

# GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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## General Project Information

### Project Title

Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to meet India's commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets by 2030

Region	GEF Project ID
India	11423
Country(ies)	Type of Project
India	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9663
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
National Biodiversity Authority, CS III Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Biodiversity	10/18/2023

### Project Sector (CCM Only)

### Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Biomes, Mangroves, Wetlands, Desert, Sea Grasses, Tropical Dry Forests, Temperate Forests, Coral Reefs, Rivers, Tropical Rain Forests, Grasslands, Lakes, Species, Threatened Species, Invasive Alien Species, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Conservation Finance, Mainstreaming, Infrastructure, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Fisheries, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Productive Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Fire Management, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Development Goals, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Private Sector, SMEs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Communications, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Education, Civil Society, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Exchange, Targeted Research, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	72

GEF Project Grant: (a) 6,649,315.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 631,685.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 7,281,000.00	Total Co-financing 56,000,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 200,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 19,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 219,000.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 7,500,000.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: Yes	

## Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

India’s commitment to the 30x30 target (i.e. to conserve 30% of its land and marine area by 2030) is recognized at the highest levels of government. Achieving this target will require a collaborative planning process involving government, non-governmental organizations, private sector and civil society, including indigenous people and community leaders. This will entail the identification, mapping, recognition, and allocation of new areas under various currently recognized forms of community and private sector protected area management (e.g. Biodiversity Heritage Sites, Community Reserves, Conservation Reserves, Wetlands, Coastal and Marine areas, etc.) as well as allocation of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures<sup>[1]</sup> (OECMs) so as to increase the current area under conservation from 27 to 30%. The proposed intervention pathways entails improved governance, policies, monitoring and reporting, and capacities of institutions for enhancing the conservation estate, including establishing and operationalizing OECMs in the country to meet the 30x30 target (India has currently no formally declared OECMs. It would also support the management planning for OECMs and other community conservation areas, support collaboration between communities and private sector/industry and develop innovative financial solutions in support of nature-positive practices and ensure that there is political and public/private sector support for replication and scaling up throughout the country. This effort also recognizes UNDP’s Nature Pledge 2030 to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) goals and targets through three transformational shifts namely, (i) Value shift – rewriting narratives and catalyzing behavioral change; (ii) Finance and economic shift – accounting for nature and shifting finance flows; and (iii) Policy and practice shift – harnessing the power of nature.<sup>[2]</sup> The project will result in several global environmental benefits, namely through conserving and sustainably using biodiversity covering 600,000 hectares of terrestrial protected areas created (CI 1), restoration of 5,000 hectares of forests and other habitats with the intent of enhancing connectivity of habitats (CI 3), 400,000 hectares of area of landscape under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (CI 4) through terrestrial OECMs, and 50,000 hectares of area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (CI.5) through marine OECMs, and benefiting more than 50,000 direct beneficiaries as of the GEF investment (CI 11). At least 4-5 priority landscapes/seascapes would be selected from the identified eleven for investment.

[1] “a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long- term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, 1 with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic and other locally relevant values”

[2] <https://www.undp.org/nature/nature-pledge>

## Indicative Project Overview

### Project Objective

To enhance India’s protected area network through promotion of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and an expansion of community and private conservation areas

### Project Components

#### Component 1: Enabling framework for expanding and strengthening the conservation network in India

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,329,863.00	10,000,000.00

#### Outcome:

Outcome 1: Enhanced conservation outcomes through strengthened directives, governance and institutional arrangements.

This will be measured by:

(i) number of policies, directives and procedures approved at national, state and sub-state levels to recognize and support the OECM approach  
(ii) number of states with functional coordination and governance mechanisms established (State OECM Councils, Sub-state and local coordination systems, etc.)

(iii) Methodology and guidelines for screening, assessment, mapping, planning, monitoring and reporting of OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas updated, approved and applied

(iv) Level of capacity (percentage increase from baseline) for identification, mapping, recognition, and planning of OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard

#### Output:

Output 1.1: National policy, directives, and procedures to support recognition of OECMs as an integral part of the national biodiversity conservation estate

Output 1.2: State and sub-State policy, directives, coordination and governance mechanisms to support effective application of national policy on OECMs

Output 1.3: Strategy, methodology and procedures for identification and expansion of the conservation estate, including OECMs within the wider landscape and seascapes strengthened

Output 1.4: Monitoring, reporting and auditing framework to assess the management effectiveness of the OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas developed, tested and approved

Output 1.5: Comprehensive capacity building program for identification, mapping, planning, monitoring and auditing of the OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas developed and rolled out.

#### Component 2: Financing and incentives for establishing and operationalizing OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas in the country secured

Component Type	Trust Fund
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Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
969,941.00	4,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2: Increased public and private sector financing to implement local actions for the management of OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas.

This will be measured by:

- (i) at least two-three new nature-friendly financial solutions building on work of BIOFIN developed and tested
- (ii) at least a 20% increase in private-sector funding for nature-positive activities within OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas
- (iii) Improved capacity of community organizations and private sector capacity to improve financial management as measured through capacity development scorecard
- (iv) At least ten private sector entities engaged and financing conservation actions (v) at least 30 small scale community enterprises and value chains developed

Output:

Output 2.1: Finance pathways/platforms for mobilizing finance investment from public, business/industry and finance sectors **tested at the landscape/seascape levels**

Output 2.2: Roll out of capacity building program to strengthen institutional and technical capacity to apply new financial instruments.

