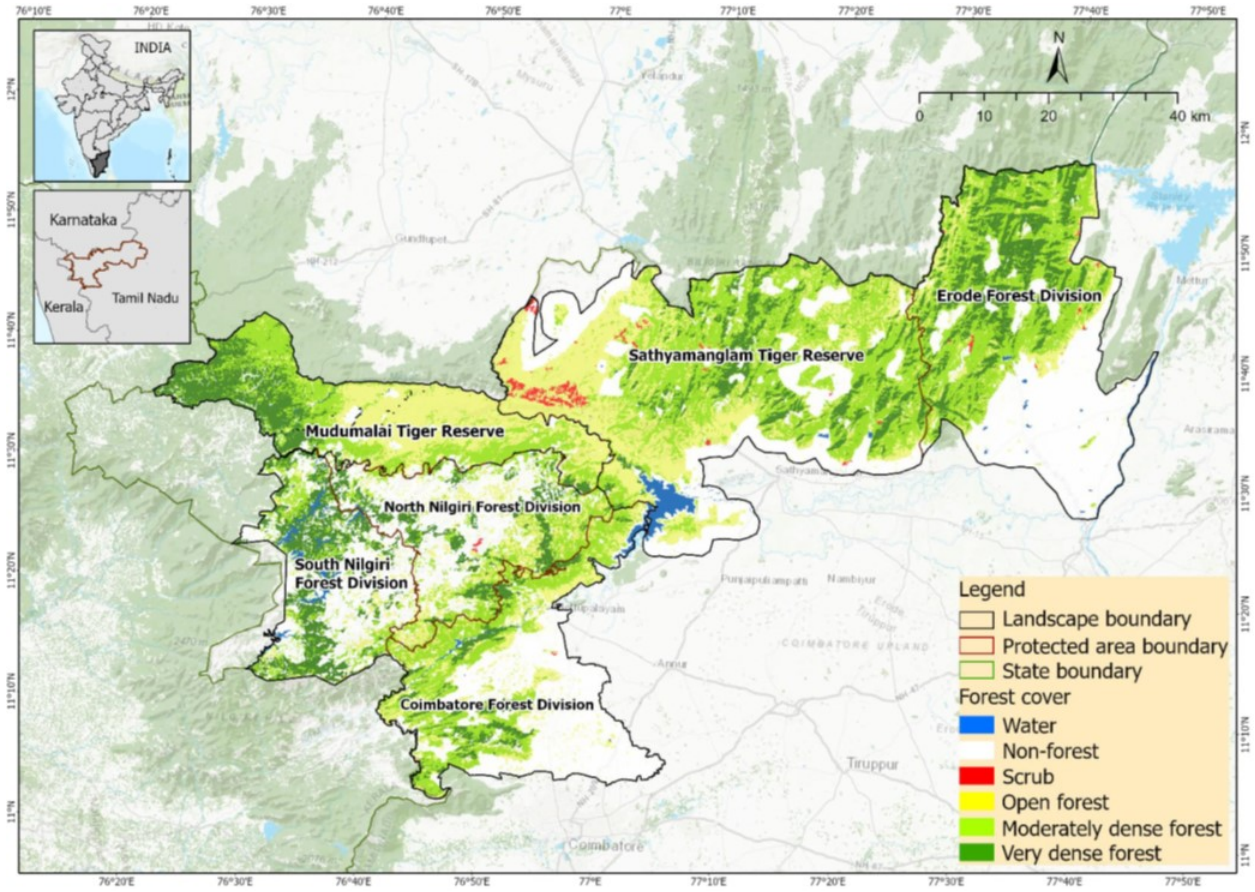
(Meghalaya) to the UNDP-GEF Project Document. Following the mapping exercise, the planned number was increased from the indicative 400 in the PIF to an accurate 445.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

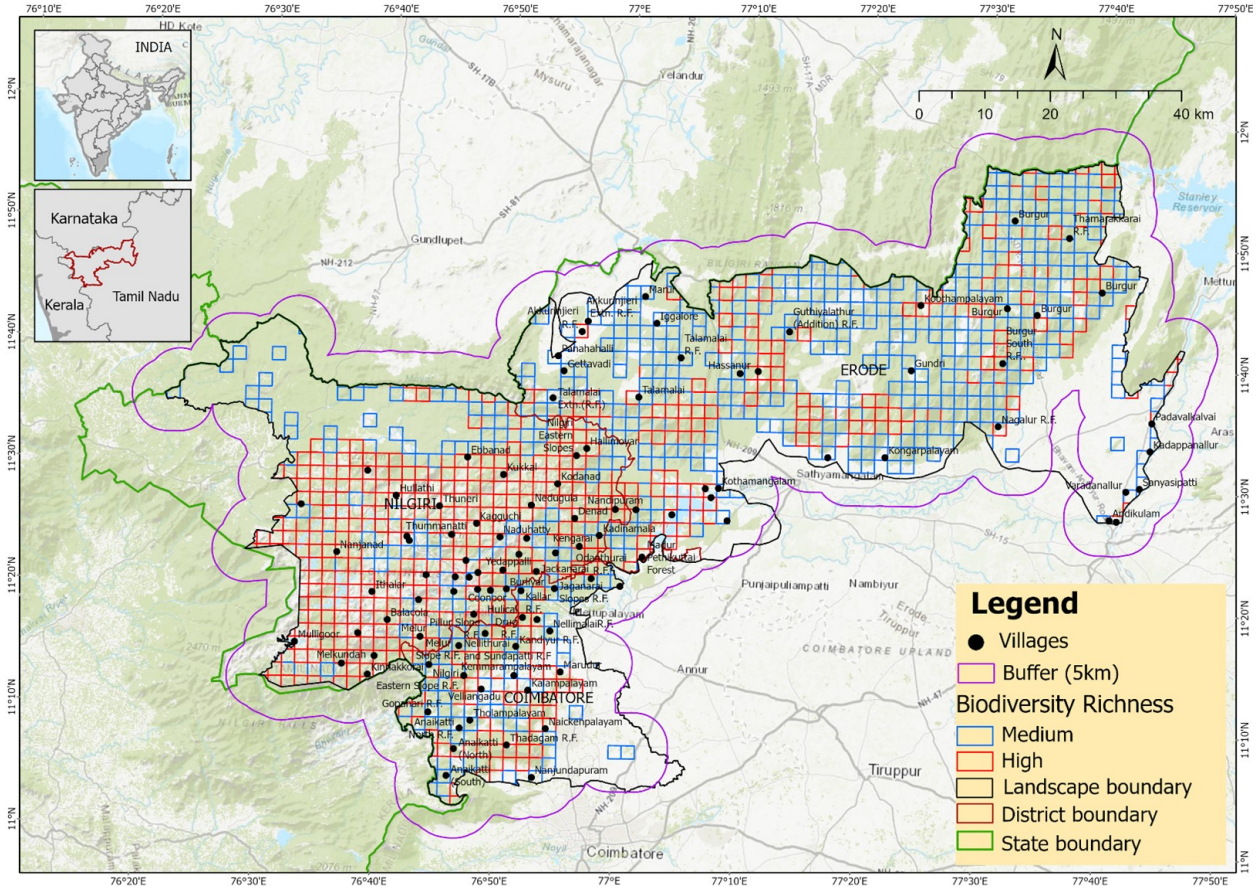
Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

The first two maps below show the two project landscapes, including the five major protected areas at their core, and forest cover ? the Sathymangalam-Nilgiri landscape in Tamil Nadu, and the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape in Meghalaya (Garo Hills). The second two maps show the results of a mapping exercise conducted in the PPG to prioritize 445 high- and medium- biodiversity villages for targeting of project capacity development support (for full details see Annexes 15a to d of the UNDP-GEF Project Document).

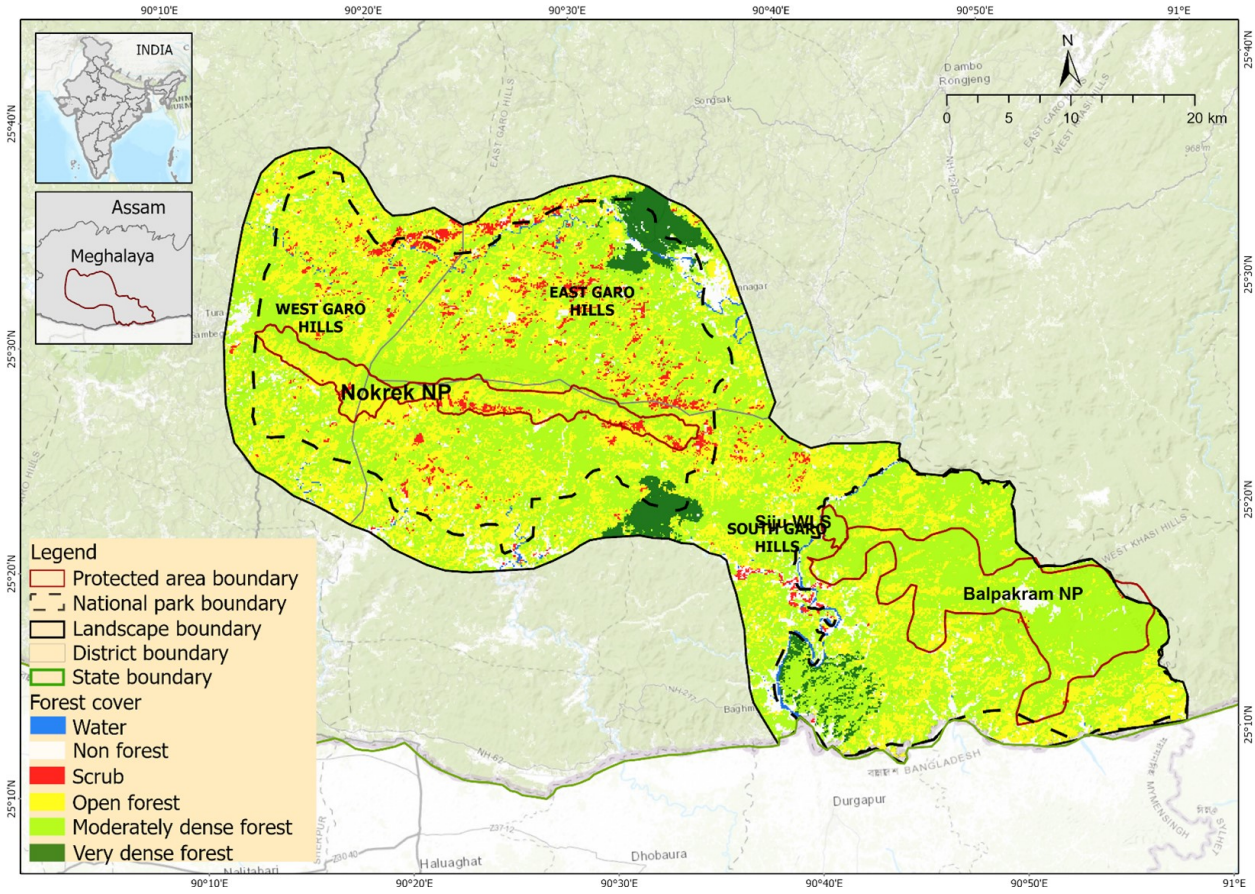
**Landscape 1: Sathyamangalam ? Nilgiri project landscape, Tamil Nadu State (*Map disclaimer:* *The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries)*



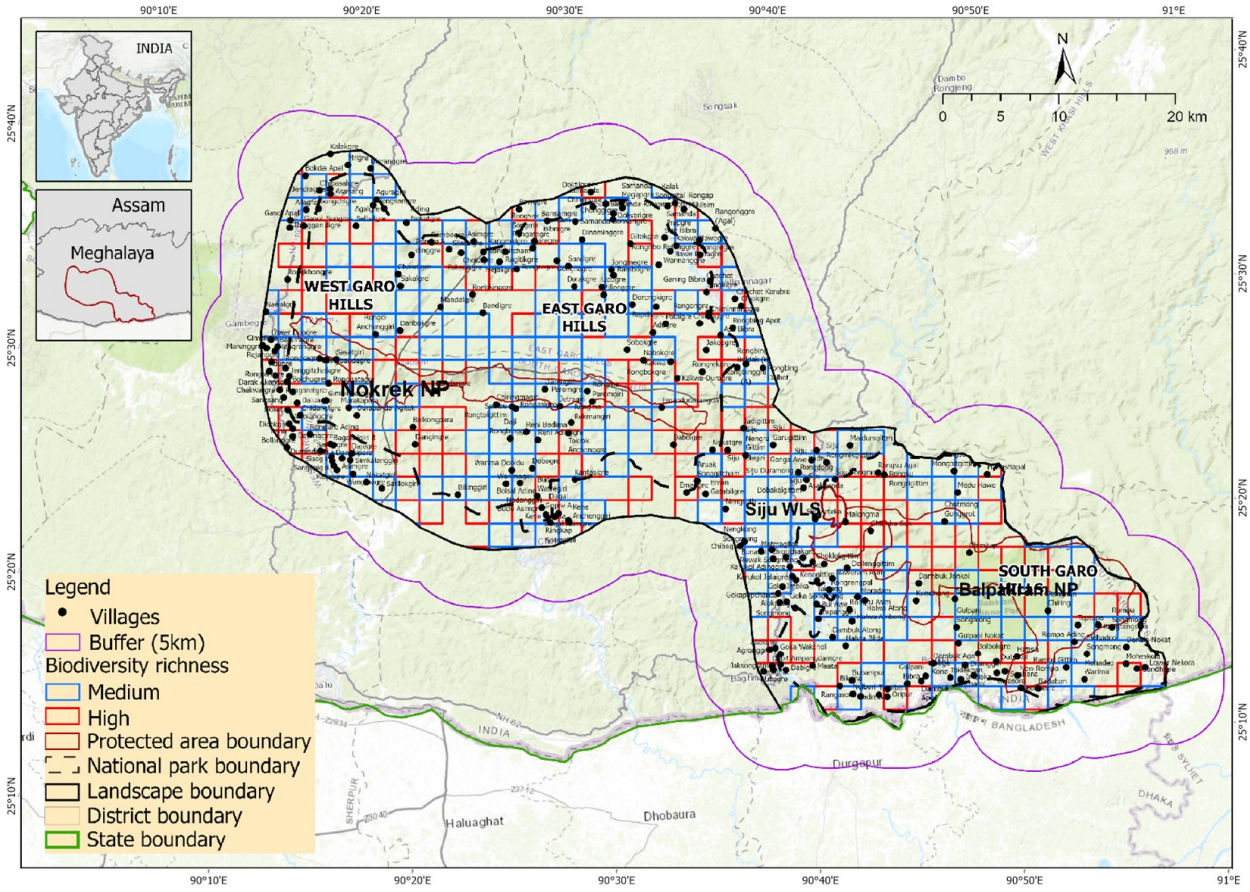
Landscape 1: Identified priority villages of the landscape (with high and medium biodiversity)



Landscape 2: Nokrek-Balpakram project landscape in Garo Hills, Meghalaya State



Landscape 2: Identified priority villages of the landscape (with high and medium biodiversity)



1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

N/A

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

A full Stakeholder Engagement Plan is available as Annex 9b to the UNDP-GEF Project Document. Reproduced here is the Executive Summary of the Stakeholder Consultations and Engagement Plan, presenting an overview of:

(i) Annex 9a: UNDP-GEF Stakeholder Consultation Report

(ii) Annex 9b: UNDP-GEF Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Annex 9a: Stakeholder Consultation Report summarizes all the stakeholder meetings and consultations that were held for the project during the PPG phase:

? A series of in-person and virtual consultations, meetings and recce visits to the project landscapes have taken place over the period of March 2022 to June 2022 for the project.

? The inception mission to the project landscapes in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya was also held over the period between 27th April 2022 to 8th May 2022 to introduce the project and to consult with the government partners and relevant stakeholders to obtain their feedback, concerns, and aspirations.

? Additionally, community consultations were also held in both the project landscapes in the relevant state languages, i.e., Tamil in the Sathyamangalam landscape of Tamil Nadu, and Garo in the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape of Meghalaya, to understand first-hand the issues faced by the local communities in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into local self-governance, whilst also mapping their roles, responsibilities, needs and other requirements to design project activities.

? Separate women-only focus group discussions (FGDs) were also held to specifically understand the roles, responsibilities, interests and priorities of the women. The *Annex 11: Gender Action Plan* consisting of a detailed gender analysis, gender strategy and action plan is informed by these focus group discussions, in addition to the available secondary information.

Annex 9b: presents the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project which aims to identify the strategies and actions required to promote productive involvement of stakeholders in decision making and execution of the project. While the first part of the document is analysing the role and potential collaboration of the stakeholders that have been identified during the PIF and the PPG, the second part of the document is elaborating on the multi-stakeholder collaboration strategy, engagement methods, timeline, grievance redressal, and M&E.

A simplified Stakeholder Engagement Plan providing an overview of the interests and responsibilities of the identified stakeholder groups is summarised in the table below.

Stakeholder Group	**Main Interest**	**Stakeholder Engagement: Responsibilities**

National level	The national level stakeholders include the central ministries for environment and forest, rural development, Panchayati raj, tribal welfare, and agriculture, which play a pivotal role in policy development, coordination and implementation throughout the country, and are thus the most important and influential stakeholders.	? Member of the Project Board/Steering Committee ? Responsible for ensuring that the project is in line with national priorities and adheres to policies
State level	The state level stakeholders are responsible for the implementation of various Centrally sponsored, State-funded and Externally aided schemes at the state level.	? Involvement in implementation, consultations, participatory workshops, training workshops, enabling stakeholder participation and interaction, strengthening enforcement activities.
District level	The district level government bodies such as municipal corporations, rural development agencies, tourism and infrastructure agencies etc. headed by District Collectors in Tamil Nadu and Deputy Commissioners in Meghalaya are important for the implementation of existing government plans, programmes and schemes at the district level.	? They will participate in capacity building and training activities. ? They will also play a key role in design, development, screening and implementation of finance solutions for biodiversity.
Local communities via local level CBOs	Local communities represented through CBOs like the Biodiversity Management Committees, Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC), Eco Development Committees (EDC) etc. are primary agents for using and managing natural resources in the landscape priority biodiversity conservation actions at the local level.	? Key role in planning and implementation at site level ? from community land management and traditional knowledge, adoption of new techniques and practices for improved livelihood, conservation, and development of People?s Biodiversity Register, Access and Benefit Sharing. ? Participatory role in workshops, consultations, recipients for capacity building in different aspects from mapping, land use planning and management, eco-tourism, monitoring, to communication strengthening of village level institutions.

Scheduled Tribes	Tribal peoples, or Scheduled Tribes, are primary users of the project landscape and key target group for all components of the project. The project will identify and work with 40 champion village clusters out of which 10 villages in the Sathyamangalam landscape and 20 village A?khing lands in Garo Hills landscape will be of tribal communities.	? Tribal peoples in the champion villages will participate in planning and implementing biodiversity priority actions, integrated into development plans ? Other tribal communities will benefit from a wider capacity development programme on integration of biodiversity into development planning and drawing up People?s Biodiversity Registers.
Scheduled Castes and OBCs	Other socially marginalized castes, including Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, who are mostly present in the Tamil Nadu landscape, will be a key target group in the 10 Gram Panchayats that will be identified amongst the 40 champion village clusters.	? The project aims to engage SCs for land use planning of communal lands in the Sathyamangalam landscape, and they will thus play a key role in planning and implementation at site level ? from pastureland management and traditional knowledge, adoption of new techniques and practices for improved livelihood, prevention of illegal wildlife trade, conservation, value addition on agro produce and tourism.
Women?s Organisations	Women?s organizations play a key role in holding governments accountable for the full implementation of and compliance with international norms and standards on gender equality and women?s empowerment.	? These institutions will provide training, advisory services and oversight to strengthen the participation of women in decision making
Research and Academic Institutes	The project will work with Institutes like State Institute of Rural Development, Regional Institute for Rural Development State Forest Training Academy, Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India and other relevant bodies for environment and natural resources as appropriate to source technical expertise.	? Partnerships with these research and training institutions will be explored as important sustainability mechanisms for the capacity building outputs of the project

Civil Society Organisations (CSO)	There are several CSOs in the country working on biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, environmental protection, and environmental awareness and education like Bombay Natural History Society, Bhartiya Vidyapeeth Institute of Environmental Education and Research, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Zoo Outreach, Centre for Environmental Education, ATREE, WII etc., and local level NGOs.	? These CSOs will be engaged in design and implementation of the project, including in community mobilization, implementation of biodiversity actions, threat assessments, stakeholder mapping, implementation of finance mechanisms, training and capacity building, communication, education and public awareness etc.
Private Sector Partners	Private sector and in particular private sector platforms like the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative which includes several large companies that are demonstrating their leadership in addressing biodiversity loss.	• GEF investment in the project, and the public sector co-finance (both committed and to-be-leveraged), should lead to the unlocking and blending of private sector funding in three forms: (i) corporate social responsibility funding for biodiversity priority actions; (ii) supply chain investments and off-take agreements for the products of new forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises in the champion villages; and (iii) engagement in Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements, where relevant, for non-timber forest products.

International Development Partners	Organisations like World Bank, JICA, GIZ already have major ongoing projects in the project landscape. Additionally, **the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** will be an important stakeholder for the project.	? These international development agencies that support initiatives towards environment and conservation will be important stakeholders/partners for providing substantive inputs and guidance. The project will complement and build on lessons of work done by these agencies. ? SDC will complement project efforts towards strengthening enabling conditions for planning, implementation, and scaling up of forest restoration approaches in select shifting cultivation landscapes in Meghalaya for achieving global environment benefits.

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

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

A full UNDP-GEF Gender Analysis and Action Plan is available as Annex 11 to the UNDP-GEF Project Document.

This GEF project has been classified by UNDP as Gender Marker 2 (i.e. project has gender equality as significant objective), with strong gender interventions incorporated in the project design. During the project development, the PPG team tried to involve as many women as possible in the consultation process. The project will also go further than ensuring a simple seat at the table whenever community discussions are being held, as this approach does not guarantee the quality of participation. The project will ensure that participation will move beyond nominal membership and provide women access to decision-making spaces and processes alongside men ? through women-based organizations and separate consultation processes, but also the ability to actively impact and lead those processes.

The project will also include three specialized capacity development programmes: a) a short women?s leadership support programme for female participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries; b) a two-year champion women leadership programme with women participants in champion village clusters, developing confidence in public speaking and giving report backs, use of smartphone and digital applications, taking photographs and notes to record activities and results, and undertaking basic book-keeping, as well as skills in life planning for family and business; and c) a three-year Women in Business leadership programme with women participants in Self Help Groups, and women in new enterprise ventures supported by the project in champion village clusters, covering basic business skills, as well as financial and digital literacy. The project will provide training to both women and men on the importance of gender equality, and engage in regular separate consultations, where appropriate, for young women and/or women from Scheduled Tribes, Schedules Castes and Other Backward Classes. As women are not a heterogenous group, differences occurring among age, ethnicity, and specific discrimination being directed especially at certain women will also be taken into account.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes
Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

Private sector engagement is an important part of the project design, as outlined in Component 2 ?Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes?. The project?s approach to blended finance can be summarized as follows: GEF investment in the project, and the public sector co-finance (both committed and to-be-leveraged), should lead to the unlocking of private sector funding in three forms: (i) corporate social responsibility funding for biodiversity priority actions; (ii) supply chain investments and off-take agreements for the products of new forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises in the champion villages; and (iii) engagement in Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements, where relevant, for non-timber forest products. The detail on all the Activities under the three Outputs of Component 2 can be seen in the Project Document (which has a 17-page detailed outline of all the project components). This approach can further be understood as follows:

(i) **The exact role the project intends to play in this area:** The exact role the project intends to play is set out in Outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. In Output 2.1 ?Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed for landscape and local plans?, blended finance solutions are very much a part of this process. This involves an Activity (2.1.3) to ?Develop champion village resource mobilization strategies?, including the following financing mechanisms that blend public and private finance: a. Central and state government schemes and missions; b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements; c. Corporate Social Responsibility (including liaison with the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative of the Confederation of Indian Industries). These are also three prioritized biodiversity finance solutions of BIOFIN India, which has highlighted the importance of blended finance. Output 2.2 will help provide incentives for forest conservation by supporting communities in champion villages on establishing, operating and putting on a sound business footing by project end ? at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts. In Output 2.3, BIOFIN methods and approaches will be applied in supporting local governance institutions, communities and officials to develop their capacity to access additional financial resources, and also to track biodiversity-relevant expenditure, including blended finance.

(ii) **The tentative sources of public and private finance for blending:** Three sources of private sector finance can be identified, for blending with public finance (in the form of (i) the GEF investment, (ii) the co-financed public investment, and (iii) additional funding to be leveraged from Central and State-government sponsored schemes and missions). The three areas for blending this public finance with private finance are as follows:

? Firstly, there are 150 India-based private corporations identified by BIOFIN as having made expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation, some of which operate in the two project states and can be approached round developing partnerships. For example, companies who presented at a

2022 UNDP-BIOFIN India conclave organized with the MoEFCC on their current initiatives on biodiversity conservation included Godrej & Boyce, Coromandel International, National Thermal Power Corporation and TVS Motor Company Limited. India is the first country to legally mandate corporate social responsibility, wherein companies of a certain turnover and profitability must spend two percent of their average net profit for the past three years on CSR. New CSR partnerships could support eco forest-based and eco-friendly enterprise establishment. Alternatively, CSR could support agro-ecosystem restoration interventions (important in this UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030), such as: clearing of invasive alien vegetation from Reserve Forests; regenerative mixed use agroforestry on highly degraded communal forest land or monocrop tree plantations; enrichment planting of indigenous tree species in Sacred Groves; or natural regeneration allowing land formerly under *jhum* (shifting cultivation) to recover over time (see details in notes to *Annex 15a GEF 7 Core Indicator targets and worksheet*).

? Secondly, selected private companies commercially exploiting biological resources in the project landscapes will be approached for negotiating Access and Benefit (ABS) agreements ? for local endemic species on which communities hold the traditional knowledge (see prodoc *Annex 27: List of potential livelihoods for enterprise development support*). A total of 244 ABS agreements have already been signed in India, with the most well-known ones being for commercial use of Red Sanders wood, Neem leaves and Pepsico?s agreement with coastal communities in Tamil Nadu to pay for access to seaweed and traditional knowledge on its uses. The BD project Activity 2.2.7 aspires to add two more agreements through the BD project, potentially including *Citrus spp.* from Meghalaya, particularly those varieties with scientifically proven highest medicinal properties, i.e. Kachai lemon (*Citrus jambhiri* Lush.), Khasi papeda (*Citrus latipes* (Swingle) Tanaka), Chinotto (*Citrus myrtifolia* Raf.) and Pomelo (*Citrus grandis* (L.) Osbeck ? for processing into powders for export markets ? as sources of functional components, bioactive compounds, and antioxidants with nutritional, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anthelmintic, antibacterial, antifungal, and hypolipidemic properties. This specialized area of blended finance will be supported by a Biodiversity Governance Specialist (see *Annex 7 Overview of Project Staff and Technical Consultancies*).

? Thirdly, implementation of landscape plans and priority biodiversity actions will be supported by blending public and private finance, particularly in support of the forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises ? such as fodder production and processing, bee-keeping and honey, agroforestry combining medicinal plants and fruit trees, bamboo and cane furniture, essential oils from flowers, adding value to existing tree crops e.g. cashew roasting, orange pulp, broom grass broom-making. Public finance will come from a wide range of Central and State schemes and missions, e.g., Apiculture Mission for beekeeping and honey, Aroma Mission for oil production from aromatic plants cultivation. State-level private sector partners will be brought in as buyers of agroforestry produce, and as financiers of processing operations. Where private sector partners are brought in as buyers, this will involve their investment in the supply chain, effectively leveraging a blended finance solution, since it will build on the villages? accessing of support from central and state schemes. Where appropriate for slightly larger scale aggregation and processing, the project will engage the Promotion and Incubation of Market Driven Enterprises (PRIME) initiative of the Government of Meghalaya and the Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute (EDII) of the Government of Tamil Nadu for additional technical and financial support.

(iii) **The partnerships that will be leveraged:** In addition to the partnerships with private sector companies discussed at length above, through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes, new Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements, and dedicated partnerships with buyers of the products of the six forest-based or eco-friendly enterprises to be supported in the landscapes, partnerships will also be put in place with specialized business incubation service providers. Such service providers (likely from the private sector) will provide support to enterprises and coops on putting agreements in place with buyers, with fair prices negotiated, and rolling out of a marketing and branding strategy for each of the six enterprises/value chains. They will support communities to identify specific activities along each value chain for women and men, including beneficiaries from socially marginalized groupings, with special attention paid to opportunities for youth. They will support on feasibility studies and business plans, and establishing / strengthening appropriate cooperative or other governance structures to oversee each operation, hire the necessary personnel, manage the finances and share the profits, registered and with a bank account. They will conduct a leadership programme on Women in Business with women participants in Self Help Groups, and new enterprise ventures, covering basic business skills, as well as financial and digital literacy. They will run a customized training and incubation support programme for each enterprise and its governance group/s, including support on installing processing equipment / accessing Schemes, and developing a sustainability plan that involves phasing out subsidization of input supply through the project, as cash flow increases. They will help to put agreements in place with buyers, with fair prices negotiated, and roll out marketing and branding strategy for each of the six enterprises / set of enterprises in a value chain. They will support at least two enterprises/cooperatives to identify potential for, research structure of, facilitate, negotiate and conclude ABS agreements, with sharing guided by FPIC consultations. Such business support partnerships will be key to the success of the enterprises as financially sustainable enterprises in the long term, continuing to provide incentives for community conservation.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Below is a register of contextual risks that could threaten the project?s success. In addition, the project has integrated an analysis of the Social and Environmental Safeguard risks. The project is classified Substantial Risk according to the UNDP-GEF Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), which was conducted during PPG. A list of 11 risks, detailed in the SESP were identified. The following principles and standards are triggered:

Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind

☒ Human Rights

☒ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

☒ Accountability

Standards

☒ 1.Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

☒ 2.Climate Change and Disaster Risks

☒ 3.Community Health, Safety and Security

☒ 4.Cultural Heritage

☒ 5.Displacement and Resettlement

☒ 6.Indigenous Peoples

☒ 7.Labour and Working Conditions

☐ 8.Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

A UNDP-GEF Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been designed during PPG, and a Social Inclusion Planning Framework (Indigenous People?s Planning Framework) is currently being prepared and will be completed by the time of CEO endorsement (10 June 2023). This ESMF sets out the principles, rules, guidelines, and procedures for screening, assessing, and managing the potential social and environmental impacts of forthcoming interventions of the project. It contains measures and plans to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, reduce, mitigate, and/or offset adverse risks and impacts. It specifies the most likely applicable social and environmental policies and requirements, as well as how those requirements will be met through procedures for the screening, assessment, approval, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting of social and environmental risks and impacts associated with the activities to be supported. It ensures that the activities are screened and assessed, and that appropriate management measures are in place prior to implementation. The procedures have been designed to ensure compliance with relevant social and environmental policy frameworks, including India?s legal, policy, and institutional framework, as well as with UNDP?s Social and Environmental Standards. The ESMF aims to effectively address risks through thorough application of the environmental and social measures, including time-bound action plans for avoiding, and where avoidance is not possible, reducing, mitigating, and managing adverse impacts related to the future activities or policies/regulations.

The table below provides an overview of the required social and environmental safeguards elements to be designed in the first six months of project implementation. Substantial Risk activities ? highlighted in the SESP ? will not start before appropriate Management Plans are in place.

Environmental and social elements	Description
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	In accordance with UNDP?s SES policy, high-risk projects require comprehensive forms of assessment. An ESIA assesses the full range of social and environmental impacts, including alternatives analysis. It will be developed and carried out by independent experts in a participatory manner with stakeholders during the inception phase. The ESIA will further identify and assess social and environmental impacts of the project and its area of influence; evaluate alternatives; and design appropriate avoidance, mitigation, management, and monitoring measures. It will address all relevant issues related to the SES Overarching Principles and Project-level Standards.
Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP)	A key output of the ESIA is an ESMP, prepared within the first six months of project implementation, to further refine risk identification and mitigation strategies, as well as to establish a system for monitoring these risks. Based on the findings, required management plans (e.g. Indigenous Peoples Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan) will be developed and implemented as appropriate.
Development of specific plans	In order to address specific high risks, the project?s ESMP will be complemented by: ? Livelihood Action Plan (LAP) ? Social Inclusion Peoples Plan (IPP) ? Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
Operationalization of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)	The full details of the GRM will be agreed upon during the ESIA phase and the project will establish a project-level GRM at the start of implementation. Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time with the Project Management Office, the government party, UNDP, or the GEF.
Operationalization of the Gender Action Plan	A Gender Action Plan has been developed during the project?s design phase. It will guide all actions pertaining to SES implementation and gender-mainstreaming. It offers specific activities, from capacity-building to specific consultation activities, allowing all women to fully engage with the project and decision-making processes.

Operationalization of the Social Inclusion Planning Framework and development of an associated FPIC protocol	A Social Inclusion Planning Framework including a gender-responsive and culturally sensitive Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol have been designed during PPG. It will guide all actions pertaining to SES implementation. The FPIC protocol for each of the landscapes has been developed together with the local communities, thereby enabling them to get extensive information about the project and associated possible positive and negative consequences. The FPIC protocol will be applied to each activity of the project, as communities will be allowed to provide their consent to be part of them, ask for modifications, or withdraw their consent.

Table of contextual risks to project?s success, with mitigation measures

#	Event	Cause	Impact(s)	Risk Category and Sub-category *(including Risk Appetite)*	Impact, Likelihood & Risk Level *(see Annex 3 Risk Matrix)*	Risk Valid From/To	Risk Owner *(Individual accountable for managing the risk)*	Risk Treatment and Treatment Owner
1	**There is a risk that lack of ownership and support of different levels of government institutions could obstruct project implementation**	This is due to overlapping mandates of central government units and challenges in cooperation during project preparation	This will impact in a risk of non-cooperation	**4. ORGANIZATIONAL (4.1. Governance) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 1.1: Project Board/Steering Committee to promptly review and decide on any such issues arising during implementation Risk Treatment Owner: PSC

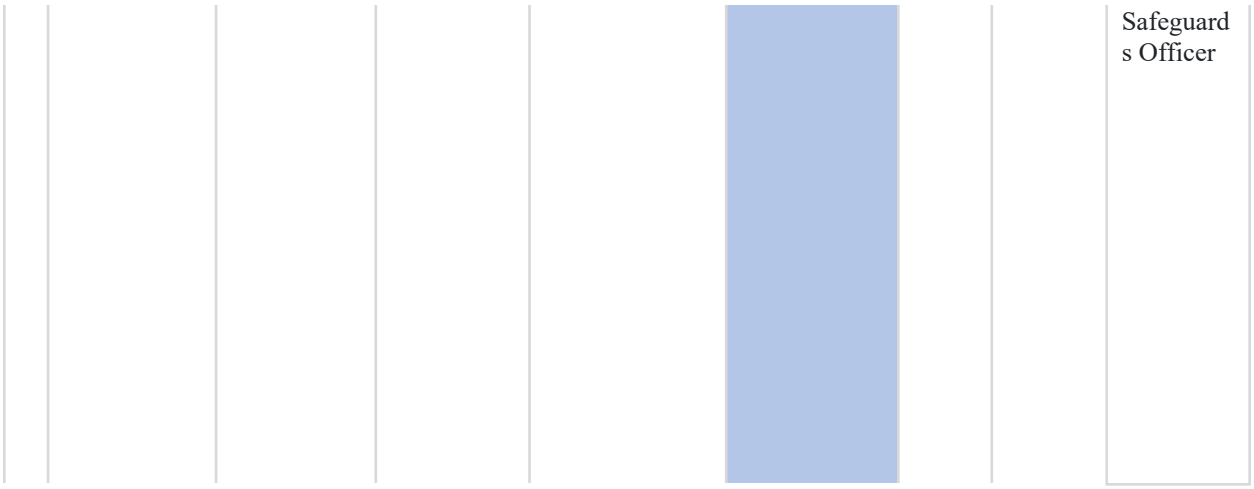
2	**There is a risk that government staff turnover may impede project implementation and inexperienced staff may therefore have to lead on some activities**	Regular staff turnover is a normal feature of the Government of India civil service. Consequently, staff that have gained knowledge, played important coordination roles or taken part in training activities may be transferred to a role that does not allow their experience to be gainfully applied.	The project would then have to repeat such orientation and training with replacement staff.	**3. OPERATIONAL (3.8. Capacities of the partners) - UNDP Risk Appetite: EXPLORATORY TO OPEN**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **1 - Negligible** **Risk level:** **LOW (equates to a risk appetite of MINIMAL)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 2.1: The project generally aims to build capacity within the government agencies involved in landscape conservation and related issues and will train staff from each competent authority as well as other related agencies. This will increase the depth of experience and skills available both for the project and future work. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

3	**There is a risk of complex fund flow mechanisms and low capacity to disburse project funds efficiently**	Government mechanisms for the receipt, disbursement and accounting of international funds are bureaucratic and inefficient	This will carry the risk of substantial delays and possible failures in implementations.	**2. FINANCIAL (2.6. Budget availability and cash flow) - UNDP Risk Appetite: MINIMAL TO CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **4 - Extensive** **Risk level:** **SUBSTANTIAL (equates to a risk appetite of OPEN)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 3.1: Measures will be taken to ensure efficient fund flows and transfers. Project Board/Steering Committee to promptly review and propose solutions to any significant problems or delays impacting disbursement and progress of planned activities. Risk Treatment Owner: PSC

4	**There is a risk that institutions governing PA buffer areas, Eco-Sensitize Zones and adjacent production landscape areas, local districts and community associations have inadequate capacity or resources to implement project activities successfully, or to monitor the impacts, leading to ill-adapted management decisions and poor accountability to the beneficiaries**.	Local level institutions have received little support in the past for landscape level conservation including inter-sectoral coordination and the technical skills to address unsustainable land management practices. These institutions might not be fully capacitated to discharge project activities.	Lack of capacity to implement these activities could limit success of project activities or result in unintended negative consequences. Existing marginalization dynamics may also affect the ability of duty-bearers to effectively address gender-based conflict and adequately respond to potential grievances raised by women or socially marginalized groups in the project sites.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.9. Indigenous peoples) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **2 - Low likelihood** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 4.1: In order to reinforce the capacities of the duty-bearers to conduct the project effectively and meet their obligations, output 1.4 is specifically dedicated to capacity development of Gram Panchayats, villages, community groups and district level government staff for community-based approaches for biodiversity conservation. This will involve building institutional capacities and community capacities

								to implement project interventions and providing technical training and resources for community-based approaches to biodiversity conservation. These activities will be complemented by specific capacity-building activities on Safeguards Management, Gender equity, FPIC implementation and Stakeholder Engagement, as planned in the ESMF Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

							Risk Treatment 4.2: Alignment of national priorities and coordination of environment policy between the national and the local level will be key. The project board/steering committee will be in charge of ensuring this alignment. It is key that that local authorities at the district level are empowered in safeguards management, as planned in the ESMF, to make sure that the SES policy is adequately applied. Risk Treatment Owner: PSC,


Safeguard
s Officer

							Risk Treatment 4.3: The PMU will include professionals with expertise in all technical aspects of the project. A Safeguards consultant, present full-time for the first year and ad hoc throughout the rest of the project cycle, will support the PMU. Project staff will be supported on a continual basis through training and refresher courses, and hands-on support during the initial part of the project, as per the ESMF and with the help of the national safeguard

								consultant. Risk Treatment Owner: Safeguards Officer
								Risk Treatment 4.5: The GRM will be gender-sensitive and socially inclusive, and may, if deemed necessary, differ from one landscape to another, in order to be made accessible to all. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU, Safeguards Officer

5	**There is a risk that the project supports the enforcement of biodiversity conservation actions, including landscape level plans and support to Forest Reserves, which could restrict access to natural and cultural resources, and potentially lead to economic and even physical displacement of local communities, including Schedules Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes.**	The project will support landscape-level level plans which will identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development. The landscape level plans and well as the spatial planning that will be produced may actually negatively affect the communities? interests as they could restrict their access and most of all their uses of the lands.	Areas identified for conservation and restoration[1] activities for instance could overlap with existing land uses such as farming and/or sacred sites. Such restrictions could also inadvertently impact the access to cultural heritage sites, especially as those have not yet been mapped by the project. A similar impact could be observed in particular through the spatial planning to be conducted in 40 champion village clusters: 10 Gram Panchayats [2] and 10 tribal communities in	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.1. Human rights) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.9. Indigenous peoples) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.8. Displacement and resettlement) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **2 - Low likelihood** **Impact:** **5 - Extreme** **Risk level:** **SUBSTANTIAL (equates to a risk appetite of OPEN)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 5.1: An ESMF is available as Annex 10 to the Project Document, outlining steps required during project implementation. As per the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be carried out for the project. This will lead to the development on an Environmental and Social Management Plan, with 3 key associated plans to target this particular risk: - Two Social Inclusion Plans[3]

			Sathyamangalam landscape, and 20 Village A?king Lands in Garo Hills landscape.				(one per landscape) to plan adequate measures in order to avoid, minimize, mitigate and/or compensate any negative impact on Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes - Two Livelihood Action Plans, assessing the situation of all local groups and planning for adequate measures to maintain or enhance their livelihood - Two Resettlement Action Plans, specifying the clear legal framewor

							k and conditions to manage the risk of physical displacement. Physical displacement should be avoided and no forced displacement will occur through this project. Risk Treatment Owner: Safeguards Officer

							Risk Treatment 5.2: A preliminary Social Inclusion Planning Framework[4] has been developed, available as Annex 10a, as part of the PPG in order to plan for appropriate processes to consult with Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, integrate their rights and interests in the project, and develop appropriate plans Risk Treatment Owner: Safeguards Officer

							Risk Treatment 5.3: A strong (and independent from the project management) Grievance Redress Mechanism will be established in the project area to mitigate potential adverse impact of increased law enforcement and inappropriate planning on marginalized local people as a risk group. It will be made available before moderate to high risk activities start, and its functionality will be assessed after one year, opening up for potential revisions.

							Risk Treatment Owner: Safeguards Officer

								Risk Treatment 5.4: The project has planned to undertake a socially inclusive participatory mapping exercise (including women, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other discriminated / vulnerable groups) applying FPIC principles, for communally owned village lands, spatially mapping current land uses and identifying the spatial extent of potential future uses as per the landscape level plan (preparation for Activity 1.4.1 identifying priority biodiversity actions).