Output 2.3: Promotion of nature-positive small-scale enterprises through improved collaboration between community and private sector/industry

### Component 3: Increased management effectiveness of conservation areas to meet India's obligations of KM-GBF Target 30x30

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,010,131.00	28,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3: **Increased coverage and management effectiveness of India's conservation network to enhance ecological representativeness of conservation areas, improve connectivity and increase ecological integrity demonstrated.** This will be measured by:

- (i) Mapping and allocation of at least 600,000 hectares of community and privately managed conservation areas<sup>[1]</sup><sup>3</sup> and 450,000<sup>[2]</sup><sup>4</sup> hectares of OECMs identified and approved by all stakeholders
- (ii) Management planning strategies developed and approved for clusters of OECMs and PAs and under implementation Including
  - (a) conservation of biodiversity; **(b) restoration of 5,000 hectares of degraded forest lands;** (c) sustainable harvest protocols for at least 5 forest plant species; and (d) monitoring protocols for at least 5 species, habitats and ecosystems;
- (iii) Customized and practical management effectiveness tool developed and tested to monitor the effectiveness of OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas

[1] Community reserves, conservation reserves, sacred groves, biodiversity heritage sites, medicinal plant conservation areas and other similar community managed conservation areas are now classified by the Government of India as protected areas as they fall under one form or another of national legislation

[2] This figure of 450,000 includes 400,000 hectares of terrestrial OECMs and 50,000 hectares of marine OECMs (refer Table 1 and footnote 16 for details of OECMs)

Output:

Output 3.1: Identification, mapping and assessment of selected priority landscapes/seascapes<sup>[1]</sup> for planning and implementation of OECMs and new community and privately managed conservation areas

Output 3.2: Management planning strategies developed for cluster OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas **within selected priority** landscapes/seascapes to improve conservation outcomes.

Output 3.3: Implementation of key priorities for cluster OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas in selected priority landscapes/seascapes

[1] Priority landscapes and seascapes within the biogeographic regions will be identified during PPG stage based on following criteria: (i) gaps in ecological representation; (ii) opportunities for promotion of landscape connectivity, ecological integrity and habitat restoration; a (iii) commitment and ownership of state governments, communities and private sector entities; and (iv) availability of co-financing through various national and state government programs.

## Component 4: Knowledge management enables political and public support for strengthening the conservation network

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
823,249.00	5,900,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4: Enhanced awareness, recognition, political support and capacity of stakeholders for scale-up of OECMs and conservation areas. This will be measured by:

(i) At least 60% of sampled population aware of threats and benefits of nature-friendly activities as indicated by KAP survey

(ii) At least 20 good practices of nature-based solutions codified, adapted and disseminated

(iii) At least 10 South-South knowledge sharing events completed

Output:

Output 4.1: Communication strategy and plan developed and implemented to increase awareness, political and public support for OECMs and other categories of conservation areas

Output 4.2: **Long-term sustainability strategy/plan developed; communication and knowledge shared and exchanged on approaches for OECMs and other community and private conservation initiatives**

Output 4.3: Establishment of information architecture to support reporting and assessments of effectiveness of conservation outcomes

Output 4.4: South-South exchanges to OECM and other conservation networks in support of GBF Target 3 actions

## M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
199,497.00	2,000,000.00

### Outcome:

Outcome 5: Effective management, monitoring and reporting that is responsive to gender, youth, IPs, and communities adaptive management  
This will be measured by:  
(i) Adaptive management measures applied to adjust changing needs.

### Output:

Output 5.1: M&E system supports project reporting of impact, learning and community benefits

## Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Enabling framework for expanding and strengthening the conservation network in India	1,329,863.00	10,000,000.00
Component 2: Financing and incentives for establishing and operationalizing OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas in the country secured	969,941.00	4,000,000.00
Component 3: Increased management effectiveness of conservation areas to meet India's obligations of KM-GBF Target 30x30	3,010,131.00	28,000,000.00
Component 4: Knowledge management enables political and public support for strengthening the conservation network	823,249.00	5,900,000.00
M&E	199,497.00	2,000,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,332,681.00</b>	<b>49,900,000.00</b>
Project Management Cost	316,634.00	6,100,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>6,649,315.00</b>	<b>56,000,000.00</b>

Please provide justification



## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

As a megadiverse country harboring nearly 7-8% of the globally recorded species, with over 45,000 species of flora and 91,000 species of fauna, India supports 18% of the global human population on 2.4% of the world's land area. India's quest for inclusive economic development and need to maintain integrity of its natural capital presents a challenge. Despite these challenges, India has made significant progress in conserving its rich biodiversity through declaration of protected areas, where natural resource exploitation and human activities are legally controlled and limited. These areas are cornerstones of biodiversity conservation as they help maintain key habitats and ensure the maintenance of natural processes on which economic development can be built on and sustained. Through the process of establishment of protected areas, India has made significant strides bringing 22% (terrestrial) and 5% (coastal and marine) areas under protected areas through government efforts of establishing national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, reserved forests, protected wetlands, deemed forests, unclassed forests and a range of community managed conservation areas (e.g. biodiversity heritage sites, medicinal plant conservation areas, common lands, etc.) However, many areas outside the protected area and forest networks also contribute to the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity in its natural habitat along with serving as effective carbon sinks which help in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. To this end, Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) can play a major role in achieving national and global commitments of ensuring that at least 30 percent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes". In this regard, India has a time immemorial tradition of conservation which is reflected in the areas maintained by local communities as part of their sustainable lifestyle practices, but the OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas are not effectively integrated within a broader landscape perspective (that also includes wildlife and forest reserves and other categories of PAs) thus losing opportunities for promotion of conservation actions across the larger parcels of land. Establishing and operationalizing areas as OECMs offers a significant opportunity to identify and report effective long-term conservation that is taking place outside the protected area network, under a range of management arrangements, implemented by a diverse set of actors, including local communities, the private sector, government agencies and shared governance measures and as part of larger conservation effort at a landscape level.