								Where changes in land use are envisaged, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied. Risk treatment owner: Safeguards Officer

6	**There is a risk that project may exclude marginalized / vulnerable groups from participatory processes and/or project benefits due to lack of effective community engagement and support**	The findings of community consultations conducted during PPG suggest that marginalized groups including Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes have limited access to information and awareness of their rights and entitlements	There is a risk that these communities might not be aware of or included in project consultations and activities.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.1. Human rights) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 6.1: Annex 9b- Stakeholder Engagement Plan outlined in the project document clearly specifies targeted methods of engagement with the marginalised / vulnerable groups including the Scheduled Tribes (ST), socially marginalized classes like Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC), ensuring the principle of ?leaving no one behind?. The plan has been developed based on several inclusive and

								participatory stakeholder consultations guided by the GEF policy on stakeholder engagement during the development phase of the project. Additionally, FPIC will be conducted for engagement with the tribal people Risk Treatment Owner: PMU, Safeguards Officer

7	**There is a risk that gender-based violence may exacerbate in both the landscapes a prominent issue in both landscapes ? the support to women groups may exacerbate GBV within the community if they create power struggles at the household or village level**	The communities are patriarchal. Sexual violence in Meghalaya continues to be a devastating phenomenon with destructive repercussions for victims and their families and whole communities.[5] Even in the Garo tribes who follow the matrilineal system and where women have a special position and role in society, progressive degeneration of moral values has resulted in an escalation of crimes against women and gender-based violence. The risk of GBV is higher for women in STs, SCs and OBCs, as women?s	The project will provide Women?s leadership support (1.1.6), through the form of women leadership support programme for women participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries. However, this activity could foster changes in social dynamics, which in turn could lead to a temporary increase in GBV.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.2. Gender equality and women?s empowerment) - UDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 7.1: In line with national policies as well as UNDP and GEF guidelines, the project will adopt the following principles in its day-to-day management: (1) Demonstrate gender responsiveness in all interactions with project stakeholders; (2) No use of language or behaviour denoting bias and disrespect for any individual based on gender or ethnicity; (3) Avoid gender stereotyping in project documents, and communication outputs; (4) Support zero tolerance

		vulnerability to violence is related to their general vulnerability in socio-economic systems[6]. In Tamil Nadu, considered a more progressive state, the National Family Health Survey still found that 44,7% of married women experienced physical or sexual violence in their					for sexual harassment, gender-based violence and/or sexual exploitation and abuse of men, women, girls and boys that may occur in connection with any of its supported activities. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

		household, and 81% of them never sought any help.[7]					Risk Treatment 7.2: The project will organise a training for the PMU on gender-integrated planning and project implementation and on risks related to gender inequalities including Gender-based Violence. There are a few courses available: NAP-Ag course focuses on adaptation planning[8], and UNDP also produced with GEF a free online course on Gender and Environment. Risk Treatment Owner: CO

								Risk Treatment 7.3: To address the risk of Gender-based Violence highlighted in the SESP and in the Gender analysis, the project will establish a process in the Stakeholder Response Mechanism to record GBV cases and related complaints and decide how to respond in collaboration with local CSOs and existing institutional mechanisms in place (if any) Risk Treatment Owner: PMU, Safeguards Officer

								Risk Treatment 7.4: For a project focused on land management, it is necessary to understand social dynamics in terms of GBV. To gather information, regular visits and interviews in the area would be essential, as well as the collection of data on gender (in)equalities. A dedicated Gender Focal Point within the CO should ensure data collection in a gender-responsive manner in the field (e.g. conduct key informant interviews focused on gender-related issues (i.e.

								barriers to access and control resources, sexual and reproductive health and rights, political representation and participation, gender-based violence, etc.), focus group discussions with women?s groups, and with groups of people of different age and ethnicities, etc.). Risk Treatment Owner: PMU, CO

8	**There is a risk that as women are traditionally excluded from decision-making processes, they could be excluded from the support planned to local communities, including STs, SCs and OBCs.**	Within the project landscapes, the risk of exclusion of women and girls from the project due to differentiated and uneven roles, experiences, priorities, responsibilities and needs exists.	In such a situation, inappropriate stakeholder engagement measures may potentially limit and prevent women?s representation and meaningful participation in project interventions and activities, worsening their social position and access to critical resources. This could also inadvertently reproduce existing discrimination against women in project implementation. Dynamics among social groups could also lead to exclusion of certain women from the support provided to women groups.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.2. Gender equality and women?s empowerment) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.10. Labour and working conditions) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **4 - Highly likely** **Impact:** **4 - Extensive** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 8.1: Separate women-only focus group discussions guided by the GEF Gender Policy to ensure women?s meaningful participation were conducted in both the project landscapes to map their roles, requirements and experiences during the PPG. This has formed the base to develop gender responsive activities and interventions to ensure that women are not excluded from participatory processes. To ensure appropriate support for

								women?s rights and gender equality during the project implementation, all monitoring and evaluation missions for the project will be designed using the most participatory approach possible, continuously looking for opportunities for women to ensure their voices are heard and taken into account in the project management. Gender Mainstreaming is woven into the project results framework, with specific activities dedicated to empowering women (namely, 1.4.1,

								1.4.3, 1.4.4, 2.2.4). See Annex 11 ? Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan for details. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU and Gender Specialist

								Risk Treatment 8.2: Strong Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be established in the project landscapes to mitigate potential adverse impact of increased law enforcement on marginalized local people as a risk group, including women. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

								Risk treatment 8.3: Gender responsive and inclusive women mobilization and capacity building activities will precede all interventions, according to the gender-responsive Social Inclusion Planning Framework, FPIC protocols and the two Social Inclusion Plans. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

9	**There is a risk that targeted communities may not be motivated to participate in sustainable livelihood activities that support biodiversity conservation or restoration**	The project will target certain communities in key areas of the project landscape to conduct livelihood diversification activities, habitat restoration and other activities.	Some communities may not wish to participate if they feel that their access to natural resources may be affected.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 9.1: Consultations during the PPG covered various communities in the project landscapes, including assessment of their level and potential for engagement. To counter the risk of low participation, the project will follow a participatory and consultative process, including FPIC with the concerned communities, and any activity will only be conducted with the full agreement of the communities. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU,

								Safeguards Officer
10	**There is a risk that the project may create existing land-related conflicts among communities around issues related to land-use, forest activities and benefit-sharing.**	The project will strengthen Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions. However, if some communities are less engaged than others in these actions, this could create inequities and subsequent conflicts between communities	The monitoring and enforcement of conservation activities could also be detrimental for the livelihood of certain communities who may currently be encroaching some Reserve Forests and/or conducting other prohibited activities. Even if joint patrols are made of community members (1.6.4), there is a risk that this would create problems within the community in between those enrolled in the patrols and those who are conducting their activities	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.1. Human rights) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.9. Indigenous peoples) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **2 - Low likelihood** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 10.1: An ESMF has been prepared as an annex to the Project Document, and requires that an ESIA/ESMP be undertaken to manage this risk and all others. A Grievance Mechanism will be designed (see ESMF) and will be implemented by the project, allowing communities to request intervention when they have a grievance. Risk Treatment owner: Safeguards Officer

			in these areas. Conflicts could also arise around benefit-sharing, if the governance structures (2.2.3) and the Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements (2.2.7) are not representatives of all communities and subsets of these communities, including STs, SCs and OBCs.					Risk Treatment 10.2: technical expertise will be brought on board as needed, for example to negotiate Access and Benefit Sharing agreements or small-scale processing facilities for agroforestry produce. Where changes in land use are envisaged, for example, intensive cultivation of communal lands previously left fallow, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied, and full consultations

								conducted. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU
11	**There is a risk that better conservation measures could actually lead to an increase in Human Wildlife Conflict**	The implementation of biodiversity actions is expected to generate better conditions for wildlife conservation in the two landscapes. This could, however, generate an increase in Human Wildlife Conflict, as free-roaming elephant, leopard and wild boar frequently cause injuries and deaths among community members, while crops are	If not managed adequately, these conflicts could lead to a significant decrease in communities? livelihoods, and cause growing resentment towards the project and the elephants and other wildlife. Some community members are recruited by illegal wildlife traffickers to act as guides and poachers. The motivation	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.3. Grievances (Accountability to stakeholders)) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.9. Indigenous peoples) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 11.1: The ESIA/ESMP and the Livelihood Action Plan will take into account the Human Wildlife Conflict on the basis of a list of incidents gathered during safeguards consultations. Risk Treatment Owner: Safeguards Officer

		destroyed (in an area where food supplies almost entirely depend on these crops).	for local people is money, particularly where the conflict has destroyed their livelihoods, or where they have become socially outcast to some degree. The decrease of livelihoods and growing resentment could become another motivation for some community members				Risk Treatment 11.2: A forensic analysis of the incidents may be planned in addition if the problem increases despite the implementation of management measures. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU, Safeguards Officer

			to engage in poaching activities.					Risk Treatment 11.3: The State governme nt of Meghalay a is already providing Payment for Compens ation for Depredati on by Wild Animals, and the State governme nt of Tamil Nadu is erecting Solar Fences to protect the Farm Land from the Wild Animals Risk Treatment Owner: State Governm ents of Tamil Nadu and Meghalay a

								Risk Treatment 11.4: Through activity 1.5.1, the project will provide solutions to reduce HWC (i.e. Reduction of human wildlife conflict through, e.g. elephant trenches, rings of beehives, or bamboo fences) in the champion village clusters. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

12	**There is a risk that ill-adapted conservation measures could actually generate inadvertent perturbation to the local ecosystem, in particular if new species are introduced, as they could prove to be invasive**	The project output 1.5 includes enrichment planting in Sacred Groves[9], demarcated by Gram Panchayats or tribal communities for protection, planting indigenous tree species cultivated in local nurseries with seed collected form the forest.	Rehabilitation of degraded areas (reforestation, plantation) may lead to perturbation of the local ecosystem if all species are not indigenous, something that has happened in the past[10]. Tree plantations may also be done at the expense of other species, hence inadvertently harming local biodiversity.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.4. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 12.1: The Prodoc clearly states that planting should involve only indigenous tree species in both landscapes. Care will be taken to use locally appropriate and suitable tree species and to avoid inadvertent negative ecological impacts. - The ESIA/ESMP will also provide a frame to acceptable practices, on the basis of the selection of biodiversity actions to be carried out.

								- Restoration activities under Output 1.5 will include clearing of invasive alien vegetation (such as *Lantana camara* and *Prosopis julifora*) from Reserve Forests, guided by the Forest Departme nt nd working with tribal communit ies to clear the biomass and process it as fuel, biochar or furniture[11]. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

13	**There is a risk that businesses and forest-based enterprises supported by the project could lead to an unsustainable use of natural resources, generation of waste and negative impacts on the environment**	**Output 2.2** plans to establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. These ventures will be supported by support to buyer agreements and marketing, as well as business studies and plans.	The value-chains concerned could use natural resources in an unsustainable way, generate waste, and prove to be harmful to biodiversity as they expand.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.4. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management) - UDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.11. Pollution prevention and resource efficiency) - UDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **2 - Low likelihood** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 13.1: Output 2.2 states that the enterprises ventures should be biodiversity-friendly. Examples of livelihoods include fodder production and processing, bee-keeping and honey, agroforestry combining medicinal plants and fruit trees, bamboo and cane furniture, essential oils from flowers, adding value to existing tree crops e.g. cashew roasting, orange pulp, broom grass broom-making[12]. Conditions preceding the selection

								of these ventures should include social and environmental criteria to frame what ?eco-friendly? means for the project, in light of environmental and social safeguards. These conditions will be included in the ESMP. Also included in the ESMP conditions will be a requirement that any expansion of cultivation as the basis for the enterprises will be done on already transformed land and will not involve the clearing of native forest.

								Risk Treatment Owner: PMU
14	**There is the risk that the project misuses traditional knowledge, as it will be used for commercialization purposes. This could in turn prove to be harmful to STs, SCs and OBCs cultural values.**	The two State Medicinal Plants Boards[13] will be key partners in identifying opportunities for cultivation and commercialization of medicinal species, and potential for Access and Benefit Sharing for local endemic species on which communities hold the traditional knowledge.	This misuse could lead to a misrepresentation of traditional knowledge, and to be harmful for local communities? cultural values.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.7. Cultural heritage) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS** **1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.9. Indigenous peoples) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **2 - Low likelihood** **Impact:** **3 - Intermediate** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 14.1: The two Social Inclusion Plans, as per the Social Inclusion Planning Framework, will detail appropriate measures to account for traditional knowledge. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

		The business feasibility studies and plans will explore the potential for value-chains intrinsically linked with traditional knowledge to be the basis of eco-friendly business ventures. This could lead to a misrepresentation of traditional knowledge, and to be harmful for local communities? cultural values.					Risk Treatment 14.2: The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 mandates the establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local and district levels, who are responsible for the development of People?s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) for each Gram Panchayat or Village, detailing biological resources and traditional knowledge at the local level. Project Activity 1.3.4 will involve capacity development through the State Institute for Rural

							Development, and additional support through tertiary institutions to 445 villages in the two project landscapes (identified as biodiversity hotspots) to produce or validate and update their People's Biodiversity Registers, including traditional knowledge of women as well as men. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

							Risk Treatment 14.3: All activities linked to the development of eco-friendly business ventures will be subject to consultations according to the FPIC protocol, in order to make sure that they respect all cultural values linked to the use and commercial use of traditional knowledge. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

							Risk Treatment 14.4: In accordance with the articles of the Nagoya Protocol, India?s National Biodiversity Authority has published Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. These regulations promote and govern the development of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements[14] benefiting custodians of traditional knowledge on

							forest products. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

								Risk Treatment 14.5: Where potential exists in the project landscapes for commercial use of an indigenous forest species of which local communities are the traditional stewards and knowledge holders, specialized technical support will be provided through Activity 2.2.7 to support enterprise cooperatives to conclude ABS agreements with commercial partners who are willing to channel monetary and non-monetary benefits to the communities in exchange for access

								to the biological or genetic resource. Sharing regimes will be guided by the ABS regulations and also FPIC consultations. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

15	**There is a risk of both landscapes being highly vulnerable to climate change.**	The two project landscapes are geographically and climatically distinct, yet both are subject to stresses associated with climate change, including droughts, floods, and erratic monsoon rains. A study commissioned by the Meghalaya state government has found that over the last 16 years, nearly half of Meghalaya's forests experienced an ?increase in disturbance?, and around a quarter are now ?highly vulnerable?. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu where vulnerability assessment has been done in many districts has highlighted	Some of the biodiversity actions implemented could actually increase the communities? vulnerability to climate change.	**1. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (1.5. Climate change and disaster risks) - UNDP Risk Appetite: CAUTIOUS**	**Likelihood:** **3 - Moderately likely** **Impact:** **1 - Negligible** **Risk level:** **MODERATE (equates to a risk appetite of EXPLORATORY)**	From: 01-Sep-23 To: 31-Aug-28	Project Manager	Risk Treatment 15.1: The project?s landscape conservation approach will protect and restore forests and other natural ecosystems, enhancing the resilience of these ecosystems to negative impacts of climate change, such as temperature increase and more frequent fires. Project interventions will also reduce communities? vulnerability to climate change. For example, restoration of ponds and springs will provide additional water in times of

		those 22 districts in Tamil Nadu are critically water-stressed while 12 coastal districts are prone to cyclones, sea level rise and other climate change-induced disasters.						climate change-intensified meteorological drought; and restoration of hillsides deforested by jhum (shifting cultivation) will enhance resilience to more intense monsoon rainfall events, preventing soil erosion and landslides. See Annex 26- Climate and Disaster Screening Report for details. Risk Treatment Owner: PMU

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)[1], a statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India will implement the project. The Project Board/Steering Committee (PSC), the apex governing body for providing oversight and monitoring to the project, will be chaired by the Additional Secretary (Biodiversity) of the MoEFCC[2][2]. The Chairperson, NBA will act as the co-chair of the Project Board as well as the National Project Director. The Secretary NBA will act as the Member Convenor for the Project Board.

UNDP due diligence tool, the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) micro-capacity assessment, was completed in2023 for the project Implementing Partner, the National Biodiversity Authority, a statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established by the Central Government in 2003 to implement India?s Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory Body, and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

The results of the 2023 assessment contained in the *Report on Micro Assessment of National Biodiversity Authority as per HACT Guidelines,* [3][3] indicated an overall Moderate risk rating, including moderate risk rating relating to activities and Sub-partners. Low risk relating to all the following categories: Organization, People and Behaviors, Reporting and Accountability, Assets and Inventory, Procurement, and Systems. UNDP India also conducted the Partner Capacity Assessment Tool (PCAT) for NBA , which resulted in a rating of Very Low Risk for procurement capacity on GEF and GCF projects. At the request of the IP and the GOI, the implementation modality proposed is National Implementation (NIM) with UNDP CO support services.

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects? governance mechanism

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The NBA, a statutory body under the MoEFCC will be responsible for implementing the project. Specific tasks of the IP include:

•Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The IP will carry out project-level M&E itself, thus ensuring that this is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems ? so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
•Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
•Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
•Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
•Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
•Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
•Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

Responsible Parties: No Responsible Parties have been identified for the project at the time of the preparation of the project document.

Technical experts will be located at national, state, and landscape levels. (see *Annex 7* for more detail on project support).

Project stakeholders and target groups: The project involves a wide range of government and community stakeholders and spans the sectors of rural development and development planning on the one hand, and forest and biodiversity conservation on the other. Stakeholders also include those in central government, state government, tribal authorities, districts, block as and villages, as a result of this broad horizontal and vertical span of influence / interest, the governance and management arrangements are set up to facilitate involvement of a large number of stakeholders but are also designed for maximum efficiency. The following eight coordination structures, their roles and composition are detailed in Section 2 below:

? State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Tamil Nadu & Sathyamangalam (1)

? State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Meghalaya and Garo Hills (1)

? District Coordination Mechanisms in three Tamil Nadu Districts (3)

? District Coordination Mechanisms in three Meghalaya Districts (3)

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged to the GEF project management costs (only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

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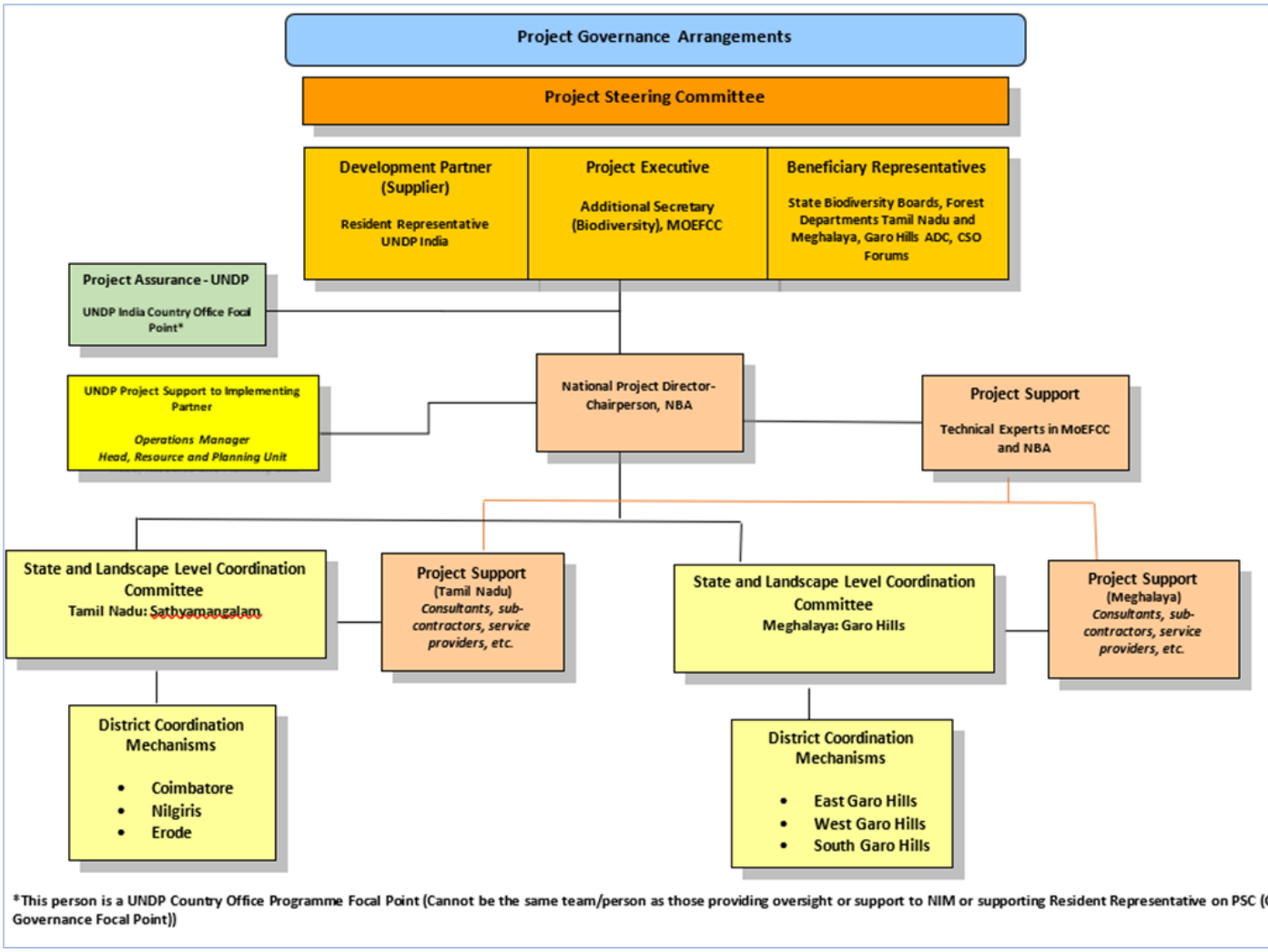
Section 2: Project governance structure

Diagram 1: Proposed project governance, coordination and management structures



First line of defense

? Person providing oversight of execution support (COS) cannot to UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR.

Second line of defense

? Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office compliance at portfolio level.

? BPPS RTA oversees functions of technical technical oversight and GEF compliance in project assurance. BPPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function.

? UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/ cancel/ suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP?s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

UNDP project support: The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services in the amount of USD 40,589 (Direct Project Cost) for the full duration of the project, and the GEF Program Manager has been informed about the execution support request from the government as part of an upstream discussion in 2022. While this hasn?t been approved by the GEF Program Manager, the implementing partner/Executing Agency requested for the support, the rationale for which are noted below:

a) Financial Management of Resources

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is an entity of Government of India (GoI) which has robust financial systems. While appropriate financial systems, rules and guidelines are in place, GoI processes for managing funds are time intensive and often experiences heavy procedural delays. This often affects the overall implementation of projects, resulting in extension of timelines and delay in project delivery. Issues pertain to:

o **Fund Transfer:** The accounting of the financial transactions of MoEFCC is handled by the Central Treasury i.e. Controller of Aid, Audit and Accounts (CAAA). The funds for the project are transferred by UNDP/ Agency to the Controller of Aid, Audit and Accounts (CAAA), being the Central Treasury of MoEFCC as per the budget allocation by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The funds to MoEFCC are received from the Budget allocation by Ministry of Finance in the form of Externally Aided Project in annual budget, where the MoEFCC then releases funds to the relevant parties. However, Govt approval for authorising, processing and approving fund transfer takes on average 6 ? 8 months.

b) Procurement Processes: The procurement policies and procedures are contained in? Procurement of Goods and Services General Financial Rules (GFR). As per government norms, procurement is made based on advertisement and tenders in which any vendor can participate. Similar to above, while appropriate

systems, rules and guidelines are in place, GoI procurement processes also are time consuming, and end to end procurement process takes minimum 4 -6 months. For other operational and logistical requirements (consultants, international and national travel/arranging workshops, IT equipment), UNDP support has been sought by Ministry as it has proven to be cost effective, efficient through a transparent and competitive process. In addition, Ministry has a cap on consultancy fees governed by its internal salary norms. This restricts the Ministry?s ability to engage high quality technical expertise. UNDP has been facilitating the availability of highly skilled and experienced consultants in various divisions of the Ministry across the verticals. Further, procurement of any goods / services through GoI process entails a Goods and Services Tax (GST). This results in high transaction costs of running a project for the IP/EA given the opportunity costs.

c) Knowledge Sharing and South-South Cooperation: Given the global expertise and extensive outreach of UNDP, the Implementing Partner/EA has also requested for provision of services for engaging with eminent international organizations for exchange of best practices, participation at regional and international forums and facilitation of exposure visits. This will enable effective knowledge sharing and information dissemination which is currently challenging for the IP owing to long approval processes and procedural delays.

d) Capacity of IP: The HACT micro assessment conducted for the IP during the PPG phase resulted with a ?moderate? risk rating, which is largely attributed to (i) risk management and (ii) absence of gender policy. With experience in provision of execution support services to other GEF projects, UNDP has been the agency of choice of the Ministry for provision of operational support to implement these projects in a cost/resource/time-effective manner. To support the GoI in the effective and timely implementation of the project, UNDP will provide execution support services under recruitment, procurement and travel.

The execution support services ? whether financed from the project budget or other sources have been set out in detail and agreed between UNDP Country Office and the Implementing Partner in a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This *LOA* is attached to this Project Document as *Annex 1d*.

To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-?-vis UNDP representation on the National Project Board

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As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of

implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

In this case, UNDP?s implementation oversight role in the project ? as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function ? is performed by Deputy Resident Representative. UNDP?s execution role in the project (as requested by the implementing partner) is performed by Operations Manager of UNDP CO who will report to Resident Representative.

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The provisions that have been taken to ensure that a proper separation of functions between staff providing oversight of the Implementing Partner executing the project and execution on behalf of the Implementing Partner is in place at the CO level:

? Assurance function by staff covered by the GEF fee:

o Chief- Action for Climate and Environment (ACE) Unit, UNDP CO

o Head, Climate Adaptation, Natural Resource Management, and Biodiversity, ACE Unit, UNDP CO

o Programme Associate, ACE Unit, UNDP CO

? Assurance function by staff not covered by the GEF fee:

o Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP CO

o M&E Analyst, UNDP CO

o MEL Associate, UNDP CO

? Execution support covered by PMC:

•Procurement Associate, UNDP CO
•HR Associate, UNDP CO
•Finance Associate, UNDP CO
•Technical Experts / Assistants
? Execution oversight:

•Operations Manager, UNDP CO

Section 4: Roles and Responsiblities of the Project Organization Structure

a) Project Board:

All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (sometimes termed ?Project Steering Committee?) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for the project.

The two main roles of the Project Board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner, NBA, MoEFCC** (as explained in the ?Provide Oversight? section of the POPP), under the leadership of the Additional Secretary (Biodiversity), MoEFCC, who will chair the Project Board, taking the Project Executive Role in the Project Board. This high-level oversight of execution is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner, NBA,** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Manage Change? section of the POPP).

Detail on the **requirements to serve** on the Project Board/Steering Committee, and the **full set of responsibilities** of the Project Board/Steering Committee are included in *Annex 6: Terms of reference for project governance structures and technical experts*.

In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Composition of the Project Board: Given the cross-cutting nature of the project, the Project Board will have cross-sectoral representation led by MoEFCC, and will involve the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Other participants can

be invited as and when required to enhance the efficacy of the Project Board meetings. The composition of the Project Board includes individuals assigned to the following three roles:

? **Project Executive:** This senior national government counterpart from the Implementing Partner represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Board. The Project Executive is the Additional Secretary (Biodiversity), MOEFCC. The Chairperson, NBA, will be a member of the Project Board as the National Project Director. The Secretary, NBA will act as the Member Convenor of the Project Board.

? **Beneficiary Representative(s):** These are representatives of government and civil society organizations who will ultimately benefit from the project, who will help ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. The Beneficiary representatives are proposed to include:

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- State Biodiversity Board, Tamil Nadu
- State Biodiversity Board, Meghalaya
- National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)
- Department of Forests, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu
- Department of Forests and Environment Department, Meghalaya
- Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Tamil Nadu
- Department of Community and Rural Development, Meghalaya
- Civil society representative (national level)

•**Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: the UNDP Resident Representative for India.

b) **Project Assurance:**

Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the National Project Director.

A designated representative of UNDP India playing the project assurance is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP?s project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function at national level is the Chief- Action for Climate and Environment (ACE) Unit in the UNDP India Country Office.

Please note: The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP?s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework.

c) **Project Management ? Execution of the Project:**

The National Project Officer (NPO) is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, NBA, MoEFCC. This role includes the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers.

The central project support will be provided under the leadership of the National Project Director (see Annex 7: Terms of reference for Project Staff and Technical Consultancies). Project support in the form of consultants, sub-contractors, service providers, etc. will also be provided at the state and landscape levels in the two states. Roles and responsibilities related to the project support are detailed in Annex 7.

d) Sub-national Coordination Structures:

1. In addition to the Project Board for overall governance, and there are two state and landscape level coordination structures proposed, as well as six district-level coordination mechanisms. This section proposes the role and membership for the following eight coordination structures, their roles and composition:

i. State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Tamil Nadu & Sathyamangalam

ii. State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Meghalaya and Garo Hills

iii. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Tamil Nadu Districts

iv. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Meghalaya Districts

See Diagram 1 above to understand how the proposed coordination structures complement the governance work of the Project Board and the day-to-day project management by the National Project Officer and other project support roles.

i. State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Tamil Nadu & Sathyamangalam

This committee will meet twice a year, called by the State and Landscape Expert for Tamil Nadu and Sathyamangalam (see *Annex 6: Terms of reference for project governance structures,* technical experts *and coordination roles*). The Expert will be located in Erode District and will help to guide and coordinate activities in all three components of the project at state and landscape level. The committee will be chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Forests, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu. Other institutions to be represented[4][4] on the coordinating committee are as follows:

? Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board

? State Institute for Rural Development, Tamil Nadu

? Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

? Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu (ECC&F)

? Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, ECC&F

? National Tiger Conservation Authority (Southern Region), ECC&F

? Field Directors, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves, ECC&F

? District Collectors, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Erode District

? Civil society forums, e.g., Tamil Nadu Alliance

? Non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

ii. State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Meghalaya and Garo Hills

This committee will meet twice a year, called by the State and Landscape Expert for Meghalaya and Garo Hills. The Expert will be located in West Garo District and will help to guide and coordinate activities in all three components of the project at state and landscape level. The committee will be chaired by the Principal Secretary, Forests and Environment Department, Meghalaya / Principal Secretary Community and Rural Development, Meghalaya (Garo Hills landscape / Meghalaya State). Other institutions to be represented[5][5] on the coordinating committee are as follows:

? Meghalaya State Biodiversity Board

? State Institute for Rural Development, Meghalaya

? Meghalaya Basin Development Authority

? Department of Community and Rural Development, Meghalaya

? Garo Hills Autonomous District Council

? Department of Forests and Environment, Meghalaya

? Divisional Field Officer responsible for Nokrek National Park, Balpakram National Park and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary

? Garo Hills Council of Nokma

? Deputy Commissioners, West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills District and South Garo Hills Districts

? Representatives of civil society forums, e.g., Confederation of Meghalaya Social Organization

? Representatives of non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

iii. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Tamil Nadu Districts

These three committees will meet twice each year and will help to guide and coordinate activities in the relevant areas of Sathyamangalam project landscape (see TORs in Annex 6). Each of the three committees will be chaired by the District Collector of the relevant District. Institutions / organizations to be represented are proposed[6][6] to include:

? District representatives of State Departments, for example:

o Forestry Department

o Agriculture and /or Horticulture Department

o Tribal Welfare Department

o Women?s Development Corporation

o Additional Director, Panchayat and District Rural Development Agency

? Block Development Officers from relevant blocks

? 3 Representatives of champion Gram Panchayats

? 3 Representatives of Block level Biodiversity Management Committees

? 1 representative each of Self-Help Group federations, Eco Development Committees/Village Forest Committees

? 2 Representatives of non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

iv. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Meghalaya Districts

These three committees will meet twice each year and will help to guide and coordinate activities in the relevant areas of Sathyamangalam project landscape (see TORs in *Annex 6*). Each of the three committees

will be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of the relevant District. Institutions / organizations to be represented are proposed to include[7][7]:

? District representatives of Garo Hills Council of Nokmas

? ADC Chief Forest Officer / Forestry Department

? District office of MBDA

? District representatives of State Departments, for example:

o Forestry Department

o Agriculture Department

o Horticulture Department

o Water Resources Department

o Tourism Department

o Planning Department

? Block Development Officers from relevant blocks

? 3 Representatives of champion Village Employment Councils

? 3 Representatives of Biodiversity Management Committees

? 1 Representative each of Self Help Group Voluntary Organization, Joint Forest Management Committees

? 2 Representatives of non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

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[1] The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is an autonomous statutory body under the MoEFCC, established by central government in 2003 to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The NBA uses the standard MoEFCC processes and systems for finance, procurement, accounting, reporting and auditing, under the Ministry?s internal controls. The NBA?s accounts are audited annually by the Office of the Auditor and Comptroller General, and audited accounts presented to the Indian Parliament. NBA performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, and fair equitable sharing of benefits of use. The NBA is also responsible for preparation of India?s National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and the

country?s reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). With its Headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, the NBA delivers its mandate through a structure that is comprised of the Authority, secretariat, Expert Committees, State Biodiversity Steering Committee (SBBs) across 28 States, and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local level across India. NBA has previously acted as Implementing Partner on two GEF-financed projects: one carried out in 2011-2015 and supported by UNEP, on ?Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Provisions?; and the other carried out from 2017-2021 and supported by UNDP, on ?Strengthening human resources, legal framework and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol?. NBA also carried out a project in 2009 with UNDP support on Strengthening institutional structures to implement the Biological Diversity Act; and NBA implemented the Biodiversity Samrakshan internship programme in conservation in 2020, which has been successful in training new entrants to the biodiversity conservation sector.

[2] This is a special position, at the same level as Joint Secretary.

[3] Conducted by SK Mittal and Co., E-29, South Extension Part -II, New Delhi-110049

[4] To be confirmed or adjusted at the Project Inception Workshops

[5] To be confirmed or adjusted at the Project Inception Workshops

[6] To be finalized at first meeting of State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Tamil Nadu & Sathyamangalam

[7] To be finalized at first meeting of State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee ? Meghalaya & Garo Hills

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The project is aligned with India?s **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP**, equivalent to NBSAP) and will directly address its targets related to conservation and management of ecologically representative areas, sustainable management of agriculture and forestry, mobilization of resources, environmental education and awareness, management of invasive alien species, access and benefit sharing, and development of biodiversity action plans at all levels of governance. The project will contribute to several of the **Sustainable Development Goals** towards Agenda 2030, including SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17. Its work to strengthen protected areas and involve communities in protecting forested areas in their buffer zones is

in line with ?Criteria and Guidelines for Identifying **Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)** in India? published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in September 2020.

The project will also contribute to national forest cover targets by protecting indigenous forest, and putting degraded lands under productive agroforestry, and aligning with the **National Agroforestry Policy** that aims at encouraging and expanding tree plantation in complementarity and integrated manner with crops and livestock. This will contribute towards Government of India?s ambitious commitment in its 2016 **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** in terms of the Paris Agreement, to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by the year 2030. It is also aligned with the **National Afforestation Programme** and **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** payments for reforestation in states losing forest.

The project supports the **National REDD+ Strategy India**, released in 2018, which highlights India?s 173,000 forest fringe villages where local communities are highly dependent on forests for their needs in relation to: a) the country?s **Joint Forest Management programme** since 1990, through which local communities and the State Forest Department jointly plan and implement forest regeneration and eco-development activities, and communities can access minor forest produce; as well as b) the legal protection for forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers to exercise their customary rights and traditions, through the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**.

At State level, the project is in line with **Meghalaya Vision 2030** issued by the State Government, which aims at sustainable community forest management through participatory planning and inclusive growth, along with capacity development for people and institutions concerned. The project will also contribute in achieving the objectives of **North Eastern Region Vision 2020** which aims to alleviate poverty and emphasized inclusive sustainable development through sustainable community forest management, and grassroots planning by adopting a participatory development approach. The project contributes towards two themes in the **Tamil Nadu Vision 2023** ? Theme: 8: Nurturing a rich heritage and preserving the ecology, which includes conservation of the zoological and botanical diversity of the State, and Theme 3: which sets out the State?s vision for a highly inclusive growth pattern, aiming to become a largely poverty-free state with opportunities for gainful and productive employment for all those who seek it, and providing care for the disadvantaged, vulnerable and the destitute in the state.

8. Knowledge Management

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

Component 3 of the project ?Knowledge and data management for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India? aims to reach the outcome of an improved understanding of the approach to mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, in and beyond the project landscapes, across the project States, and in the other States of India. This involves capturing and sharing lessons learnt within and between the project landscapes, using face-to-face knowledge exchanges, as well as public media campaigns; and providing a pathway to scale in all States of India through the National Biodiversity Authority?s online meetings of State Biodiversity Boards and a national conference. These three outputs encapsulate the project?s knowledge management strategy:

Output 3.1: **Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes**

Activity 3.1.1 Digitalizing spatial & development plans Upload to National Biodiversity Authority, central Ministry of Panchayati Raj e-gram swaraj portal and other digital platforms: a. the 445 validated / updated People's Biodiversity Registers, including spatial data layers where available b. The 2 landscape level plans for Sathyamangalam and Garo Hills c. Forest Reserve Working Plans and other spatial plans produced in project landscapes d. 20 Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and 20 Meghalaya Village Level Development Plans (VLDPs) with biodiversity actions integrated, including spatial data layers where available.
Activity 3.1.2 Repository of training material Upload to platform housed by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj all training material and tools related to mainstreaming biodiversity into village, block and district development planning and budgeting, for access by all States of India.

Output 3.3: Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums

Activity 3.3.1 Champion village lessons learnt series Produce lessons learnt products (short documents with photos or video clips) from 40 champion village clusters (through Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils / traditional village councils), recording and analyzing at least one good practice each ? where biodiversity management is contributing to socio-economic development (with gender and social inclusion angles).
Activity 3.3.2 State and landscape knowledge exchanges Facilitate knowledge exchanges within and across landscapes, including balance of men and women - leadership of 40 champion village clusters and key local officials, also sharing learning between Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, with additional exposure visits to good practices on local planning, e.g. to other states such as Kerala (KILA) for Tamil Nadu, and Tripura for Meghalaya participants.

Activity 3.3.3 Landscape results documentaries Produce two short professional documentaries showcasing results in and capturing learning from project landscapes, and disseminate via social media, and through all partners? own websites, the Food and Land Use Coalition?s India Country Platform, donor and technical partners and co-financiers, UNDP, BES-Net, BIOFIN and the Global Environment Facility.
Activity 3.3.4 Showcasing approach in international forums Develop policy guidance notes (e.g. on OECMs, scheme access and nature-based enterprises) and lessons learnt, and present at relevant forums for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, and forest landscape restoration, e.g. BIOFIN, Conferences of the Parties to CBD and UNCCD, GEF Assembly, World Parks Congress, Global Landscapes Forum, UN Decade on Restoration etc.

Output 3.4: Replication of best practices at regional and national level in India

Activity 3.4.1 Replicating across Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya Organise workshops in Chennai and Shillong, co-hosted by State Biodiversity Boards and State Institutes for Rural Development, inviting all line departments, district councils & administrations, and male & female participants from local self-governance institutions and traditional structures, on lessons learnt and outcomes on biodiversity integration in development planning and budgeting processes.
Activity 3.4.2 State Biodiversity Boards learning programme Facilitate an ongoing learning programme on mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development, including expansion of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Mechanisms (OECMs) - with all 29 State Biodiversity Boards across India, utilizing the monthly online forum of SBBs facilitated by the National Biodiversity Authority, with support from SBB interns (see Activity 3.2.3).
Activity 3.4.3 National biodiversity mainstreaming conference Hold conference at national level co-hosted by MoEFCC, the National Biodiversity Authority, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the central Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the central Ministry of Rural development, to disseminate lessons learnt on strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and local governance institutions for conservation, restoration and sustainable use in high-biodiversity landscapes.
Activity 3.4.4 National replication strategy Draw together results from Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya workshops, SBB learning programme and national conference, and develop a national replication and resource mobilization strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, including prioritization of next set of high-biodiversity landscapes, as well as relevant policy notes.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Monitoring of project results for the purposes of tracking progress, achieving adaptive management where necessary, and reporting to the GEF and stakeholders on project results, is guided by two sections in the Project Document: *Section V: Project Monitoring and Evaluation*, and *Section VI: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan*. Section V goes into detail on the issues previously covered in Output 3.5 (i.e. ?monitoring of the project outcomes?, ?mid-term and terminal evaluation?, ?monitoring results provide input to enable adaptive management?), and covers the arrangements (and budget) for i) inception of the project; ii) ongoing

monitoring and evaluation of project outputs, outcomes and results; iii) monitoring of safeguards and gender compliance; and iv) independent evaluation of project results. Section VI provides a table showing precisely how progress on key outcome indicators will be monitored, including for each outcome: indicators, targets, data sources/collection methods, frequency of collection, responsibility for collection, means of verification, and risks/assumptions. The M&E budget is summarized below:

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Technical Coordination Unit	**Indicative costs (US$)**	**Time frame**
Inception Workshops (Delhi and two landscapes) and Report	24,000	Workshops held within 2 months of First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	*5,000 per year x 5 years* 25,000	Annually and at mid-point and closure
Organize yearly workshop for preparation of PIR	*2,000 per year x 5 years* 10,000	Annually typically between June-August
Yearly technical monitoring visits	*2,000 per year x 5 years* 10,000	Annually
Learning missions	*NA*	-
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR) ? 1 National and 1 International Consultancies and Travel	75,000	December 2025
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) ? 1 National and 1 International Consultancies and Travel	75,000	March 2028
Note: Audit costs are covered in Project Management Costs		
TOTAL indicative COST	**219,000**	

10. Benefits

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

Socioeconomic benefits from the project include:

o **Around 8,000 people** with 50% women will directly benefit from the project ? either through involvement in small-scale enterprise development centred on forest products, value-addition to products, ecotourism, or through involvement in capacity development programmes for local governance institutions, self-help groups, etc, developing capacity for integrating biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use into rural development planning and budgeting.

o **Women?s leadership support:** develop and deliver women leadership support programme for women participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries.

o **Development of training materials:** gender-responsive training courses/tools developed and customized for two States for integration and institutionalisation in the SIRD training system on, (including simplified versions of GIZ modules): (i) Effective BMC governance by men and women; (ii) Participatory People?s Biodiversity Registers; (iii) Mainstreaming priority biodiversity actions into integrated development planning and budgeting; (iv) Participatory land use planning and management for forest and biodiversity conservation and climate resilience; (v) One Heath approach to resource management; (vi) Promotion of sustainable nature-based and eco-friendly businesses; (vii) Gender, social inclusion and biodiversity mainstreaming; (viii) Outcome based monitoring for measuring integration of biodiversity in local plans.

o **Training programme** rolled out to 445 beneficiary villages, with report backs from the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) of the relevant Village Employment Councils (Meghalaya) and Gram Panchayats (Tamil Nadu) on completion of People?s Biodiversity Registers and integration of biodiversity actions into development plans.

o **New opportunities for social inclusion:** involve local governance institutions and potential beneficiaries in champion Gram Panchayats in Sathyamangalam landscape to identify suitable underutilized /degraded communal lands and grant special access for men and women participants from Scheduled Castes to these lands for cultivation and processing activities.

o **Gender training for self-governance institutions**: undertake gender training for leadership of champion village clusters (Gram Panchayats, Village Employment Councils and traditional village councils, Biodiversity Management Committees, Self Help Groups and CBOs involved in planning) on how project aims to be gender-responsive and promote women?s empowerment, and equipping participants to facilitate this.

o **Champion women leadership programme:** conduct leadership programme with women participants in champion village clusters, developing confidence in public speaking and giving report backs, use of smartphone and digital applications, taking photographs and notes to record activities and results, and undertaking basic bookkeeping, as well as skills in life planning for family and business.

o **Business incubation**: run a customized training and incubation support programme for each enterprise and its governance group/s, including support on installing processing equipment[1] / accessing Schemes, developing full business plans, including sustainability plan that involves phasing out subsidization of input supply through the project, as cash flow increases.

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[1] Where appropriate for slightly larger scale aggregation and processing, the Community Facilitators and NGOs will engage the Promotion and Incubation of Market Driven Enterprises (PRIME) initiative of the

Government of Meghalaya and the Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute (EDII) of the Government of Tamil Nadu for additional technical and financial support.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
High or Substantial	High or Substantial		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	6593
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	India (Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu)
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design

5.	Date	06/09/2022

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

The project takes a human-rights-based approach that adheres to Free Prior Informed Consent principles and purposefully respects the international declarations and conventions ratified by the Republic of India[1]. This approach applies through all stages of project development, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation, and is mainstreamed through a close working relationship with all key stakeholders. Efforts to conduct field missions, to engage with local civil society and to train local CSOs have been deployed to ensure careful consultations and appropriate participatory approaches, to the best extent possible.

Importantly, all project interventions will follow the UNDP Guidelines on equity, fairness and equal distribution of benefits among beneficiaries, and have been developed together with various stakeholders to ensure that no rights or laws are infringed by the proposed activities. This project will ensure that the principles of accountability and the rule of law, participation and inclusion, and equality and non-discrimination are taken into account by ensuring that there is an effective communication for the various stakeholders to share their insights and suggestions on the project, as well as their complaints if the project is not aligned with human-rights? principles.