Nature and biodiversity conservation has a long tradition in Indian culture, which is reflected in its literature, religious texts and in the national constitution and legislation. Forest cover in India currently stands at around 22% of the total area of the country and, unlike other economically developing countries, forest and tree cover has increased over the past 20 years despite growth in population and per capita incomes.<sup>[1]<sup>6</sup></sup> Despite the above positives, Indian biodiversity faces numerous challenges in the coming decades. While forest cover has increased due to increased tree plantations, old native forest cover (which hosts relatively higher species density than plantations) has actually declined.<sup>[2]<sup>7</sup></sup> In addition, the small size of many protected areas is not always sufficient to host a full complement of species as it hinders habitat connectivity.<sup>[3]<sup>8</sup></sup> Moreover, a large number of species occur outside the PA system and many ecoregions are not well represented in the PAs. Forest fragmentation, resource exploitation, illegal hunting, presence of humans and invasive species are prevalent in many PAs—all of which negatively affect national conservation goals. With around 1.4 billion people, India is the world's second most populated country and, with rising incomes, consumption has recently been increasing across all economic classes. This is resulting in natural habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation through conversion of land use for cropland, livestock grazing, urbanization, mining and industrial development.<sup>[4]<sup>9</sup></sup> Agricultural intensification threatens many species through increased exposure to agrochemicals, eutrophication and loss of habitat heterogeneity. Proximity to humans and livestock is increasing parasite loads, competition for food and water, and disease

transmission in wild animal populations. These pressures are increasingly bringing wild species into conflict with humans. Finally, overarching threats such as anthropogenic climate change are causing increased forest fire and ice-melting incidences, posing danger for vulnerable ecosystems such as coastal areas, dry deciduous forests and the Himalayas and species residing therein.<sup>[5]<sup>10</sup></sup> High population density in some parts is also a major obstacle in habitat-restoration initiatives.<sup>[6]<sup>11</sup></sup>

## **An approach to scale up to meet global targets**

In recognition of the importance of expanding and strengthening its conservation estate, in particular because of the consequences of biodiversity loss for people, the global community has agreed on ambitious targets to address biodiversity loss by 2030 as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD, 2022) and UNDP's Nature Pledge. As a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), India is committed to achieving these targets. Among the targets is the call to conserve 30% of land and marine area by 2030, known as 30x30<sup>[7]<sup>12</sup></sup>. Reaching this target will be a challenge for India. Legally protected areas in India fall into four categories - (1) Reserved/ Designated Forest Areas declared as such under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. (2) Protected Areas declared under any of the four categories of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 – National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves. The difference between the Community and Conservation reserve is that the former comprises community or private land and the latter comprises government land. (3) Biodiversity Heritage Sites notified under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. (4) Wetlands identified and notified under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. The total protected area after taking into account all the above cited measures is 914,074 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 27% (refer Table 1) of India's geographical area (refer "Achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and 16- Success stories from India")<sup>[8]<sup>13</sup></sup>. To meet the 30% target will require another 98,620 km<sup>2</sup> of terrestrial, inland wetland and marine areas to be added to the conservation estate. The increased focus on mainstreaming in the Kunming-Montreal GBF (targets 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 19, 21, and 22) represents an important opportunity to work with a whole of society approach. The new NBSAP that is under preparation will be the main vehicle for national engagements towards GBF Target 3 (in particular through aligning the new NBSAP with the GBF targets). To facilitate this and to ensure stronger involvement of local communities and private sector a national framework that recognizes OECMs as integral part of the country's conservation network will be defined. This will involve OECM policy development, improved criteria for identification of OECMs, in particular to ensure that they are better representative of inland waters and marine environments and areas that are under-represented in the protected area network, as well as to ensure improved connectivity between biodiversity rich areas and habitats within landscapes and seascapes. To obtain this, the project will support a coherent effort at the national level that would be supported by identification, creation, management and monitoring of OECMs and other conservation areas at the local level, which in turn would contribute to a more holistic national policy, finance, and MRV framework for public PAs, compared to the current baseline. In this regard, the project would focus on the following actions to develop national policy, directives, and procedures to support national recognition of OECMs and other community and private conservation areas to ensure a more embracive community and private sector engagement in conservation (Output 1.1). To support implementation of national policy on OECMs and other community and private conservation areas, the project will facilitate the development of State and Sub-State directives and coordination and governance mechanisms to apply the national policy on OECMs, because the function of identification, notification and decision-making on OECMs rests at the State, Divisional and District levels. This will be complemented by Output 1.3 that focuses on the development of an MRV system for OECMs and other conservation areas to assess management effectiveness of these conservation units. Implementation of OECMs and other conservation areas would be contingent on availability of financial resources, which is the focus of Component 2 in identifying and applying financial solutions emanating from the BIOFIN and BFP exercise in India. The BIOFIN exercise 2 and BFP will be aligned with the new NBSAP. The effectiveness of the efforts to promote OECMs and other conservation areas that will be assessed through the information architecture to support reporting and assessments of effectiveness of conservation outcomes (Output 4.3) that will provide the learning and experience to promote scaling up of OECMs and other conservation areas in other parts of the country as part of a national effort to meet the GBF 30x30 target. The project's focus on OECMs and other conservation areas will thus be national driven and part of an integrated approach (to ensure a more holistic national policy, finance, and MRV framework for public PAs. By integrating OECMs and other

conservation areas into the national policy, finance, and MRV framework for public PAs it will thereby provide an important contribution which will strengthen the frameworks ability to preserve important biodiversity (species and ecosystems etc.) in the long term.