The human-rights based approach has also been mainstreamed during the project preparation through consultations with the stakeholders. Consultations were held on the intervention sites in August 2020 in order to identify local key stakeholders such as beneficiaries, communities, locally elected officials, Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zila Panchayat staff, civil society, and other key stakeholders. Stakeholders proposed several project sites; however, the final site selection was completed in consultation after this first mission. Additional engagement will be conducted throughout the project, supported by the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Social Inclusion Plan. This will be done through consultations with community representatives on the basis of environmental and social criteria integrating participatory approaches to encourage local communities and local governments to integrate UNDP?s human rights based approaches into their practices (for instance, pertaining to women?s empowerment and to communities? rights). Reports of stakeholder consultations will be made available as required upon request by the UNDP-CO.

Safeguards mechanisms to strenghten this rights-based approach will be put in place as described in detail in the Project Document, and relevant Annexes including the Environmental and Social Management Framework, the Environmental and Social Management Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and the Gender Action Plan to ensure that project implementation involves appropriate levels of stakeholder consultation and participation. High levels of engagement will be particularly important for activities directly linked to potential restrictions on local land-uses and activities; this will require close collaboration and consultation with as all key actors in conservation and development processes to ensure that the proposed solutions are truly locally-owned and sustained. Active participation and agreement with local communities will be sought to ensure their meaningful participation and inclusion, integrate their rights and needs in the proposed conservation and management plans, and ensure that the communities have equitable access and right to use the natural resources in a manner that also ensures the long-term sustainability of the natural resources present in both landscapes. Specific measures are detailed in the Resettlement Action Plan, the Livelihood Action Plan and the Social Inclusion Plan.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women?s empowerment

This GEF project has been classified as GEN2 (gender equality as significant objective) with strong gender interventions incorporated in the project design. During the project development the PPG team tried to involve as many women as possible in the consultation process. The project will also go further than ensuring a simple seat at the table whenever community discussions are being held, as this approach does not guarantee the quality of participation. The project will ensure that participation will move beyond nominal membership and provide women access to decision-making spaces and processes alongside men ? through women-based organizations and separate consultation processes, but also the ability to actively impact and lead those processes. The project will also include three specialized capacity development programmes: a) a short women?s leadership support programme for female participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries; b) a two-year champion women leadership programme with women participants in champion village clusters, developing confidence in public speaking and giving reportbacks, use of smartphone and digital applications, taking photographs and notes to record activities and results, and undertaking basic bookkeeping, as well as skills in life planning for family and business; and c) a three-year Women in Business leadership programme with women participants in Self Help Groups, and women in new enterprise ventures supported by the project in champion village clusters, covering basic business skills , as well as financial and digital literacy. The project will provide training to both women and men on the importance of gender equality, and engage in regular separate consultations, where appropriate, for young women and/or women from Scheduled Tribes, Schedules Castes and Other Backward Classes. As women are not a heterogenous group, differences occurring among age, ethnicity, and specific discrimination being directed especially at certain women will also be taken into account.

Gender balance and gender rank will be ensured as much as possible regarding women participation in the Project Steering Committee, State and Landscape Coordinating Committees and District Coordination Mechanisms, and in the PMU. All project staff recruitment shall be specifically undertaken inviting and encouraging women applicants. The TORs for key project staff and consultants all incorporate gender mainstreaming related responsibilities. The project will adopt the following principles in the day to day management: (i) gender stereotypes will not be perpetuated; (i) women and other vulnerable groups will be actively and demonstrably included in project activities and management whenever possible, and (iii) derogatory language or behavior will not be tolerated.

During the PPG phase, the project has consulted with women?s group and representatives and prepared a gender analysis which is fully integrated and serves as a basis to the GAP. Consideration of gender specific indicators as well as allocation of budget resources to ensure that gender concerns are comprehensively dealt have been ensured in the project design. The GAP further specifies how the project will (1) Establish a gender-balanced project management team that provides opportunities for women (national staff in particular) to take part and lead decision-making, implementation activities and monitoring processes; (2) Ensure that the project does not perpetuate existing inequalities but promote equitable opportunities for women in targeted areas to participate in, and benefit from activities; (3) Collect gender- and ethnicity-disaggregated data/information to inform M&E and adaptive management responses.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

Securing environmental sustainability and protecting biodiversity is a critical part of this project?s design. The strategy involves mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the existing system of village, block and district level planning for rural development in the two States based on Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu and in Meghalaya based on traditional village councils inputting into Village Employment Councils, with higher level structures as well. This integration will be achieved in the context of landscape level multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together local communities and district government, supported by the Forest and Rural Development Departments, to establish a common vision and land use plan for these two landscapes which include five major Protected areas, as well as Reserve Forest and community-owned forest in their buffer zones. A landscape plan will thus form the basis for developing capacity to mainstream biodiversity into local development planning, and carrying out priority biodiversity actions in terms of the landscape plans that maximize benefits for communities and for biodiversity (Component 1). Incentives for such biodiversity actions in 40 champion village lands will be created through accessing new sources of biodiversity finance, building on the BIOFIN approach; and through support to local biodiversity-based or eco-friendly enterprises (Component 2). The model piloted and the lessons learnt will be shared across Tami Nadu and Meghalaya states, and with the other States of India through the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRDs), and the central government departments supporting panchayat raj institutions, rural development and forest conservation.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

The project will increase the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions that are responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights.

Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm). The Government of India, as the Implementing Partner, is obligated to realize the human rights of communities or people living in an area. It will be responsible for ensuring that the project avoids any forms of discrimination of different communities in natural resource use in the area. The government as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism. The Project Steering Committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP?s ultimate accountability, Project Steering Committee decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

All stakeholders have been actively engaged from the project design phase so that they are empowered to engage in implementation and monitoring. This will also enable them to request accountability and raise grievances if necessary. Validation of all plans and designs by all stakeholders including community representatives, as requested by UNDP SES Policy, and availability of all key information (including SEP and GAP summaries) in languages understood by these representatives, will be done. The summary in languages understandable by all stakeholders of key documents (ProDoc, SESP, GAP, SEP, ESMF) will be made available at the local level at least 120 days before project approval, according to UNDP stakeholder engagement guidelines. These documents will also be presented and discussed during the validation and inception workshop, to be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement. This will ensure both active participation and accountability.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? *Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.*	**QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?** *Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5below before proceeding to Question 5*			**QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High**
Risk Description ***(broken down by event, cause, impact)***	***Impact and Likelihood (1-5)***	***Significance*** ***(Low, Moderate Substantial, High)***	***Comments (optional)***	***Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High***

Risk 1 **The project supports the enforcement of biodiversity conservation actions, including landscape plans and support to Forest Reserves, which could restrict access to natural and cultural resources, and potentially lead to economic and even physical displacement of local communities, including Schedules Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.** *Human Rights (P4, P5, P6)* *Accountability (P13)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9)* *Displacement and Resettlement (5.1, 5.2, 5.4)*	I = 5 L = 2	**Substantial**	Output 1.1 (Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes) includes the establishment of two State & Landscape Coordination Committees chaired by the Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya State Governments, as well as 6 district coordination mechanisms, who will discuss and enact land-use planning decisions. The project will support landscape-level plans which will identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development. The landscape plans and well as the spatial planning that will be produced may actually negatively affect the communities? interests as they could restrict their access and most of	- An ESMF is available as an Annex to the Project Document, outlining steps required during project implementation - A Social Inclusion Planning Framework[4] has been developed as part of the PPG in order to plan for appropriate processes to consult with Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, integrate their rights and interests in the project, and develop appropriate plans - As per the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be carried out for the project. This will lead to the development on an Environmental and Social Management Plan, with 3 key associated plans to target this particular risk: o Two Social Inclusion Plans[5] (one per landscape) to plan adequate measures in order to avoid, minimize, mitigate and/or compensate any negative impact on Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes

			all their uses of the lands. Areas identified for conservation and restoration[2] activities for instance could overlap with existing land uses such as farming and/or sacred sites. Such restrictions could also inadvertently impact the access to cultural heritage sites, especially as those have not yet been mapped by the project. Consultations will need to identify key locations for all local communities. A similar impact could be observed in particular through the spatial planning to be conducted in 40 champion village clusters: 10 Gram Panchayats[3] and 10 tribal communities in Sathyamangalam landscape, and 20 Village A?king Lands in Garo Hills landscape.	o Two Livelihood Action Plans, assessing the situation of all local groups and planning for adequate measures to maintain or enhance their livelihood o Two Resettlement Action Plans, specifying the clear legal framework and conditions to manage the risk of physical displacement. Physical displacement should be avoided and no forced displacement will occur through this project. - A strong (and independent from the project management) Grievance Redress Mechanism will be established in the project area to mitigate potential adverse impact of increased law enforcement and inappropriate planning on marginalized local people as a risk group. It will be made available before moderate to high risk activities start, and its functionality will be assessed after one year, opening up for potential revisions. - To control appropriate support of human rights during the project implementation all monitoring and evaluation missions

				for the project will be designed using a fully participatory approach with opportunity for all marginalized groups to ensure their voices are heard and taken in account in the project management. - Purposeful application of a human-rights approach to social and environmental sustainability is central to minimizing social and cultural impacts. Through trained representatives, local communities are reported to have actively and meaningfully engaged in decisions about how to conserve and sustainably use their natural resources, so that the risk that they will purposefully impinge on their rights or adversely impact their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing is minimized. - A human-rights-based approach was applied during project formulation, and will continue to be applied during implementation. - Stakeholder mapping was done as part of project development and included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. - The project has planned to undertake a socially-inclusive participatory mapping exercise (including

				women, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other discriminated / vulnerable groups) applying FPIC principles, for communally owned village lands, spatially mapping current land uses and identifying the spatial extent of potential future uses as per the landscape plan (preparation for Activity 1.4.1 identifying priority biodiversity actions). - Where changes in land use are envisaged, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied. For example, if a new area in the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape is proposed to become a Community Reserve[6], involving curtailing of community use rights, this will involve in-depth discussions with various local governance and community structures in the relevant Village A?king Lands, on whose communally owned forest decisions are ultimately taken by the Nokmas[7] on behalf of their communities. Wherever sacrifices are made in favour of biodiversity conservation, the Community Facilitators will work to support the introduction of incentives in the form of support to livelihoods activities

				(see Output 2.2), or through the new Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme introduced through the parallel MCLLMP project[8]8.

Risk 2 **Gender-Based Violence is a prominent issue in both landscapes ? the support to women groups may exacerbate GBV within the community if they create power struggles at the household or village level** *Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment (P12)* *Accountability (P15)*	I = 3 L = 3	**Moderate**	Sexual violence in Meghalaya continues to be a devastating phenomenon with destructive repercussions for victims and their families and whole communities.[9][9] Even in the Garo tribes who follow the matrilineal system and where women have a special position and role in society, progressive degeneration of moral values has resulted in an escalation of crimes against women and gender-based violence. The risk of GBV js higher for women in STs, SCs and OBCs, as women?s vulnerability to violence is related to their general vulnerability in socio-economic systems[10][10]. In Tamil Nadu, considered a more progressive state, the National Family Health Survey still found that 44,7% of married women experienced physical or sexual violence in their	? In line with national policies as well as UNDP and GEF guidelines, the project will adopt the following principles in its day-to-day management: (1) Demonstrate gender responsiveness in all interactions with project stakeholders; (2) No use of language or behaviour denoting bias and disrespect for any individual based on gender or ethnicity; (3) Avoid gender stereotyping in project documents, and communication outputs; (4) Support zero tolerance for sexual harassment, gender-based violence and/or sexual exploitation and abuse of men, women, girls and boys that may occur in connection with any of its supported activities. ? The project will organise a training for the PMU on gender-integrated planning and project implementation and on risks related to gender inequalities including Gender-based Violence. There are a few courses available: NAP-Ag course focuses on adaptation planning[12][12], and UNDP also produced with GEF a free online course on Gender and Environment.

			household, and 81% of them never sought any help.[11][11] The project will provide Women?s leadership support (1.1.6), through the form of women leadership support programme for women participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries. However, this activity could foster changes in social dynamics, which in turn could lead to a temporary increase in GBV.	? To address the risk of Gender-based Violence highlighted in the SESP and in the Gender analysis, the project will establish a process in the Stakeholder Response Mechanism to record GBV cases and related complaints and decide how to respond in collaboration with local CSOs and existing institutional mechanisms in place (if any) ? For a project focused on land management, it is necessary to understand social dynamics in terms of GBV. To gather information, regular visits and interviews in the area would be essential, as well as the collection of data on gender (in)equalities. A dedicated Gender Focal Point within the CO should ensure data collection in a gender-responsive manner in the field (e.g. conduct key informant interviews focused on gender-related issues (i.e. barriers to access and control resources, sexual and reproductive health and rights, political representation and participation, gender-based violence, etc.), focus group discussions with women?s groups, and with groups of people of different age and ethnicities, etc.).

Risk 3 **The project may create existing land-related conflicts among communities around issues related to land-use, forest activities and benefit-sharing.** *Human Rights (P5, P7)* *Accountability (P13)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)*	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	The project will strengthen Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions. However, if some communities are less engaged than others in these actions, this could create inequities and subsequent conflicts between communities. The monitoring and enforcement of conservation activities could also be detrimental for the livelihood of certain communities who may currently be encroaching some Reserve Forests and/or conducting other prohibited activities. Even if joint patrols are made of community members (1.6.4), there is a risk that this would create problems within the community in between those enrolled in the patrols and those who are conducting their activities in these areas. Conflicts could also arise around benefit-sharing, if the governance structures (2.2.3) and the Access and	- An ESMF has been prepared as an annex to the Project Document, and requires that an ESIA/ESMP be undertaken to manage this risk and all others. - A Grievance Mechanism will be designed (see ESMF) and will be implemented by the project, allowing communities to request intervention when they have a grievance. - Careful planning of activities in consultation with all stakeholders was done during project preparation and will continue during implementation in order to ensure that conservation efforts actually contribute to development objectives for all communities according to their interests. - Additional technical expertise will be brought on board as needed, for example to negotiate Access and Benefit Sharing agreements or small-scale processing facilities for agroforestry produce. Where changes in land use are envisaged, for example, intensive cultivation of communal lands previously left fallow, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied, and full

			Benefit Sharing Agreements (2.2.7) are not representatives of all communities and subsets of these communities, including STs, SCs and OBCs.	consultations conducted.

Risk 4 **Local districts and community associations might not have the capacity to implement project activities successfully, or to monitor the impacts, leading to ill-adapted management decisions and poor accountability to the beneficiaries.** *Accountability (P13, P14)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)*	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	The project will support activities with local communities, community associations and local institutions at project sites. These might not be fully capacitated to discharge project activities. Lack of capacity to implement these activities could limit success of project activities or result in unintended negative consequences. Existing marginalization dynamics may also affect the ability of duty-bearers to effectively address gender-based conflict and adequately respond to potential grievances raised by women or socially marginalized groups in the project sites.	? In order to reinforce the capacities of the duty-bearers to conduct the project effectively and meet their obligations, output 1.4 is specifically dedicated to capacity-building. These activities will be complemented by specific capacity-building activities on Safeguards Management, Gender equity, FPIC implementation and Stakeholder Engagement, as planned in the ESMF ? Alignment of national priorities and coordination of environment policy between the national and the local level will be key. The project steering committee will be in charge of ensuring this alignment. It is key that that local authorities at the district level are empowered in safeguards management, as planned in the ESMF, to make sure that the SES policy is adequately applied. ? The PMU will include professionals with expertise in all technical aspects of the project. A Safeguards consultant, present full-time for the first year and ad hoc throughout the rest of the project cycle, will support the PMU. Project staff will be supported on a continual basis through training and refresher courses, and hands-on support during the initial part of the project, as per the ESMF and with the

				help of the national safeguard consultant. ? These measures will ensure that technical staff and implementing partners are well equipped to effectively and efficiently discharge their duties and that project management and administration are handled professionally and meet both GEF and UNDP standards and requirements ? The GRM will be gender-sensitive and socially inclusive, and may, if deemed necessary, differ from one landscape to another, in order to be made accessible to all.

Risk 5 **As women are traditionally excluded from decision-making processes, they could be excluded from the support planned to local communities, including STs, SCs and OBCs. This could inadvertently reproduce existing discrimination against women in project implementation. Dynamics among social groups could also lead to exclusion of certain women from the support provided to women groups.** *Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment (P9, P10, P11)* *Accountability (P13, P14, P15)* *Labour and Working Conditions (7.5)*	I = 4 L = 4	**Substantial**	Inappropriate stakeholder engagement measures may potentially limit women?s participation in the project discussions, worsening their social position and access to critical resources. Within the project area, differentiated and uneven roles and needs exist between women and men but also among women (young/old, non-married/married, rural/urban, from one ethnic group to another, etc.). This situation can lead to an over-representation of the elites? interests in the community-based structures to the detriment of others, and to a capture by men of the benefits provided by the project, especially if women, or subgroups of women (i.e. widows / female household heads) are excluded from project consultations and local governance structures. Stakeholder engagement structures mixing men and women representatives, or all women, even women community-based organizations,	? To ensure appropriate support for women?s rights and gender equality during the project implementation, all monitoring and evaluation missions for the project will be designed using the most participatory approach possible, continuously looking for opportunities for women to ensure their voices are heard and taken into account in the project management. ? During project development, a Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAAP) was developed and gender aspects are now integrated in the project document. The GAAP was developed with particular attention to establishing mechanisms to reduce the risk that existing discriminations against women are inadvertently reproduced in project implementation. ? Additionally, Gender Mainstreaming is woven into the project results framework, with specific activities dedicated to empowering women (namely, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 1.4.4, 2.2.4) ? Strong Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be established in the project landscapes to mitigate potential adverse impact of increased law enforcement on

			may inadvertently reproduce marginalization dynamics. Similarly, capacitation of State master trainers (1.3.2) and training for local governance institutions (1.3.3) may reproduce gender imbalance dynamics and benefit to men staff only or mostly. Women could also be excluded from joint patrolling and other conservation actions on the basis of cultural taboos, as they may be prohibited from participating in certain type of activities.	marginalized local people as a risk group, including women. ? Gender responsive and inclusive women mobilization and capacity building activities will precede all interventions, according to the gender-responsive Social Inclusion Planning Framework, FPIC protocols and the two Social Inclusion Plans.

Risk 6 **Better conservation measures could actually lead to an increase in Human Wildlife Conflict** *Accountability (P14)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1)*	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	The implementation of biodiversity actions is expected to generate better conditions for wildlife conservation in the two landscapes. This could, however, generate an increase in Human Wildlife Conflict, as free-roaming elephant, leopard and wild boar frequently cause injuries and deaths among community members, while crops are destroyed (in an area where food supplies almost entirely depend on these crops). If not managed adequately, these conflicts could lead to a significant decrease in communities? livelihoods, and cause growing resentment towards the project and the elephants and other wildlife. Some community members are recruited by illegal wildlife traffickers to act as guides and poachers. The motivation for local people is money, particularly where the conflict has destroyed their livelihoods, or where they have become socially outcast to some	? The ESIA/ESMP and the Livelihood Action Plan will take into account the Human Wildlife Conflict on the basis of a list of incidents gathered during safeguards consultations. ? A forensic analysis of the incidents may be planned in addition if the problem increases despite the implementation of management measures. ? The State government of Meghalaya is already providing Payment for Compensation for Depredation by Wild Animals, and the State government of Tamil Nadu is erecting Solar Fences to protect the Farm Land from the Wild Animals ? Through activity 1.5.1, the project will provide solutions to reduce HWC (i.e. Reduction of human wildlife conflict through, e.g. elephant trenches, rings of beehives, or bamboo fences) in the champion village clusters.

			degree. The decrease of livelihoods and growing resentment could become another motivation for some community members to engage in poaching activities.	
Risk 7 **Ill-adapted conservation measures could actually generate inadvertent perturbation to the local ecosystem, in particular if new species are introduced, as they could prove to be invasive** *Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management (1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.8)*	I = 3 L = 3	**Moderate**	The project output 1.5 includes enrichment planting in Sacred Groves[13]13, demarcated by Gram Panchayats or tribal communities for protection, planting indigenous tree species cultivated in local nurseries with seed collected form the forest. Rehabilitation of degraded areas (reforestation, plantation) may lead to perturbation of the local ecosystem if all species are not indigenous, something that has happened in the past[14][14]. Tree plantations may also be done at the expense of other species, hence inadvertently harming local biodiversity.	? The Prodoc clearly states that planting should involve only indigenous tree species in both landscapes. Care will be taken to use locally appropriate and suitable tree species and to avoid inadvertent negative ecological impacts. ? The ESIA/ESMP will also provide a frame to acceptable practices, on the basis of the selection of biodiversity actions to be carried out. ? Restoration activities under Output 1.5 will include clearing of invasive alien vegetation (such as *Lantana camara* and *Prosopis julifora*) from Reserve Forests, guided by the Forest Department nd working with tribal communities to clear the biomass and process it as fuel, biochar or furniture[15][15].

Risk 8 **Businesses and forest-based enterprises supported by the project could lead to an unsustainable use of natural resources, generation of waste and negative impacts on the environment** *Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management (1.1, 1.2, 1.2, 1.3)* *Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency (8.2)*	I = 3 P = 2	**Moderate**	**Output 2.2** plans to establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. These ventures will be supported by support to buyer agreements and marketing, as well as business studies and plans. The value-chains concerned could use natural resources in an unsustainable way, generate waste, and prove to be harmful to biodiversity as they expand.	? Output 2.2 states that the enterprises ventures should be biodiversity-friendly. Examples of livelihoods include fodder production and processing, bee-keeping and honey, agroforestry combining medicinal plants and fruit trees, bamboo and cane furniture, essential oils from flowers, adding value to existing tree crops e.g. cashew roasting, orange pulp, broom grass broom-making[16]16. Conditions preceding the selection of these ventures should include social and environmental criteria to frame what ?eco-friendly? means for the project, in light of environmental and social safeguards. These conditions will be included in the ESMP. ? Also included in the ESMP conditions will be a requirement that any expansion of cultivation as the basis for the enterprises will be done on already transformed land and will not involve the clearing of native forest.