**Table 1: Protected Area Coverage in India**

No	Protected Area Categories	Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Approximate Percentage land cover
1	PAs under Wildlife Protection Act (Terrestrial)	162,072.00	4.80
2	PAs under Wildlife Protection Act (Marine)	8,716.98	NA
4	Forest Reserves under Forest Act (excluding those overlapping with 1 above)	605,347.00	18.00
5	Designated wetlands under Environment protection Act (excluding those overlapping with 1 above)	145,714.00	4.00
6	Biodiversity Heritage Sites under Biodiversity Act	941.00	0.00
	<b>TOTAL</b> (Approximate total land area coverage)	914,074	27.00

Note: It is currently difficult to separate out inland waters PAs and coastal areas PAs from the Protected Areas estate.

Recognizing the immense pressure on existing PAs (i.e. from loss and degradation of ecological habitats, IAS, poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, unsustainable economic activities and climate change), there is now a profound commitment by India to expand its conservation estate, in particular to seek opportunities outside the traditional government managed protected areas (national parks, sanctuaries, forest reserves and other similar categories) to identify and allocate land for future conservation to bring an additional 3% of land and marine space under the conservation estate. As part of this effort, India will look at the options of OECMs as a key contributor to the 30x30 target to balance the developmental needs of the country as well as the creation/expansion of community [conservation and community reserves, community managed wetlands, fisheries management areas, coastal and marine conservation areas, Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCAs) etc.] and privately managed conservation areas. In regard to OECMs, the government has developed criteria and guidelines for identifying OECMs<sup>[9]<sup>14</sup></sup>. Based on the four mandatory general criteria and guidelines<sup>[10]<sup>15</sup></sup>, India has developed a 14-category classification organized into 3 groups (terrestrial, waterbodies, and marine) as defined in Table 2 below. These are managed by a range of different entities<sup>[11]<sup>16</sup></sup>. As India does not currently have any declared OECMs in the country, the project intends to establish the policies and improved criteria for recognition and declaration of OECMs in the country. As part of this process, the proposed project will focus on the identification, mapping, recognition, reporting, and effective management of OECMs in India through the following actions: (i) detailing of the existing national OECM guidelines to exclude or include new categories of OECMs so as to lead to the establishment of robust protocols for identification and recognition of different categories of OECMs in India; and (ii) identification and mapping of potential OECMs across the country based on the national guidelines. This will engage a range of stakeholders including the communities, academic and research institutions, state biodiversity boards, state forest departments, corporates, relevant state level line departments, etc.; (iii) recognition, reporting and effective management of OECMs by supporting its alignment with the global PA database (WDPA) and the OECM database (WDOECM) being managed by the WCMC and by bringing all recognized OECMs together on a National Database for OECMs to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency in management and reporting of OECMs; and (iv) communication and knowledge management for building capacities, political support and awareness on OECMs with a range of stakeholders including the communities, various Government departments, academic and research institutions, corporates, civil society organizations, and community-based

organizations. While it is recognized that it might not be feasible to exclusively look at OECMs to achieve the 30x30 target, the project will seek to identify new community and privately management conservation areas that can be brought under various legally defined forms of protected areas such as community and community co-management (community reserves, BHS, MPCAs, etc.) and private sector/industry management.

**Table 2: Categories of OECMs in India**

Terrestrial	Water Bodies		Marine
	Inland	Coastal	
Biodiversity Parks	Lakes and Ponds	Important Coastal Biodiversity Areas (ICBAs)	Important Marine Biodiversity Areas
Industrial Estates for Conservation Purposes	Riverine Water Bodies		Ecologically/Cultural/Internationally Significant Coastal and marine Areas (ECISCMA)
Village Commons/Lands	Agricultural Water Bodies		
Important Bird Areas and Important Birds and Biodiversity Areas	Canals		
Urban Trees and Forest (UTF)/Urban Greens/City Forests and Urban City Gardens			
Unique Agricultural Systems (UAS)			
Individual Green Lands			

Source: MOEFCC (2022): Criteria and guidelines for identifying OECMs in India:

Notwithstanding the above, a clear strategy and step-by-step approach will be taken into consideration to identify new conservation areas, so that the future allocation of these new areas also contributes to improving ecological representativeness, connectivity and landscape integrity. In this regard, the identification, mapping and allocation of these areas will be developed and tailored within a regional context (landscape or seascape approach), considering the specificities of each region (in this specific case of each of the ten biogeographic regions in the country). In this regard, the project will use the ten recognized biogeographic zones<sup>[12]<sup>17</sup></sup> within the country (based on the distribution of species, organisms and ecosystems in geographic space and through geological time) as the starting point for prioritizing landscapes/regions for mapping, identification and allocating OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas, so that these are then conceived and recognized as entities that can contribute to the overall conservation outcomes at a landscape level for each biogeographic zone. Given, the size of the country and the complexity of the administrative and political situation, coordination across the entire spectrum of institutional and political structures will be a challenge that needs to be overcome. Capacity constraints in the government (at all levels), private sector and community levels would be a major barrier to realizing the nation's commitment to enhance its conservation estate, while at the same time contributing to economic development, community and private sector empowerment in the conservation agenda and transforming to a new and untried conservation approach. India is at an advantage that the existing legislation and policies have proven effective and efficient for conserving biodiversity within a broad and varied protected area system that also recognizes community stewardship that promotes sustainable resource use, benefit sharing and local decision-making. This approach allows for the declaration of protected areas (under the Wildlife Protection Act), reserved forests, protected forests and village forest, including (under the Forest Conservation Act), Biodiversity Heritage sites (under Biological Diversity Act), ecologically sensitive and important coastal areas, including mangroves, corals/coral reefs, areas close to breeding and spawning grounds of fish and other marine life, areas of outstanding natural beauty/historically/heritage areas, areas rich in genetic diversity (notification under Environment Protection Act for declaring coastal regulation zones), wetland conservation areas (Environment Protection Act – Wetland Conservation and Management Rules).

While India does not have a large organized formal biodiversity economy, there are significant tangible and intangible economic benefits that are derived from conservation areas, from provision of ecosystem services to direct economic benefits to local communities, regional economies and private sector (through tourism, resource use, etc.). OECMs that are geographically defined areas generally have high biodiversity and ecosystem services value, that can be governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained outcomes for biodiversity conservation in combination with other land-uses, and are outside of the formal protected areas network. Institutional mechanisms already exists to support the formal protected area system, but institutional and coordination mechanisms for encouraging biodiversity stewardship for OECMs with stakeholders including government, NGOs and the private sector and representatives of other sectors, notably the increased involvement of the business and finance communities would be critical to achieve conservation and development targets.

### **Threats and barriers to achieving global targets**

There are a number of threats that vary across the different biogeographic zones. Within the context and limits of the proposed project, these specific threats will be addressed within the proposed OECMs and new conservation areas to be defined. These include, in particular, the following:

Loss and degradation of forests and other habitats: Degradation from conversion of forest and other habitats to agriculture and encroachment of forestlands and uncontrolled grazing by domestic livestock and poor agricultural practices, in particular in intact forests outside protected areas. The primary drivers of habitat loss and fragmentation have been quarrying and mining, forest fires, uncontrolled grazing and encroachment. Poverty in the rural areas, coupled with landlessness, and weak tenure security also discourages sustainable farming practices leading to the increase in reliance on subsistence agriculture that future facilitates forest degradation. Deteriorating productivity of upland farms, in particular in mountain areas has forced many communities to shorten their fallow periods in between forest clearings thus limiting the time for open forest areas to recover naturally.

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Invasive alien species (IAS) pose one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. The uncontrolled spread of IAS is due in part to lack of awareness of IAS and their impacts on the ecosystem to which they are introduced, poor understanding of their ecology and life cycle growth; lack of assessment of the environmental impacts of newly introduced species; and lack of regulation. Contributing to these are the disjointed policies and programs that promote agricultural productivity, that fail to consider the holistic view and recognize the long-term net effects of IAS introduction on farm income, natural resilience of agriculture, and quality and quantity of food production.

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Poaching and illegal trade in wildlife that is practiced mainly in the northeast as part of subsistence hunting has been ongoing from the past. Hunting is thus a major cause of decline of specific species and loss of biodiversity, including disappearance of large mammals. Further, animals are killed as a result of ingress into the crop fields. One of the reasons for difficulty in addressing hunting in some of these areas is interdependence of socio-economic needs and protein requirements of some of the rural and traditional communities. In addition, a number of bird species have become rare, endangered or even extinct due to hunting and trapping for illegal trade.

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Unsustainable Development and Population Pressure Ingress of human settlements in forest areas is one of the major reasons for habitat loss and depletion of forest that cause forest loss, fragment forests, affect the fragile habitats particularly in hilltops, where such clearing can lead to high soil erosion due to loss of vegetation cover. This affects the stability of hillsides and makes them more prone to natural calamities, soil erosion, deficiency in water retention and cause biodiversity loss. Particular local species introduced to new natural environment could influence various forms of imbalance to ecological network.

Upstream sediment and hydrological fluxes: The combination of combination of economic activity (fishing, tourism, transport, etc.) and increasing population is exerting pressure on the coastal and marine ecosystems that is already affected by pressures due to climate change. Upstream changes in hydrology and sediment fluxes as a result of development activities are resulting in changes in salinity patterns that negatively impacts coastal wetlands like mangroves and estuaries as well as coral reefs, sea grass beds and salt marshes.

Climate change is likely to pose problems through unpredictable weather patterns that increase the likelihood of natural disasters and failed crop cultivation. A recent study indicated that El Niño-Southern Oscillation may strengthen under future climate change conditions and this would lead to increased droughts, disease outbreaks, wildfires and even social unrest in Asia. Studies on climate change in the Himalayas indicate that climatic changes could lead to diminishing crop and livestock diversity, which will have implications for agro-biodiversity and food security. Climate change, especially warming is known to cause upward migration of both plants and animals. Climate change increase risk for species with narrow geographic range or climatic range, particularly larger or more specialized species.