Risk 9 **There is the risk that the project misuses traditional knowledge, as it will be used for commercialization purposes. This could in turn prove to be harmful to STs, SCs and OBCs cultural values.** *Cultural Heritage (4.5)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.5)*	I = 3 P = 2	**Moderate**	The two State Medicinal Plants Boards[17][17] will be key partners in identifying opportunities for cultivation and commercialization of medicinal species, and potential for Access and Benefit Sharing for local endemic species on which communities hold the traditional knowledge. The business feasibility studies and plans will explore the potential for value-chains intrinsically linked with traditional knowledge to be the basis of eco-friendly business ventures. This could lead to a misrepresentation of traditional knowledge, and to be harmful for local communities? cultural values.	? The two Social Inclusion Plans, as per the Social Inclusion Planning Framework, will detail appropriate measures to account for traditional knowledge. ? The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 mandates the establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local and district levels, who are responsible for the development of People?s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) for each Gram Panchayat or Village, detailing biological resources and traditional knowledge at the local level. Project Activity 1.3.4 will involve capacity development through the State Institute for Rural Development, and additional support through tertiary institutions to 445 villages in the two project landscapes (identified as biodiversity hotspots) to produce or validate and update their People's Biodiversity Registers, including traditional knowledge of women as well as men. ? All activities linked to the development of eco-friendly business ventures will be subject to consultations according to the FPIC protocol, in order to make sure that they

					respect all cultural values linked to the use and commercial use of traditional knowledge. ? In accordance with the articles of the Nagoya Protocol, India?s National Biodiversity Authority has published Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. These regulations promote and govern the development of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements[18][18] benefiting custodians of traditional knowledge on forest products. ? Where potential exists in the project landscapes for commercial use of an indigenous forest species of which local communities are the traditional stewards and knowledge holders, specialized technical support will be provided through Activity 2.2.7 to support enterprise cooperatives to conclude ABS agreements with commercial partners who are willing to channel monetary and non-monetary benefits to the communities in exchange for access to the biological or genetic resource. Sharing regimes will be

				guided by the ABS regulations and also FPIC consultations.

Risk 10 **Both landscapes are highly vulnerable to climate change. Some of the biodiversity actions implemented could actually increase the communities? vulnerability to climate change.** *Climate change and Disaster Risks (2.1, 2.3)*	I = 3 P = 1	**Low**	Over 16 years to 2016, nearly half of Meghalaya's forests experienced an ?increase in disturbance?, and around a quarter are now ?highly vulnerable? to the impact of climate change, found a 2018 study commissioned by the state government.[19][19] Tamil Nadu is highly prone to extreme weather events in India, intensified by climate change. Most of its districts? risk and vulnerability assessment have been done. For example, 22 districts in Tamil Nadu are critically water-stressed. Twelve coastal districts are prone to cyclones, sea level rise and other climate change-induced disasters.[20][20] However, given the project?s activities, which aim at implementing medium scale biodiversity solutions and do not undertake any infrastructure building or land conversion activities, the increase in	

			vulnerability is extremely unlikely.		

QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?			
Low Risk	**?**		
Moderate Risk	**?**		
Substantial Risk	**X**		
High Risk	**?**		

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)	**?**			***Status? (completed, planned)***
if yes, indicate overall type and status		**?**	Targeted assessment(s)	
		X	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	Planned
		?	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	
Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)	**?**			

	If yes, indicate overall type		**X**	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	Gender Action Plan: planned Stakeholder Engagement Plan: planned Social Inclusion Planning Framework: completed 2 Social Inclusion Plans: planned 2 Resettlement Action Plans: Planned 2 Livelihood Actions plans: planned
			X	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	Planned
			X	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed
	Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		**Comments (not required)**		

	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind		
	Human Rights	**X**	
	Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment	**X**	
	Accountability	**X**	
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	**X**	
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	**X**	
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	**?**	
	4. Cultural Heritage	**X**	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	**X**	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	**X**	
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	**X**	
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	**X**	

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	***Date***	***Description***

QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have ?checked? to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have ?cleared? the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

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[1] Specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples? Rights, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

[2] To meet project target of 4,000 hectares for restoration / natural regeneration of forest

[3] Each Gram Panchayat in Tamil N?du has several villages, sometimes many. The process will identify the most relevant cluster of focus villages which have communal / forest land. Planning work will be done through the GP structures as a whole, and physical work will be carried out on the ground in the focus villages.

[4] This corresponds to Standard 6 requirements, and to a ?Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework?, according to UNDP SES Policy. However, in regards to India?s social realities, all Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Groups fall under UNDP Standard 6, and the term ?indigenous peoples? is not the right frame for the complex social reality at stake in both landscapes. This is why this planning framework is called ?social inclusion planning framework?.

[5] This corresponds to Standard 6 requirements, and to a ?Indigenous Peoples Plan?, according to UNDP SES Policy. However, in regards to India?s social realities, all Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Groups fall under UNDP Standard 6, and the term ?indigenous peoples? is not the right frame for the complex social reality at stake in both landscapes. This is why these plans are called ?social inclusion plans?.

[6] Community reserves are one of four categories of formal Protected Areas in India, aimed at conserving biodiversity.

[7] In matrilineal Garo society, Nokmas are women, though their husbands may be closely involved in day-to-day decision-making.

[8] The World Bank-funded Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP), being implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency

(MBMA) from 2018 to 2023, is rolling out a Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme from 2022 supporting villages, communities, clans or individuals who commit to conserve and protect an area of over 5 hectares of Natural Forest for a minimum of 30 years ? paying them Rs 8,000 (USD 100) per ha per year for 5 years, and additional amounts if the area is registered as a Community Reserve, or if very dense forest, a Sacred Grove, or in an eco-sensitive zone around a Protected Area.

[9] https://www.bibliomed.org/?mno=63572

[10] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324797361_Women%27s_Asset_Ownership_and_Reduction_in_Gender-based_Violence

[11] https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/no-safe-haven-for-women-at-home/article65326370.ece

[12] http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/resources/learning/gender-training-guide/en/

[13] Sacred groves comprise of patches of forests from few trees to vast expanse of a forest which are usually dedicated to a local god or deity. Sacred groves and waterbodies are not legally protected, but are socially protected because of their religious and traditional importance.

[14] https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/010317/tamil-nadu-begins-tough-battle-against-invasive-species.html / https://www.informaticsjournals.com/index.php/jbc/article/view/23128

[15] https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/gasifying-lantana-an-invasive-weed-has-positive-spin-offs/article65084049.ece

[16] See *Annex 27 List of potential livelihoods for enterprise development support* for more detail.

[17] The Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu State Medicinal Plants Boards handle all matters related to policy formulation, coordination of various agencies dealing with medicinal plants, local health traditions, sustained availability of medicinal plants, validation and certification issues and conservation and preservation of medicinal plants in the State.

[18] A total of 244 ABS agreements have already been signed in India, with the most well-known ones being for commercial use of Red Sanders wood, Neem leaves and Pepsico?s agreement with coastal communities in Tamil Nadu to pay for access to seaweed and traditional knowledge on its uses.

[19] https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/as-climate-change-depletes-forests-meghalaya-turns-to-villages-for-revival-119032300185_1.html

[20] https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/climate-change/tamil-nadu-district-climate-change-missions-is-it-really-decentralised-governance--83902

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 4 Social and Environmental Screening Procedure BD 6593_27 Sep 23	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
Annex 4 Social and Environmental Screening Procedure BD 6593	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
PIMS 6593 SESP_BD PIF India 23 March 2021	**Project PIF ESS**	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17					
Strategic Plan Outcome: #3 Resilience built to systemic uncertainty and risk.					
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNSDF/CPD): By 2027, Government of India, state governments, communities, private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans.					
	Objective and Outcome Indicators		**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Project Objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local development planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India, and create platforms for replication	1	**Indicator 1** *(GEF Core indicator 11): Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)*	0 women 0 men	3,000 people - 1,500 women participating in training or livelihoods activities - 1,500 men participating in training or livelihoods activities	8,000 people - 4,000 women participating in training or livelihoods activities - 4,000 men participating in training or livelihoods activities
	2	**Indicator 2** *(GEF Core Indicator 1): Total area of terrestrial protected areas to be under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha)*	0 hectares	68,000 hectares	200,528 hectares
	3	**Indicator 3** *(GEF Core Indicator 3): Total area of land to be restored (ha)*	0 hectares	1,350 hectares	4,000 hectares
	4	**Indicator 4** *(GEF Core Indicator 4): Total area of land to come under improved land use practices (ha)*	0 hectares	91,000 hectares	272,000 hectares

	5	**Indicator 5** *(GEF Core indicator 6)*: *tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions which will be avoided or reduced as a result of project interventions (t)*	0 tonnes	2,000,000 tonnes	5,349,603 tonnes
Project Component 1	**Mainstreaming biodiversity across two productive and protection landscapes in India**				
Outcome 1	**Enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for high-biodiversity landscapes developed and implemented**				
Outcome 1 Indicators	6	**Indicator 6***: Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering 200,528 hectares improved by at least 15 points from the baseline (out of a maximum possible score of 100)*	Baseline METT scores (based on two yearly MEE): Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 66 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 67 Nokrek National Park 52 Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 35 Balpakram National Park 55	METT scores (based on two yearly MEE) of at least: Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 69 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 72 Nokrek National Park 57 Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 40 Balpakram National Park 60	METT scores (based on two yearly MEE) of at least: Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 76 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 77 Nokrek National Park 62 Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 45 Balpakram National Park 65
	7	**Indicator 7:** *Improved institutional capacities for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning (as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score)*	14 points	17 points	21 points

	8	**Indicator 8:** *Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into at least 445 Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans*	0 local development plans with biodiversity integrated	150 local development plans with biodiversity integrated	445 local development plans with biodiversity integrated
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	**Output 1.1** Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes **Output 1.2** Landscape-level plans identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development **Output 1.3** Institutional and technical capacities strengthened through mainstreaming biodiversity into capacity development system for rural development **Output 1.4** Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting **Output 1.5** Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level **Output 1.6** Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions				
Project Component 2	**Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes**				
Outcome 2	**Enhanced financing and engagement by public and private sectors to implement actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use by building on the lessons and learning from BIOFIN**				
Outcome 2 Indicators	9	**Indicator 9:** *Number of new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes*	0 new instruments	1 new instrument	3 new instruments
	10	**Indicator 10:** *Total amount of new funding for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources in 40 champion village clusters*	Little to no relevant funding or goods and services per champion village cluster	Funding (or goods and services to the value) of at least $10,000 per champion village cluster	Funding (or goods and services to the value) of at least $50,000 per champion village cluster

	11	**Indicator 11:** *Increase in capacity of block and district officials to effectively use new financial instruments (as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard) with baseline established in Year 1*	Baseline score to be determined during Year 1 and log frame updated through PIR	At least 15% increase on baseline	At least 30% increase on baseline
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	**Output 2.1** Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed for landscape and local plans **Output 2.2** Establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use **Output 2.3** Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments				
Project Component 3	**Knowledge and data management for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India**				
Outcome 3	**Improved understanding of stakeholders on benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation**				
Outcome 2 Indicators	12	**Indicator 12:** *Level of awareness of value of and threats to biodiversity, and options for mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development amongst sample of residents across 445 villages, as indicated by score on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey*	Baseline score to be determined during Year 1 and log frame updated through PIR	At least 20% increase on baseline	At least 40% increase on baseline

	13	**Indicator 13:** *At least 20 good practices of integrated conservation, sustainable resource use and access and benefit sharing captured and disseminated at the state and national level*	0 good practices	5 good practices	20 good practices
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	**Output 3.1** Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes **Output 3.2** Communication strategy developed and implemented in project landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning **Output 3.3** Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums **Output 3.4** Replication of best practices at regional and national level in India				

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Comment	Response
Norway and Denmark Comments ? GEF Council December 2021 (Extracted from *Compilation of comments submitted by Council members on the GEF December* 2021 *Work Program*)	

Well-designed project that builds on previous knowledge from for example BIOFIN.	Noted. The project will take forward the three prioritized biodiversity finance solutions of BIOFIN India through Activity 2.1.3 in which champion villages will develop resource mobilization strategies focused on a. Central and state government schemes and missions, b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements, and c. Corporate Social Responsibility. For the latter, BIOFIN?s detailed review of 60 public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations to assess their expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation will be drawn upon. The project will also apply BIOFIN method and approaches in supporting local governance institutions, communities and officials to develop their capacity to access additional financial resources, and also to track biodiversity-relevant expenditure. Liaison with BIOFIN India will continue throughout implementation of the output, and additional support will be provided by technical experts on resource gap analyses and resource mobilization strategies at landscape and local levels.
The project is important to secure local ownership and long-lasting policy change. Loss and degradation of forests and forest resources and over-exploitation of forests and forest resources are listed among the primary threats to biodiversity. This is also relevant to the development of sustainable food systems and supply-chains, and it could therefore be useful if the project connects with the Food and Land Use Coalition in India (FOLU India) on this issue.	Output 3.3 of the project on ?Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums? includes dialogue with partner networks, including the Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition India, and ddocumentaries featuring results and learning from project landscapes will be disseminated via social media, and through all partners? own websites, including the FOLU Coalition?s India Country Platform, donor and technical partners and co-financiers, UNDP, BES-Net, BIOFIN and the Global Environment Facility.

Important that the project has a flexibility that can respond to any changes in national/local plans. Could potential links to India?s climate efforts (for example NDCs) be made as well?	The project will contribute to national forest cover targets by protecting indigenous forest, and putting degraded lands under productive agroforestry, and aligning with the National Agroforestry Policy that aims at encouraging and expanding tree plantation in complementarity and integrated manner with crops and livestock. This will contribute towards Government of India?s ambitious commitment in its 2016 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in terms of the Paris Agreement, to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by the year 2030. It is also aligned with the National Afforestation Programme and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) payments for reforestation in states losing forest. The project supports the National REDD+ Strategy India, released in 2018, which highlights India?s 173,000 forest fringe villages where local communities are highly dependent on forests for their needs in relation to: a) the country?s Joint Forest Management programme since 1990, through which local communities and the State Forest Department jointly plan and implement forest regeneration and eco-development activities, and communities can access minor forest produce; as well as b) the legal protection for forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers to exercise their customary rights and traditions, through the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
The selection of two diverse geographical areas, Tamil Nadu state from the South and Meghalaya state from the North East, is considered as a balanced approach. The diverse learning from this project would enable the executing partners, to plan national programs on institutional capacity building, more effectively.	Noted. The project includes Output 3.4, which will apply the learning from the project landscapes across the rest of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, and in other States of India, setting up pathways to scale. This includes an ongoing learning programme on mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development, including expansion of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Mechanisms (OECMs) - with all 29 State Biodiversity Boards across India, utilizing the monthly online forum of SBBs facilitated by the National Biodiversity Authority, with support from SBB interns; Hold conference at national level co-hosted by MoEFCC, the National Biodiversity Authority, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the central Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the central Ministry of Rural development, to disseminate lessons learnt on strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and local governance institutions for conservation, restoration and sustainable use in high-biodiversity landscapes; Draw together results from Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya workshops, SBB learning programme and national conference, and develop a national replication and resource mobilization strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, including prioritization of next set of high-biodiversity landscapes, as well as relevant policy notes.

Peoples Biological Diversity Register (PBDR): The project has targeted that it would integrate biodiversity conservation outcomes into 400 PBDR. Considering the existing capacity of the forest department in these two states and the size of the project, the target is considered to be too low. It is not clear why the target is not higher.	The project now targets 445 villages with medium to high biodiversity and forest conservation and connectivity potential, for capacity development support on People?s Biodiversity Registers, as well as mainstreaming biodiversity actions into village level development planning, following a mapping exercise conducted in the Nokrek-Balpakram Landscape and the Sathyamangalam-Nilgiris landscape. It was not possible to raise the target further, but the scope of support these villages now encompasses village level development plans as well as the PBRs themselves.
Small scale village level enterprises based on forest resources: The project should seek the services of qualified personnel, particularly in the field of marketing and quality standards, so that the enterprises are competitive, sustainable and financial viable. If adequate planning, market analysis and capacity building, is not done from the beginning, the enterprises would find it difficult to sustain, after the project period.	Output 2.2 will help provide incentives for forest conservation by supporting communities in champion villages on establishing, operating and putting on a sound business footing by project end ? at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts. Examples of livelihoods include fodder production and processing, bee-keeping and honey, agroforestry combining medicinal plants and fruit trees, bamboo and cane furniture, essential oils from flowers, adding value to existing tree crops e.g. cashew roasting, orange pulp, broom grass broom-making. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the six full-time Community Facilitators, managing the work of specialized NGO partners and business incubation service providers, recruited and capacitated to provide support on these identified value chains and enterprises, and also on Access and Benefit Sharing. Additional technical expertise will be brought on board as needed, for example to negotiate Access and Benefit Sharing agreements or small-scale processing facilities. This output will include: detailed desktop and in-field feasibility studies for each of the 6 (or more) livelihoods; will operate a customized training and incubation support programme for each enterprise and its governance group/s, including support on installing processing equipment / accessing Schemes, and developing full business plans; and will put agreements in place with buyers, with fair prices negotiated, and roll out marketing and branding strategy for each of the 6 enterprises / set of enterprises in a value chain.

Comment for all UNDP projects The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.61/04, *UNDP Third Party Review of Compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards*, takes note of the Independent Third-Party Review of UNDP and decides to: Require that all projects included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP be circulated by e-mail for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement / approval. This shall take place until this requirement is reconsidered by the Council at its 65th meeting in December 2023. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the UNDP audits and the management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to Council during the 4-week review period.	As per the GEF Council decision, the project documentation will be circulated by e-mail for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement / approval.

STAP Review ? 8 November 2021	
Minor issues to be considered during project design: this is a well written and clearly presented proposal, which makes a strong case in support of the proposed intervention and activities. The TOC narrative and flowchart identify the main barriers and present a coherent set of activities and outputs to address these challenges and achieve the intended outcomes. Our review concluded that the technical scientific basis for this proposal are robust and that the planned activities and interventions justify the proposed costs and allocation of resources. We also identified a number of minor issues which we recommend should be addressed in the next stage of project design and development, namely: a rephrasing and simplification of the project objective, a revision of the project outputs with a focus on ensuring more clarity and a more linear logic flow, a stress-testing of the climate risk monitoring system, which will be set-up during the PPG phase.	As per the STAP?s suggestion the project objective has been slightly rephrased and simplified: ?To mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local level self-governance institutional planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India?. The project outputs have been streamlined and much more clearly focused, and the activities under each have been clearly spelt out in the UNDP-Government of India Project Document and in the GEF CEO Endorsement Request. The linear logic flow requested by the STAP should now be much more evident. In terms of climate risk monitoring, the Risk Register captures this contextual risk to the project?s successful achievement of its outcomes, and refers to *Annex 26 Climate and Disaster Screening Report* (to the Project Document) which has been prepared.

Project Objective: Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis? The objective does convey the overall sense of what the project is aiming to achieve but is also slightly convoluted and contradictory. More specifically we found that ?institutional planning? would normally not be very relevant at the village level. Rather one would expect to see this kind of terminology used for national and/or regional governments). **STAP recommends** that this be rephrased and simplified.	
Outcomes *A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention.* *Do the planned outcomes encompass important adaptation benefits?* The project comprises three outcomes and a number of sub-outcomes, which support the overall structure of the project and provide a clear picture of the results this is aiming to achieve. However, in a couple of cases this could be improved or clarified: outcome (1.i) should be clarified to explain the scale and baseline related to the 15-20 improvement points; outcome (1.v) is logically disconnected from the other elements of the same component. Adaptation is not a strong part of the proposal but the development of livelihoods that are resilient to climate change is recognized as important.	The outcomes of the project remain fundamentally the same as in the PIF, but the outcome indicators have been refined, and baselines and Targets set in the Project Results Framework. This includes clarifying the baseline for the METT scores, as per the STAP comments on PIF outcome (1.i). These have been extracted from the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) for 2020-2021 for the five core Protected Areas of the project landscapes, as conducted by all Protected Areas in India on a biennial basis. On the comment that ?outcome (1.v) is logically disconnected from the other elements of the same component?, we agree and have removed this indicator. Instead, connectivity is a key goal of the participatory landscape-level plans developed in Component 1, with an output-level indicator in the project document (for Output 1.2): ?Participatory landscape level plan at 1:30,000 scale in place for each of two target landscapes, indicating target areas for land use change to enhance connectivity and wildlife movement corridors, and maximise biodiversity-compatible livelihoods?. Achievement of connectivity will be reflected in reporting on GEF Core Indicator 4: *Total area of land to come under improved land use practices (ha).* As mentioned, this project is funded from the Biodiversity Focal Area of the GEF and does not have primary adaptation goals. Nonetheless, *Annex 26 Climate and Disaster Screening Report* captures the manner in which the development of livelihoods resilient to climate change, as highlighted by the STAP, is addressed in the project.

Outputs *A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project.* *Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?* Yes, the outputs were all very relevant, suitably worded and logically sequenced. Output 3.1 repeated the content of 1.4 and 2.3 and would have been more appropriate if it had focused on improving the understanding of the economic benefits and advantages of mainstreaming biodiversity and integrated planning among key stakeholders. The project would also benefit from more clarity on what they want to achieve with livelihoods. The interventions are variously presented as alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on natural resources, biodiversity-friendly livelihoods and nature-based livelihoods to make the connection with biodiversity. These are not the same. There is a bit of logic gap - the introduction states that >70% of people in India have livelihoods linked to biodiversity and this is ingrained in culture and institutions such as sacred groves. Why then would nature-based livelihoods increase people?s connection with nature. We recommend revising this along the lines suggested above.	Output 3.1 in the PIF did indeed repeat the content of Outputs 1.4 and 2.3, and this has been resolved with the new streamlined and focused set of Outputs under Components 1 and 2 (see *CEO Endorsement Request* for full summary of changes form PIF to ProDoc), which provides a clear and unique focus for each Output, and avoids overlap., whilst also making clear how the outputs relate to and build on each other. Thank you for pointing out the importance of achieving clarity on what the project wants to achieve with support to livelihoods. Although the scope of the livelihoods is still described in fairly broad terms as ?forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises?, the purpose of this support is now made clear: ?*Output 2.2 will help provide incentives for forest conservation by supporting communities in champion villages on establishing, operating and putting on a sound business footing by project end ? at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the six full-time Community Facilitators, managing the work of specialized NGO partners and business incubation service providers, recruited and capacitated to provide support on these identified value chains and enterprises, and also on Access and Benefit Sharing?. Examples of livelihoods include fodder production and processing, bee-keeping and honey, agroforestry combining medicinal plants and fruit trees, bamboo and cane furniture, essential oils from flowers, adding value to existing tree crops e.g. cashew roasting, orange pulp, broom grass broom-making.?* In addition, *Annex 27 List of potential livelihoods for enterprise development support* has an introductory section explaining the criteria used for selection, and the types of enterprises which would be excluded for support (with reference also to *Annex 10 Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF*). The project document no longer has references to nature-based livelihoods aiming at increasing people?s connection with nature. As the STAP has pointed out, it is more a question of building on the existing connection, and maximizing the value which can be sustainably extracted from protected / restored forest and adjacent agroforestry, as an incentive to maintaining forest cover.

Baseline scenario: Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project? Yes, the information provided mostly serves this purpose. The table providing a summary of the incremental benefits is bit misleading because it tends to sum benefits across all of India without specifying the actual benefits that are relevant to the landscapes where this project will have an impact.	Thank you for pointing this out. The table showing ?Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing? has been redone, and is included in the *CEO Endorsement Request*. The table now focuses on landscape scale benefits to be accrued directly from the project interventions in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya States.
GEB: What activities will be implemented to increase the project?s resilience to climate change? The current version of the PIF includes a climate risk analysis, which lists a range of potential risk categories that could affect project?s operations on the ground. This section also includes one entry (i.e. risk 7) stating that a system for monitoring climate risks will be set-up at PPG stage, when the project design team will identify appropriate ways in which to monitor and ensure that climate risk management measures are integrated into local planning systems. STAP agrees with this approach and recommends that this system be stress-tested against real-life scenarios to ensure its effectiveness and suitability for the project?s geographical areas of operation.	The STAP has highlighted the mitigation strategy for climate change-related risk 7 in the PIF: ?This will be addressed at PPG stage to identify appropriate ways in which to monitor and ensure that climate risk management measures are integrated into local planning systems.? This was not intended to be a standalone system for the project for monitoring climate risks. Rather it states that ?climate risk management measures? should be ?integrated into local planning systems?. Since the project is about mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning, this is the most effective way to ensure that climate change resilience is addressed ? both through inclusion of climate change modules in the training led by the State Institutes for Rural Development in Output 1.3 ?*Institutional and technical capacities strengthened through mainstreaming biodiversity into capacity development system for rural development*?; reflected in climate-resilient biodiversity priority actions integrated into development plans in ?Output 1.4 is on ?*Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting*?. Climate risks are addressed in the contextual risks in the UNDP Risk Register, and their mitigation is discussed in *Annex 26 Climate and Disaster Screening Report.*

Innovation *Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?* Yes, the PIF includes list of innovative elements that the project is aiming to introduce and even if our review did not recognize the innovative aspect of some of the items listed, some were worthy of note (i.e. the trialling the development and application of ?OneHealth? approach at the landscape level).	Please note that, following comments from the GEF secretariat on the ambitious nature of the original One Health output in the PIF, this has been scaled back, such that the important ?One Health? messaging has now been included in the public awareness campaign in Component 3, as Activity 3.2.2 Develop messaging and communications sub-strategy on One Health approach, highlighting interconnected nature of human, livestock, wildlife, forest, soil and water health. In addition, a module on this topic will be prepared with the National Institute for Rural development, for inclusion in course materials for local development planning. **Output 3.2: Communication strategy developed and implemented in project landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning** *Output Indicator: Report on media strategies and campaigns at State and landscape level for public awareness on importance of biodiversity conservation, including One Health messaging* Output 3.2 and Output 3.3 will develop one central and two state communications strategies and implement them, including a sub-strategy on the importance of a One Health approach to rural development, highlighting the interconnected nature of human, livestock, wildlife, forest, soil and water health and promote public awareness. The activities under Output 3.3 will be carried out under the guidance of the central Project Board/Steering Committee **Activity 3.2.2 One Health public awareness** Develop public messaging and communications sub-strategy on the importance of a One Health approach to rural development, highlighting interconnected nature of human, livestock, wildlife, forest, soil and water health, the resultant vulnerabilities, and how these can be combated. **Activity 1.3.1 Development of training materials** Gender-responsive training courses/tools developed and customized for two States for integration and institutionalisation in the SIRD training system on, (including simplified versions of GIZ modules): (i) Effective BMC governance by men and women; (ii) Participatory People?s Biodiversity Registers; (iii) Mainstreaming priority biodiversity actions into integrated development planning and budgeting; (iv) Participatory land use planning and management for forest and biodiversity conservation; (v) One Heath approach to resource management; (vi) Promotion of sustainable nature-based and eco-friendly businesses; (vii) Gender, social

	inclusion and biodiversity mainstreaming; (viii) Outcome based monitoring for measuring integration of biodiversity in local plans
Gender: Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences? Yes, the PIF includes a gender analysis, which provides a good overview of gender-based issues associated with the implementation of planned activities. The proposal also states that a thorough gender assessment will be conducted during the PPG to analyze and respond to this context and to develop a gender mainstreaming plan with a gender responsive project framework and concrete mainstreaming actions for each output by CEO endorsement stage. During the project design/inception, mandatory UNDP gender marking will be applied. This requires that each project in UNDP?s ATLAS system be rated for gender relevance. *Gender: Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?* The gender analysis included in the PIF noted that in the Garo communities of Meghalaya there is limited participation of women in decision-making process of the clan, it also noted that Irula women tribe in Tamil Nadu are largely illiterate, socially marginalized and are highly vulnerable. The PIF lists a number of measures and remedies that will be implemented to overcome such issues and UNDP has a team working on decentralized governance & integrated planning and social protection at the national and local level. Given UNDP track record on gender issues it is expected that these provisions will be implemented effectively.	A thorough gender analysis was undertaken during the PPG phase, based on stakeholder consultation during field missions, including Focus Group Discussions with women stakeholders in the landscapes, as well as further desktop research. A full *Gender Analysis and Action Plan* (see Project Document Annex 11) was developed, leading to the conclusion in the project design of several activities which are gender responsive (as opposed to just gender-sensitive), including three specialized capacity development programmes: a) a short women?s leadership support programme for female participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries; b) a two-year champion women leadership programme with women participants in champion village clusters, developing confidence in public speaking and giving report backs, use of smartphone and digital applications, taking photographs and notes to record activities and results, and undertaking basic bookkeeping, as well as skills in life planning for family and business; and c) a three-year Women in Business leadership programme with women participants in Self Help Groups, and women in new enterprise ventures supported by the project in champion village clusters, covering basic business skills , as well as financial and digital literacy. The project will provide training to both women and men on the importance of gender equality, and engage in regular separate consultations, where appropriate, for young women and/or women from Scheduled Tribes, Schedules Castes and Other Backward Classes. As women are not a heterogenous group, differences occurring among age, ethnicity, and specific discrimination being directed especially at certain women will also be taken into account. The project has been allocated Gender Marker 2 rating by UNDP.

Coordination Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited? Yes, for the most part. Table 5 identifies ?partner projects? with relevant opportunities for learning but these are not integrated into the proposal in a way that shows where the learning will be most important and to what extent outputs rely on learning from other projects. For example, there are numerous lessons to be learned regarding livelihoods but it is not clear whether these have been taken into account when designing this project. Similarly, proposed activities relating to ABS are sprinkled throughout the proposal without a coherent reference to how ABS is being developed in India or how learning from other ABS projects has been used to identify appropriate activities in this project. Previous comments on the baseline scenario also refer.	The Project Document and CEO Endorsement Request contain a new expanded and updated analysis of the project?s related initiatives, with a two-part table including Part I with more detail on current and recently completed initiatives with relevant lessons learned, and Part 2 highlighting initiatives running concurrently with the BD project ? for coordination and synergy. In terms of lessons learnt on Access and Benefit Sharing, the table refers to lessons from two projects: 1) the ?Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in India? **German Government-supported project** with MoEFCC from 2012 to 2020, and 2) the ?Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions? from 2014-2015 supported by UNEP and financed by the GEF. A total of 244 ABS agreements have been signed in India, with the most well-known ones being for commercial use of Red Sanders wood, Neem leaves and Pepsico?s agreement with coastal communities in Tamil Nadu to pay for access to seaweed and traditional knowledge on its uses. The new project (Activity 2.2.7) aspires to add two more agreements through the BD project, potentially including *Citrus spp.* That are endemic to the forests of Meghalaya. Activity 2.2.7 will also build on the GIZ-NBA work to create awareness among commercial users of bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge for the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002. In terms of lessons learnt on livelihoods, the project will build on the experience of the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) supported by a $50 million loan from IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) from 2015 to end of 2022, implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency.The Megha-LAMP has had positive results in 1,350 villages supporting new livelihood opportunities linked to markets (e.g. piggery, aromatic plants, beekeeping, spices);; and implementing Natural Resource Management Plans on land (erosion control, degraded land reclamation); water (check dams, ring wells, spring tap chamber, irrigation canals); catchments (contour trenching and bunding, terracing, afforestation, desiltation). establishing 300 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) and trained them to run loan businesses and run aggregation centres. The model of and IVCS can be used for livelihood support in the new project, and in some villages, the services offered by successful IVCS can be tapped into by project beneficiaries to expand businesses once established through the project.

KM: What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience? As part of an effort to promote replication and scaling up, the project is planning to implement a seven- step process, which involves the following activities: documentation and dissemination of case studies; technical reports, publications and other knowledge management products in English and local languages and national and sub-national workshops to facilitate dissemination of field lessons. In the narrative and project outputs its not always clear whether the intention is to scale up by promoting good practice, identifying best practice (which may not exist in these complex systems) or replicating processes and therefore needing to properly document these processes and the contexts in which they are implemented. STAP recommends that this should be addressed as part of the replication/scaling up strategy.	Thank you for these observations. Component 3 is now more clearly structured and includes the following outputs, each explained in detail in the UNDP-Government of India Project Document and in the GEF CEO Endorsement Request, clarifying the approach to replication and/or scaling up in each case: **Output 3.1** Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes **Output 3.2** Communication strategy developed and implemented in project landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning **Output 3.3** Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums **Output 3.4** Replication of best practices at regional and national level in India.

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

1.
    1. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
International Consultants	54,500	63,396	0
Local Consultants	55,450	50,695	4,755
Travel	15,100	20,535	0
Contractual Services - Companies	5,500	1,077	0
Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs	2,100	624	0
Supplies	2,000	956	0

Trainings, Workshops	15,350	2,523	5,439
TOTAL	**150,000**	**139,806**	**10,194**

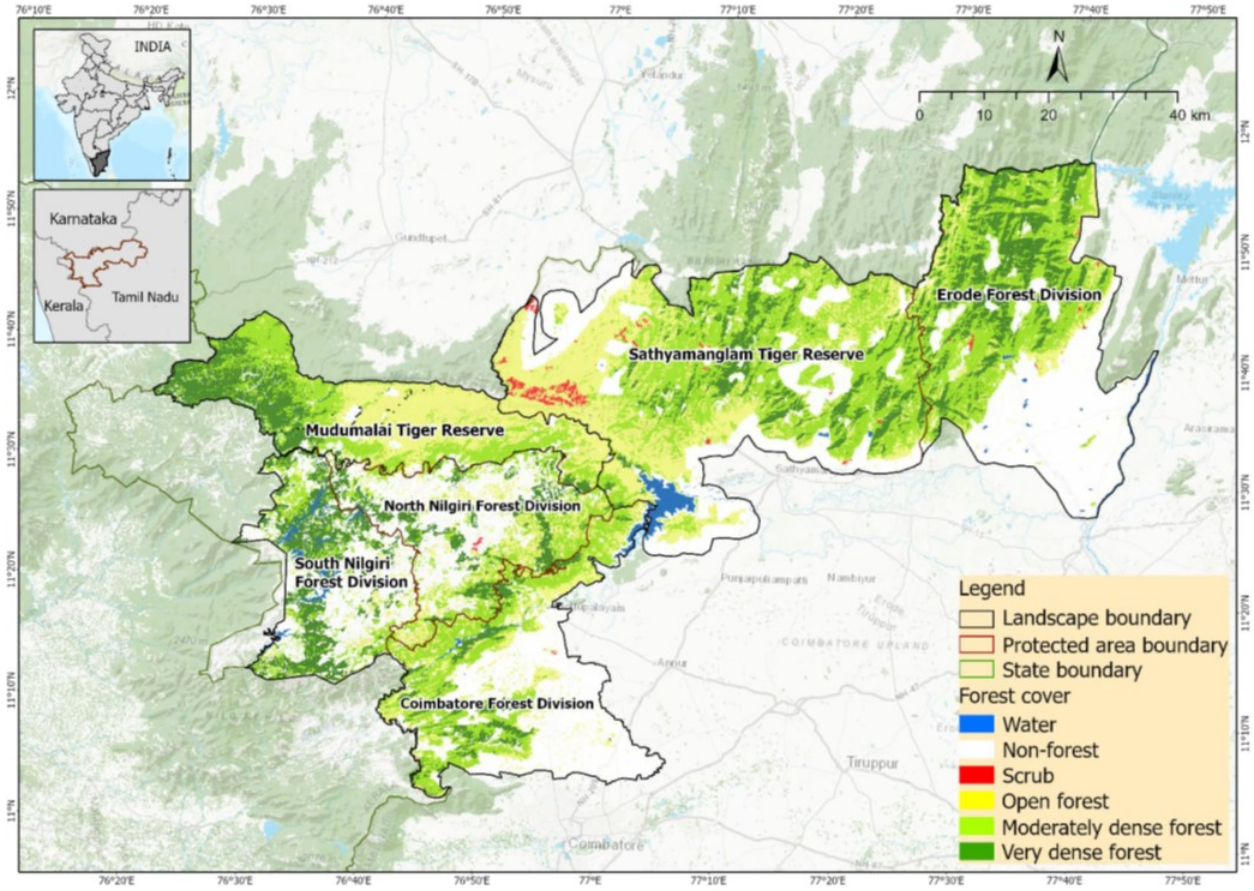
If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report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

[1] If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

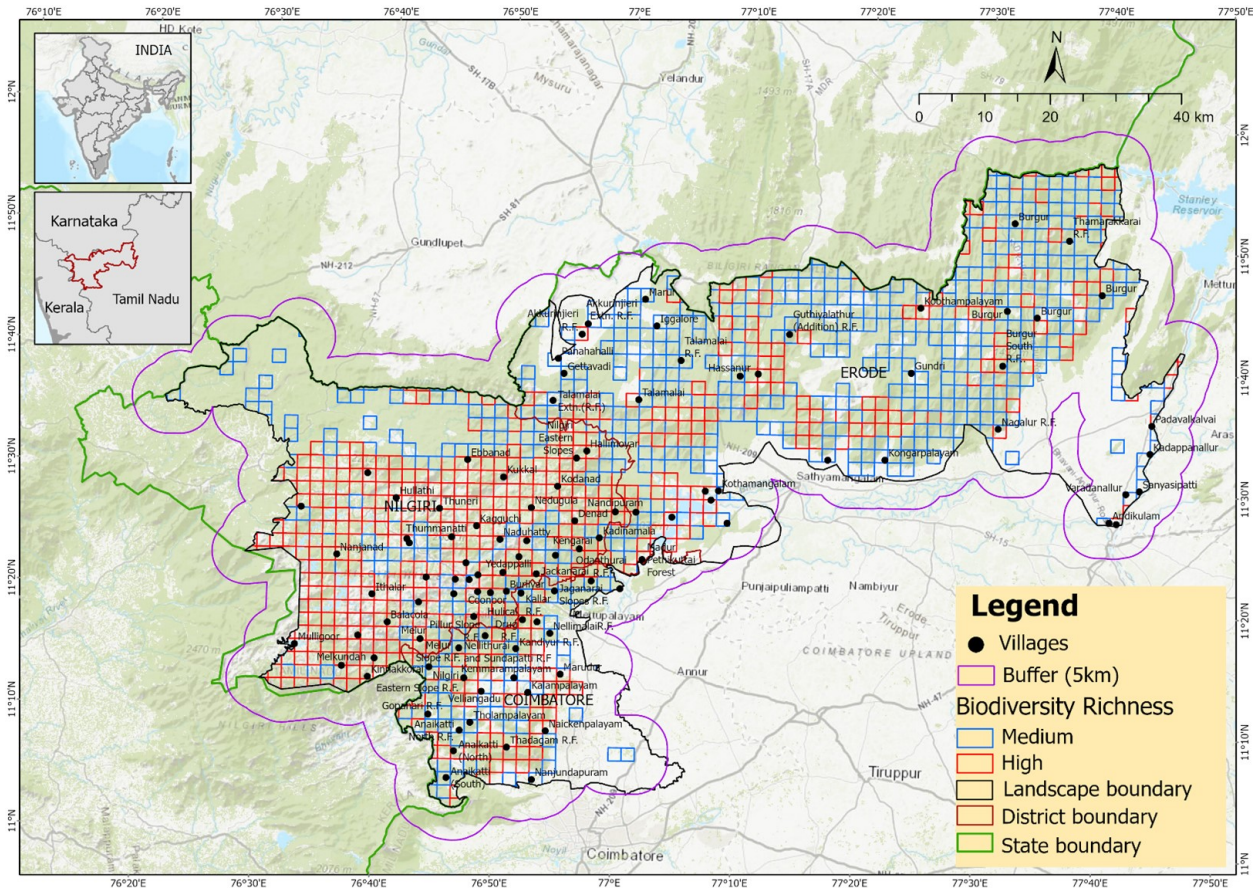
ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

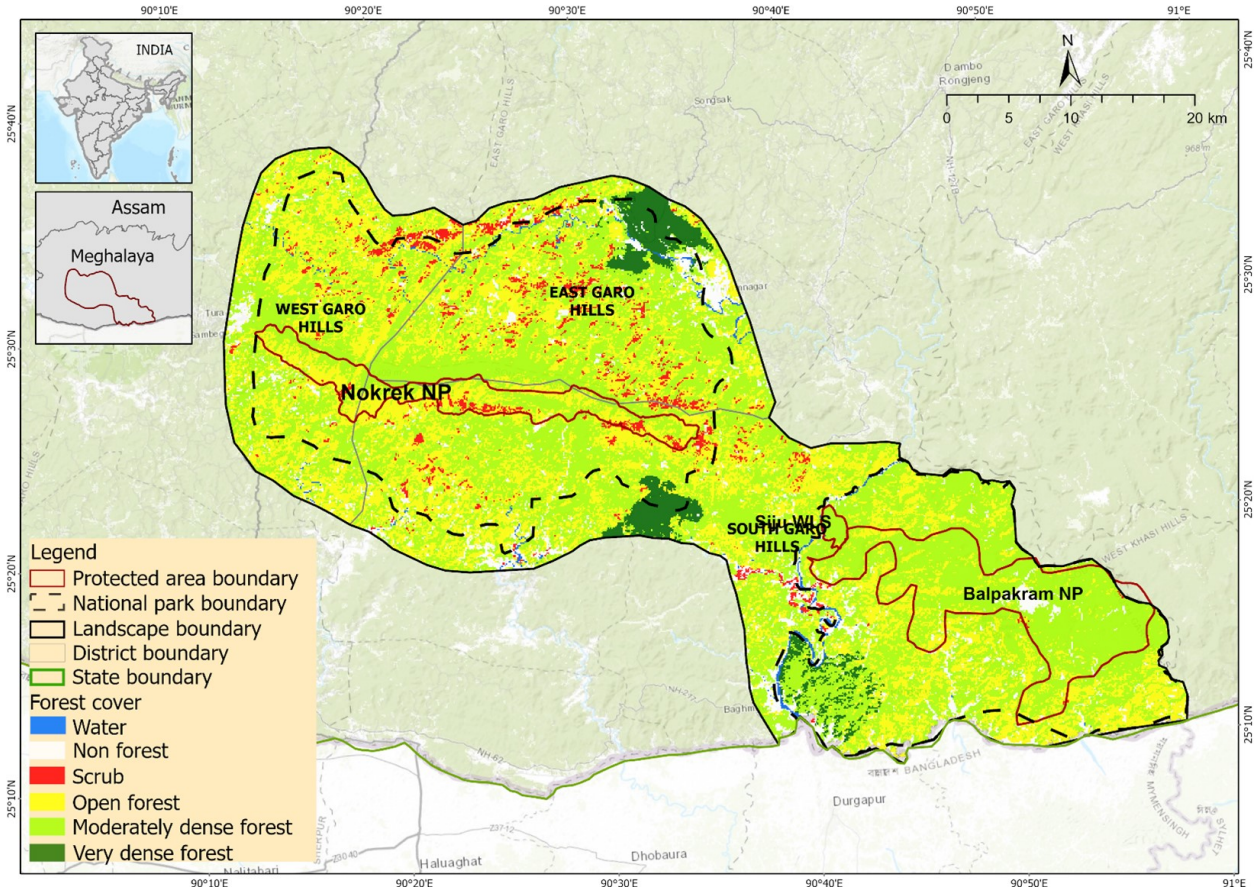
Landscape 1: Sathyamangalam ? Nilgiri project landscape, Tamil Nadu State (***Map disclaimer:*** *The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries)*