### **Key Barrier to the effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems outside the Protected Area network**

The main barriers to the expansion of the PA network and integration of OECMs are the following:

*Barrier 1: Lack of an enabling national framework for strengthening ecologically representativeness, connectivity and ecological integrity within a landscape and/or seascape context:* While, there is significant recognition of the value of integrated and inclusive approaches to conservation (and promoted at project levels) in India, there is no existing national policy and institutional framework that supports integrated landscape and seascape planning and management. The current approach to planning and management of landscapes and seascapes remains sectoral and is governed by a multitude of separate sector policies, legislation, regulations and institutional arrangements that makes it impossible to ensure complementarity of approaches. Consequently, the conservation landscape of India has resulted in largely isolated distribution of protected areas (national parks, sanctuaries, reserved forests, village forests, community and conservation forests and other legally defined areas) resulting in fragmentation of conservation areas, gaps in ecological representatives, limited connectivity between conservation areas and lack of ecological integrity.

*Barrier 2: Limited private sector engagement and financing is an impediment to promotion of support for co-management of OECMs and other managed conservation areas:* This is constrained by the current approach of nature being viewed as an externality by business and finance sector in India. To incentivize and change this thinking would require creating an enabling policy environment for businesses to integrate nature and biodiversity as a core risk and internality in all business operations; incentivizing and capacitating responsible reporting and disclosure by businesses on their impact on nature and biodiversity; [\[13\]<sup>18</sup>](#) and piloting innovative measures through responsible investing. This will also offer an excellent opportunity for Indian businesses to participate towards achieving the global targets for biodiversity conservation by supporting pathways and investment in biodiversity economy and promote industry-led portfolio of OECMs identified for conservation.

*Barrier 3: Variance in governance and management of OECMs and high conservation value areas (including community and privately managed conservation areas) increases challenges for planning and management:* The protected areas and OECMs (that have been currently recognized) are governed and managed by varying entities including government (forestry, wildlife



conservation, coast conservation, public works, wetland authority, etc.) at different administrative levels (national, state, district, divisional and local), security entities, communities and private sector/industry. This complex array of institutional structures can be a constraint to ensure a collective and consensus building approach to planning and management of landscapes and seascapes that would require a strengthened and coordinated approach to integrated and inclusive planning and management of these landscapes and seascapes.

*Barrier 4: Lack of standardized monitoring tools constraints the ability to measuring, auditing and reporting of management effectiveness, threats and condition of conservation areas:* The absence of effective and standardized protocols and capacity for measuring, monitoring and reporting of the management effectiveness of conservation efforts prevents a good understanding of the transformative outcomes to communities, business and local development. Monitoring is constrained by (i) lack of monitoring and tools; (ii) variations in governance (see barrier 3 above) and (iii) lack of funding (see barrier 2 above). Even though there seems to be strong potential and government commitment to enhance and expand its conservation estate and outcomes, there is a concomitant need to, in line with international best practice, assess and report on the impacts of investments in conservation so as to guide future investment decisions. This will require guidance on how to regularly monitor, assess and transparently disclose the management effectiveness of investments, and assess change in current nature-related dependencies, risks, impacts and opportunities for key sectors.

*Barrier 5: Lack of capacity and awareness to encourage communities, private sector and indigenous people in replicating and expanding the management of OECMs and other conservation areas:* The lack of awareness of the benefits and incentives that can be accessed from conservation action has been an impediment to obtain political, community and private sector support to promotion and expansion of the conservation estate. Low awareness of risks posed to natural areas and biodiversity (particularly on the dependence of these resources for food security and livelihoods by local communities means that there is little local and public priority for supporting conservation actions on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. Underlying these difficulties is the lack of appropriate and sustainable solutions for effective management of the forests and associated ecosystems and for their ecosystem services. Although there has been documentation of experiences from the past, there is also a lack of regular review processes that involve community organizations, non-governmental environmental organizations and research agencies, thus limiting opportunities for replication and scaling up of best practices. Similar, while there is increasing global awareness of the need for protection of biodiversity, there is limited sharing of information between institutions and local communities and private industry to enable the pursuit of collective actions. This constrains opportunities for scaling up and replication of integrated approaches.

## Baseline

The project is timely in light of the recent agreement of G20 leaders (September 2023) to adopt a global goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 as part of its endorsement of the Green Development Pact that will serve as a blueprint of strong actions to power green development across the world.<sup>[14]<sup>19</sup></sup> The project approach will build on the current baseline and take into consideration lessons learned from previous projects. The baseline investments, initiatives, projects and commitments include key MEAs such as Nationally Determined Contributions 2022, National Action Plan on Climate Change 2008, National Adaptation Plan 2008, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023 and National Environment Policy 2006. The project supports the achievement of the country's targets/commitments towards area-based conservation and climate action. These include the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Global Biodiversity Framework's Targets 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 19, 21, and 22. The new NBSAP that is under preparation will be the main vehicle for national engagements towards GBF Target 3 (in particular through aligning the new NBSAP with the GBF targets). The intent is to facilitate and ensure stronger involvement of local communities and private sector through a national framework that recognizes OECMs as integral part of the country's conservation network. The project also supports India's NDCs towards creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030; and India's Land Degradation Neutrality commitment to conserve and restore 26 million

hectares of land by 2030. India is also a member of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, which supports the 30x30 Target to conserve 30 percent area of the planet by 2030.