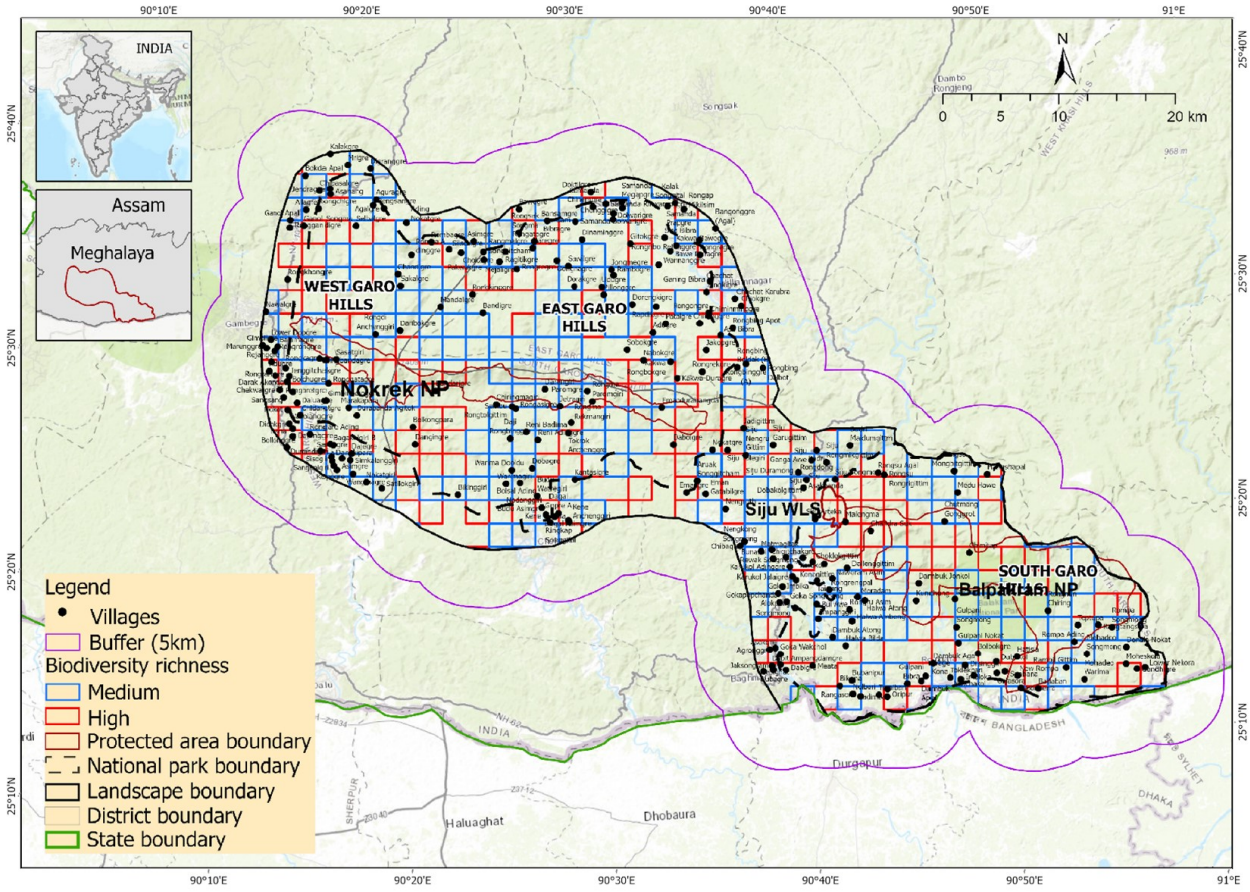
Landscape 1: Identified priority villages of the landscape (with high and medium biodiversity)



Landscape 2: Nokrek-Balpakram project landscape in Garo Hills, Meghalaya State



Landscape 2: Identified priority villages of the landscape (with high and medium biodiversity)



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. These IDs are available on the GeoNames? geographical database containing millions of placenames and allowing to freely record new ones. 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	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Sathyamangalam	11.505265	77.23826	1,256,989	
Nilgiri	11.46	76.64	1,261,391	
Nokrek	25.44436	90.44546	9,199,880	
Balpakram	25.1935	90.6346		

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category?	Detailed Description?	Component (USD eq.)?						Total (USD eq.)?	Responsible Entity?
		Component 1?	Component 2?	Component 3?	Sub-Total?	M&E ?	PMC?		
Equipment ?	**Materials and Goods** ? Purchase of goods (camera traps, GPS devices, soil and water testing kits, fencing material/wires creating fenced plots, low impact mechanized agriculture tools for ploughing/harrowing) for implementation of costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 1.5) = USD 250,000 in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4? ? **Total = USD 250,000**?	250,000	??	??	**250,000**	??	??	**250,000**	**UNDP**
Equipment ?	**Materials and Goods** ?	??	102,844	??	**102,844**	??	??	**102,844**	**UNDP?**

	i) Training kits for business execution support programme (Output 2.2) = USD 40,000 (Year 3 to Year 5)? ii) Knowledge products for women in business leadership programme (Output 2.2) = USD 62,844 (Year 2 to Year 4)?? **Total = USD 102,844**?								
Equipment ?	**Information Technology Equipment**? 7 Laptops = USD 6,000 in Year 1?? **Total = USD 6,000**	??	??	??	**-**	??	6,000	**6,000**	**UNDP**?
Sub-contract to executing partner?	Direct Project Costs ? ? **Total = USD 40,589**	??	??	??	**-**	??	40,589	**40,589**	**UNDP**?
Contractual services-Individual?	**Contractual Services ? Individual** ? i.1 Biodiversity Specialist (Curriculum Development) for developing customized training course material (Output 1.3) = USD 51,948 for a period of 24 months spread across Year 2 and Year 3 ? ii.1 Public Finance Specialist for implementation of Activity 1.4.7 (Output 1.4) = USD 15,000 for a period of 24 months spread across Year 1 and Year 2 ?	152,920	??	??	**152,920**	??	??	**152,920**	**UNDP**?

	iii.1 Safeguards Specialist for ensuring compliance with social and environmental standards of GEF/UNDP/Government (Output 1.4) = USD 30,000 for a period of 24 months spread across Year 2, 3 and 4 ? iv.1 Biodiversity Specialist (Tracking Tool) for developing the Tracking Tools and monitoring progress (Output 1.2 and Output 1.4) = USD 55,972 for a period of 36 months spread across Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 ? **Total = USD 152,920**								
Contractual services-Individual?	**Contractual Services ? Individual** 2 Landscape Experts (one for each state) for implementation of Component 1 (Output 1.2 and 1.3) (USD 5,520/year = USD 27,600 for five years x 2= USD 55,200 **Total = USD 55,200**	**55,200**			**55,200**			**55,200**	**NBA**
Contractual services-Individual?	**Contractual Services ? Individual** ? ?	??	??	35,000	**35,000**	??	??	**35,000**	**UNDP**?

	i.Engagement of 1 Communication Specialist for development and implementation of project communication strategy (Output 3.1) = USD 30,000 for a period of 60 months (Year 1 to Year 5) ?? ii.Engagement of 1 Technical Expert for developing National Replication Strategy (Output 3.4) = USD 5,000?for a period of 12 months (Year 5)?? **Total = USD 35,000?**?								
Contractual services-Individual?	**Salary Costs** 1 Procurement and Admin Officer = USD 5,291.5 for 4 years = USD 21,166						21,166	21,166	**UNDP**
Contractual services-Individual?	**Contractual Services ? Implementing Partner** ? ? i.1 National Project Officer = USD 12,000/year = USD 60,000 ii.1 Procurement and Admin Officer = USD 9,000/year = USD 45,000 iii.1 Admin, Operations and Finance Officer (Meghalaya) = USD 1,596/year in Y1 and USD 3,192/year in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 = USD 14, 364?	??	??	??	**-**	??	133,728	**133,728**	**NBA**

	iv.1 Admin, Operations and Finance Officer (Tamil Nadu) = USD 1,596/year in Y1 and USD 3,192/year in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 = USD 14, 364? ? **Total = USD 133,728**								
Contractual services-Company?	**Contractual Services ? Companies**? i.Contract to 2 technical agencies (Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu) for multistakeholder engagement for landscape level plans (Output 1.2) = USD 40,000 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 50,909 (Meghalaya) for a period of 24 months = USD 90,909 spread across Year 1 and Year 2 ?? ii.Contract to 2 technical agencies for development of gender-responsive training courses/tools developed and customized for two States for integration and institutionalisation in the SIRD training system (Output 1.3) = USD 126,300 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 198,094 (Meghalaya) = USD 324,394 spread across Year 2 and Year 3	1,065,303	??	??	**1,065,303**	??	??	**1,065,303**	**UNDP**?

	iii.Contract to 2 technical agencies for designing and implementation of costed priority actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in 40 champion villages in the 2 states (Output 1.4 and Output 1.5) = USD 325,000 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 325,000 (Meghalaya) = USD 650,000 spread across Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 ?? ?? ? **Total: USD 1,065,303**								
Contractual services-Company?	**Contractual Services ? Companies** ? ? i.Contract to 2 technical agencies for developing biodiversity finance gap report for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 2.1) = USD 30,000 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 20,000 (Meghalaya) = USD 50,000 (Year 1 to Year 3) ?	??	599,998	??	**599,998**	??	??	**599,998**	**UNDP?**

	i i.Contract to 2 technical agencies for conducting a feasibility study on existing value chains, potential buyers, equipment needs, environmental sustainability, gender and social inclusion potential, possible funding sources; and developing a business concept for each BMC (Output 2.2) = USD 55,000 (Meghalaya) + USD 45,000 (Tamil Nadu) = USD 100,000 (Year 2 to Year 4) ? ii i.Contract to 2 technical agencies for conducting women in business leadership programme (Output 2.2) = USD 40,000 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 50,000 (Meghalaya) = USD 90,000 (Year 2 to Year 4) ? i v.Contract to 2 technical agencies for conducting a business execution support programme (Output 2.2) = USD 130,000 (Meghalaya) and USD 120,000 (Tamil Nadu) = USD 250,000 (Year 3 to Year 5) ?								

	v.Contract to 2 technical agencies for facilitating agreements with buyers, with fair prices negotiated, and for roll out of marketing and branding strategy for each of the 6e ?forest-based / eco-friendly enterprises / set of enterprises in a value chain (Output 2.2) = USD 30,000 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 40,000 (Meghalaya) = USD 70,000 (Year 3 to Year 5) ? v i.Contract to a technical agency for developing curriculum for training on budgeting for biodiversity priority actions, accessing biodiversity-relevant schemes, and new financial instruments (Output 2.3) = USD 39,998 (Year 2 to Year 5) ? ? **Total = USD 599,998?**?								
Contractual services-Company?	**Contractual Services ? Companies** ? ? i.Contract to 2 technical agencies for digitization of spatial plans (Output 3.1) = USD 30,000 (Meghalaya) + USD 25,000 (Tamil Nadu) = USD 55,000 (Year 3 to Year 5) ??	??	??	95,000	**95,000**	??	??	**95,000**	**UNDP?**

	i i.Contract to a technical agency for developing short documentaries on lessons learnt from 40 villages (Output 3.3) = USD 40,000 (Year 4 to Year 5) ?? ? **Total = USD 95,000?**?								
International Consultants?	**International Consultants?** ? ? i.Engagement of 1 International Consultant for Mid-term review = USD 30,000 (Year 3) ? i i.Engagement of 1 International Consultant for Terminal Evaluation = USD 30,000 (Year 5) ? ? **Total = USD 60,000**?	??	??	??	**??????????? ?? -???**?	60,000	??	**60,000**	**UNDP**?
Local Consultants?	**Local Consultants** ? 8 Community Mobilizers for implementation of actions on Biodiversity, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Soil and Water Conservation, Access and Benefit Sharing for implementation of actions outlined in Activity 1.5.1 (Output 1.5) = USD 16,666.50/each mobilizer for a period of 48 months = USD 133,332 spread across Year 2, 3, 4, 5 **Total = USD 133,332**	133,332	??	??	**133,332**	??	??	**133,332**	**NBA**
Local	**Local Consultants**?	402,767	??	??	**402,767**	??	??	**402,767**	**UNDP**?

Consultants?	i.1 Gender Specialist for delivering Gender Responsive Trainings (Outputs 1.1 and 1.4) ? USD 10,000 spread across Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 i i.1 Ecological Landscape Planning Expert for development of landscape plans and spatial planning (Output 1.2) ? USD 1,623.375/month for 24 months = USD 38,961 spread across Year 1 and Year 2? ii i.1 Governance Specialist for capacity building of stakeholders and updating the PBR and GPDP guidelines (Output 1.3) ? USD 3,246/month for 36 months = USD 116,856 spread across Year 2, Year 3?and Year 4 i v.1 Community Engagement Specialist for undertaking participatory resource mapping and identifying degraded community lands (Output 1.4) = USD 1,250/month = USD 30,000 spread across Year 2 and Year 3??								

	v.4 National Consultants (Biodiversity, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Soil and Water Conservation, Access and Benefit Sharing) for actions outlined in Activity 1.5.1 (Output 1.5) = USD 17,500/each consultant = USD 70,000 spread across Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 v i.1 National Consultant for monitoring progress of tracking tools through forest department for Activity 1.5.2 (Output 1.5) = USD 40,000 for a period of 48 months across Year 2, 3, 4 and 5?? vi i.1 National Consultant (Forest Restoration) for implementation of Activity 1.6.1 and Activity 1.6.3 (Output 1.6) = USD 65,000 for a period of 24 months across Year 2 and Year 3? vii i.2 National Consultants (Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu) for designing Tracking Tools to monitor progress against implementation of landscape management plans (Output 1.2) = USD 15,975 x 2 = USD 31,950 ?spread across Year 1 and Year 2 ? **Total: 402,767**								
Local	**Local Consultants**?	??	300,002	??	**300,002**	??	??	**300,002**	**UNDP**?

Consultants?	? i.1 Technical Expert for development of tracking tools to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape -plans (Output 2.1) = USD 80,000 for a period of 60 months spread across Year 1 to Year 5? i i.2 Technical Experts for developing biodiversity finance gap report for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 2.1) = USD 60,000 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 40,000 (Meghalaya) = USD 100,000 (Year 1 to Year 3) ? ii i.2 Technical Experts for establishing a Cooperative Society/other Governance structure (Output 2.2) = USD 12,001 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 18,001 (Meghalaya) = USD 30,002 for a period of 36 months (Year 2 to Year 4) ??								

	i v.2 Technical Consultants for conducting customized training and incubation support programme for enterprises (Output 2.2) = USD 35,000 (Meghalaya) + USD 25,000 (Tamil Nadu) = USD 60,000 for a period of 36 months?(Year 3- Year 5) ? v.1 Technical Consultant for curriculum development for training on budgeting on biodiversity action (Output 2.3) = USD 30,000 for a period of 48 months (Year 2 ? Year 5) ? ? **Total: USD 300,002**?								
Local Consultants?	**Local Consultants** ? ? 1 Local Expert to support National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for uploading training material and tools related to mainstreaming biodiversity into village, block and district development planning and budgeting, for access by all States of India (Output 3.1) = USD?40,000 for a period of 48 months (Year 2 to Year 5) ?? ? **Total = USD 40,000?**?	??	??	40,000	**40,000**	??	??	**40,000**	**UNDP**?
Local Consultant	**Local Consultants** ? ?	??	??	??	**-**	50,000	??	**50,000**	**UNDP**?

s?	i.Engagement of 1 National Consultant for undertaking Mid-term review of the project (Activity 4.4.1) = USD 25,000 (Year 3) i i.Engagement of 1 National Consultant for undertaking Terminal Evaluation of the project (Activity 4.4.2) = USD 25,000 (Year 5) ? **Total = USD 50,000**								
Training, Workshops, Meetings?	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** ? i.Annual meetings of state and landscape coordinating committees (Output 1.1) = 10 meetings * USD 759.3 = USD 7,593 (Year 1 to Year 5)??? ii.Training workshops on Gender Responsiveness in GPDP in two states (Output 1.1) = USD 50,000 in Year 1?? iii.Consultations for establishment of six coordination committees in two states (Output 1.1) = USD 7,792 in Year 1?? iv.Bi-annual meetings of the 6 District Coordination Committees (Output 1.1) = 60 meetings * USD 649.35 = USD 38,961 (Year 1 to Year 5)??	304,346	??	??	**304,346**	??	??	**304,346**	**NBA**

	v.5 Training sessions for local self-governance institutions on Gender (Output 1.4) = USD 20,000 in Year 2 and Year 3 ? vi.6 Training sessions on integration of biodiversity actions in development plans (Output 1.4) = USD 30,000 in Year 2 and Year 3? vii.Focus group consultations for implementation of costed biodiversity actions (Output 1.5) = 60 consultations *USD 1,500 = USD 90,000 (Year 2- Year 5)?? viii.Organizing Meghalaya Joint Foresters? Forum = 3 meetings *USD 5,000 = USD 15,000 (Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4)?? ix.Training workshops on Forest Management for community and officials = 10 workshops * USD 4,500 = USD 45,000 (Year 1 ? Year 5) ? **Total = USD 304,346**								
Training, Workshops, Meetings?	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** ? ?	33,106	??	??	**33,106**	??	??	**33,106**	**UNDP**?

	i.Consultations for establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms at state level (Output 1.1) = 10 consultations * 2 states * USD 1,265.75 = USD 25,315 in Year 1?? ii.Training workshop on Gender Responsiveness in two states (Output 1.1) = USD 2,596 in Year 1??? iii.Women Leadership Support Workshop (Output 1.1) = USD 5,195 (Year 1)? ? **Total: USD 33,106**								
Training, Workshops, Meetings?	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** ? ? i.12 Consultations with local communities in two states to identify at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts (2 each); to identify specific activities along each value chain for women and men, including beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes, with special attention paid to opportunities for youth (Output 2.2) = USD 50,000 (Year 2 to Year 5) ?	??	120,000	??	**120,000**	??	??	**120,000**	**NBA**

	ii.7 training and capacity building workshops (1 National level, and 3 each at state level) held for communities towards establishment of identified eco-friendly enterprises (Output 2.2) = USD 70,000 (Year 2 to Year 5) ? ? **Total = USD 120,000**?								
Training, Workshops, Meetings?	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** ? ? Two state level workshops in Chennai and Shillong, co-hosted by State Biodiversity Boards and State Institutes for Rural Development on lessons learnt and outcomes on biodiversity integration in development planning and budgeting processes (Output 3.4) = USD 100,000 (Year 4 and 5) ? ? **Total = USD 100,000**?	??	??	100,000	**100,000**	??	??	**100,000**	**NBA**
Training, Workshops	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** ?	??	??	275,000	**275,000**	??	??	**275,000**	**UNDP**?

, Meetings?	Two international workshops to disseminate lessons learnt on strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and local governance institutions for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use in high-biodiversity landscape (Output 3.4) = USD 275,000 (Year 4 and Year 5) ? **Total: USD 275,000**?								
Training, Workshops , Meetings?	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** ? ? i.Organize 3 Inception Workshops at national and state level (Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya) = USD 24,000 (Year 1) ? ii.Organize annual stakeholder workshop and data collection to prepare project reports. = USD 10,000 (Year 1 to Year 5) ? ? **Total = USD 34,000**?	??	??	??	**-**	34,000	??	**34,000**	**UNDP**?
Travel?	**Travel** ? For facilitating implementation of costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 1.5) = USD 90,000 (Year 2 ? Year 5) ? **Total = USD 90,000**?	90,000	??	??	**90,000**	??	??	**90,000**	**NBA**
Travel?	**Travel**?	13,848	??	??	**13,848**	??	??	**13,848**	**UNDP**?

	i.For establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms in two states (Output 1.1) = USD 9,750 in Year 1 ? ii.For annual meetings of State and Landscape Coordinating Committees (Output 1.1) = USD 4,098 (Year 1 ? Year 5) ? ? **Total: 13,848**?								
Travel?	**Travel** ? For organizing 10 consultations in the 2 states (5 each) for developing biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods (Output 2.2) = USD 94,000 spread across Year 3 to Year 5? ? **Total: USD 94,000?**?	??	94,000	??	**94,000**	??	??	**94,000**	**NBA**
Travel?	**Travel** ? ? i.Participation in awareness campaigns and workshops organized under Output 3.1 = USD 10,000 (Year 1 to Year 5) ? ii.Participation in Learning Programme for State Biodiversity Boards (Output 3.2) = USD 115,000 (Year 4 and Year 5)? iii.Participation in state and landscape exchanges (Output 3.3) = USD 10,000 (Year 3 and Year 5) ?	??	??	135,000	**135,000**	??	??	**135,000**	**NBA**

	Total = USD 135,000?								
Travel?	**Travel**? ? Participation in international conferences and forums for sharing best practices (Output 3.3) = USD 18,334 (Year 4 and Year 5)? ? **Total: USD 18,334**	??	??	18,334	**18,334**	??	??	**18,334**	**UNDP**?
Travel?	**Travel** ? ? i.For yearly M&E visits for tracking GEF core indicators (Activity 4.2.1) = USD 5,000/year = USD 25,000 (Year 1 to Year 5)??? ii.For yearly technical monitoring visits (Activity 4.2.4) = USD 2,000/year = USD 10,000 (Year 1 to Year 5) ?? iii.Travel for MTR to both the landscapes (Activity 4.4.1) = USD 20,000?? iv.Travel for TE to both the landscapes (Activity 4.4.2) = USD 20,000?? ? **Total = USD 75,000**?	??	??	??	**-**	75,000	??	**75,000**	**UNDP**?
Office Supplies?	**Supplies** ? i.Printers, printer cartridges, paper and stationery = USD 3,000 in Year 1??	??	??	??	**-**	??	12,000	**12,000**	**UNDP**?

	ii.Printers, printer cartridges, paper and stationery = USD 3,000/year = USD 9,000 in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4??? ? **Total = USD 12,000?**?								
Other Operating Costs?	**Audio-visual and print production costs** ? ? Two landscape documentaries and dissemination through social media/websites etc. (Output 3.3) = USD 15,000 (Year 4 and Year 5) ? ? **Total = USD 15,000**?	??	??	15,000	**15,000**	??	??	**15,000**	**UNDP**?
Other Operating Costs?	**Professional Services** ? ? Annual audit = USD 2,000 in Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 and Year 5 = USD 10,000 ?? ? **Total = USD 10,000?**?	??	??	??	**-**	??	10,000	**10,000**	**UNDP**?
Other Operating Costs?	**Audio visual and print production cost** ? ? Printing of project document, project brochures, safeguards documents and other KPs with stakeholders including PMU = USD 6,517 (Year 1 to Year 5) ?? ? **Total = USD 6,517**?	??	??	??	**-**	??	6,517	**6,517**	**UNDP**?
Grand Total?	**?**?	**2,500,822**	**1,216,844**	**713,334**	**4,431,000**	**219,000**	**230,000**	**4,880,000**	**?**?

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).