In terms of the BIOFIN baseline, India, presently, as a Party to the CBD is updating its NBSAP and is also in the process of making national biodiversity targets aligned with the KMGBF. During the national and regional consultations, Target 3 is emerging as a central piece of NBSAP. GOI is of the view that Target 3 is achievable considering that they are able to mobilize resources through innovative financing mechanisms. Also in order to fulfill this commitment to Target 3, India has joined the high ambition coalition (30X30) in the year 2021. NBA would work with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to amend their schedule of activities to include biodiversity conservation as one of the main thrust areas; and work with corporates to support strengthening OECMs. The GEF 8 project will build on the existing baseline activities identified in BIOFIN Phase 1 (and BFP) such as mainstreaming biodiversity into public sector schemes, CSR, ABS and others (refer Annex J) as well as opportunities emerging from the Phase 2 activities.

The proposed project will also be aligned with Government of India's emerging National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-being (NMBHW). It promotes the One Health Concept to curtail future pandemics, strong and extensive staff to meet the environmental challenges, cultural change in education and promoting nature-based solutions to environmental challenges. The ongoing Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (IDWH) Scheme provides financial support to the protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats in Protected Areas (PAs) as well as outside PAs, including community and privately managed conservation areas and also for the recovery programs of the critically endangered species. The Project Tiger and Project Elephant Centrally Funded Scheme provides funding to areas outside reserves to reduce human-animal conflict, enhance relationships with local communities and regenerate forest habitats outside the tiger reserves by investing in forest, water and grassland economies of the people. The Centrally funded National Afforestation program is aimed at restoring ecologically damaged forests and develop forest resources with people's participation, with an emphasis on improving the livelihoods of forest-fringe communities. The National Mission on Medicinal Plants financially supports the promotion of Medicinal Plant Conservation Area (MPCA) and Medicinal Plant Development Area (MPDA). Green Mission India supports increasing forest/tree cover and improve the quality of existing forests by a target of 10 million hectares of forests.

However, despite the fact that India has an extensive array of protected areas (including forest reserves, community conservation areas and other related categories), it lacks a national policy, improved criteria for identification and demarcation and means to operationalize and recognize OECMs as an integral part of the country's conservation network. In other words, the absence of a coherent effort at the national level to support the identification, creation, management and monitoring of OECMs and other conservation areas at the local level, prevents the operationalization of more holistic approach to expansion and management of public PAs. The absence of identified financial strategies/resources to support promotion of community and private sector OECMs as well as an information architecture to support assessment and reporting of the effectiveness of conservation outcomes is a shortcoming. Needed, therefore is system that can integrate conservation areas (and OECMs, when these are identified and operationalized) into the national policy, finance, and MRV framework for public PAs to strengthen existing efforts to preserve biodiversity (species and ecosystems etc.) in the long term, which is a prime objective of the GEF 8 project.

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[1] Ram Kumar Singh et al (2020). A machine learning-based classification of LANDSAT images to map land use and land cover in India

[2] Puyravaud, Jean-Philippe, et al (2010). Cryptic destruction of India's native forests.

[3] Ghosh-Harihar, et al (2019). Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation in India. Biological Conservation. Elsevier

[4] Pandey-Rai, Shashi and Arora, Neha (2014). India's fifth national report to the convention on biological diversity.

[5] Byers, E (2018). Global Climate and development hotspot assessment. Asia under pressure, IIASA

[6] Singh, Kripal, et al (2022). Ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems in India: Science and practices. Biological Conservation. Elsevier

[7] One of the key targets included under the proposed Global Biodiversity Framework calls for 30% of the earth's land and sea to be conserved through the establishment of protected areas (PAs) and other area-based conservation measures (OECMs).



[8] India's PAs are shown as 235,711 km<sup>2</sup> (230,168 km<sup>2</sup> of terrestrial and inland waters PA coverage and 5,543 km<sup>2</sup> of marine PA coverage) in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPAs). The WDPA figure does not take into account the protected areas under Indian Forest Act, 1927, Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Wetlands (Conservation) Rules, 2017. Hence, an important challenge at project implementation is to ensure that the WDPA figures are aligned with the Government of India figures (as reflected in the 6<sup>th</sup> National Report).

[9] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and United National Development Program (2022)

[10] IUCN (2019). Recognizing and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures

[11] The management of these OECMs are under various entities such as: local village and traditional community groups, Panchayat functionaries, Cooperative Associations, Village Development Boards, Biodiversity Management Committees, municipal corporations, nature clubs, ecodevelopment committees, private industry, companies and organizations, private individuals, Conservation Trusts and Foundations, Natural History Societies, non-project organizations, and others.

[12] Rodgers, W.A. and Panwar, H.S. Planning a Wildlife Protected Area Network for India. Wildlife Institute of India (1988) and include the Trans Himalayan zone, Himalayan zone, Desert zone, Semiarid zone, Western Ghat zone, Deccan Plateau zone, Gangetic Plain zone, North East zone, Coastal zone and Islands.

[13] Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) disclosure recommendations and guidance for reporting

[14] [India's G20 Presidency: 2nd Sherpa Meeting Side event on Green Development: Need for an ambitious vision for 21st century](#)

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

- The description of the problems, threats and barriers related to meeting the KMGBF 30x30 target is outlined in Section A. Potential scenarios based on existing baselines and gaps in other initiatives are discussed in the text below, with the aim of defining the desired scope of the project.

Although, there has been some recent practice in promotion of integrated and coordinated approaches to the planning and management of landscapes and seascapes, in particular through the projects, it is not recognized as an implicit priority at national or state levels. As a consequence there is likely to be less desire to look at protected areas within a broader landscape/seascape context, in particular to address existing gaps in coverage and ensure the overall ecological integrity of the conservation network. Given the above baseline factors, the lack of integrated and coordination approach is likely to result in significant areas of high biodiversity outside the PA network remaining unprotected and vulnerable to external threats and pressures. Hence, the probability of further loss and degradation of biodiversity and ecological services across the regions will remain **high**. Challenges in addressing this need is further constrained due to gaps in comparable baseline data across the eleven landscapes/seascapes (refer Annex C) that will be further elaborated during the PPG stage. To assess the project's robustness, the proposal development team has developed simple narratives that explore potential future changes in key drivers beyond the project's scope. These narratives are not centered on varying degrees of integrated management, which the project intends to address, instead, they focus on external factors. Key external drivers are outlined below, which are now supporting the proposed project in better assessing its resilience to external factors and uncertainties:

External Driver 1 – Policy and Governance: There is currently a lack of enabling conditions for operationalizing OECMs and enhancing other community and private conservation areas. Although, the project will address policy and governance, there is lack of Government commitment and willingness to swiftly create the necessary comprehensive enabling conditions for operationalizing OECMs and supporting the enhancement of community and private

conservation areas. This would be further constrained by the limited capacity to establish and enforce MRV system to monitor and report on the effectiveness of management of these conservation networks. While, the project intends to address this under Component 1, this can still present a risk to the development of a coherent framework for the extension of the conservation network through adequate policies, finances, demonstration modules and MRV systems aimed at reducing or mitigating adverse economic impacts.

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External Driver 2: Potential uncertainty of future financial situation and impacts on conservation outcomes: India has currently a robust and expanding economy, with an impressive economic growth of 7% in 2022. However, the war in Ukraine and the conflict in other regions, have elevated food and fuel prices that threatens to upend the fight against inflation that can fundamentally alter India's economic outlook in the future. The changing financial situation can lead to increased support for economic development, at the expense of support for enhancing the conservation network to achieve the KMGBF 30x30 target. While, the project intends to support integration of conservation, economic and ecosystem services delivery through the integrated and inclusive landscape/seascape approach. And while this includes cluster levels demonstrations to reduce or mitigate any impacts from adverse financial situations, this can be a risk that will be dependent on uncertain future financial situation in the country.

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External Driver 3 – Inability to accurately predict the future climate situation: In the event that climate change effects intensify beyond current projections, the project's ability to withstand and respond to heightened climate impacts becomes critical and poses a potential risk. Adaptation strategies for more dire climate-related challenges will need to be explored. This includes specific focus on interventions to enhance conservation outcomes, promote sustainable resource use and improve governance through broadening it to the participation of community institutions. It also includes engagement with private sector that can help improve local ownership and thereby likely enhance the resilience of communities and private interests to climate change risks.

At PPG stage, further assessment will be undertaken of potential future risks associated with the above three external drivers to help design management interventions to manage and mitigate these risks.

The baseline scenario in the absence of a GEF intervention would be the slow enunciation of policies and governance with weak capacity and finances for enhancing the conservation network. Resulting in increased pressure on the remaining forested and other ecosystems (from encroachment and conversion of forests to other uses, illegal wildlife trade, and unsustainable development and population pressures). This would likely prevent achievement of India's KMGBF 30x30 target. Because interventions are broadly seeking to address the problems of policy development, governance and financial innovation, two key axes of uncertainty can be drawn from these drivers. The first is related to economic conditions and the second to government commitment to new policies and practices that promote enhancement of the conservation network in the country. These two axes will also likely be affected by climate change uncertainties. A set of future narratives are therefore framed around the growth in the economy and government commitment to strengthened policy and governance, leading to the following narratives:

**Narrative 1. Slower policy reform and slower financial innovation:** With slower policy change and less financial resources for conservation, there will be increased pressure on the forests and other ecosystems. This will reduce the opportunity for establishment of new categories of conservation areas (OECMs, and community and private conservation areas) to meet the KMGBF 30x30 target. The capacity to plan for climate change is diminished, resulting in further impacts on natural forests and other ecosystems.

**Narrative 2. Faster policy reform and slower financial innovation:** The relatively rapid evolution of policy reform and governance for operationalizing OECMs and other categories of conservation areas can lead to increased opportunities for identification and demarcation of OECMs and other conservation areas. However, the lag in the emergence of novel

financial solutions can undermine efforts to enhance the management effectiveness of the conservation estate. The capacity to plan for climate change is diminished, so the impact of new policies will likely not be fully realized and unlikely to have enduring impact.

**Narrative 3: Faster policy reform and faster financial innovation:** Accelerating policy reform and financial innovation can significantly enhance the creation of an effective conservation network. Innovative financial solutions, by capitalizing on supportive policy and governance frameworks, can open up new opportunities for conservation. The project aims to boost conservation outcomes, encourage sustainable resource use, and enhance governance by involving community institutions and the private sector more broadly. Such involvement is expected to offer incentives and bolster local ownership, which, in turn, is likely to improve the resilience of both communities and private stakeholders to climate change risks.

In all the above narratives, there are underlying trends towards pressure on the forests and natural ecosystems, that require new policies, enhanced governance and financial resources to develop and enhance the conservation network in the country. As a consequence, there is an opportunity for the delivery of global environmental benefits in the form of enhanced conservation network in critical areas to enhance ecological representativeness, connectivity and ecosystem integrity, coupled with adaptation to climate change and better environmental security. However, the relatively straightforward approach to this that might be considered under narrative 1 will fail in the other futures because of the higher pressures on existing forests and other natural ecosystems and climate change. As a result, the project planning needs to include active measures to build environmental security and resilience for dealing with all future scenarios. While, narrative 2 is a step in the forward direction, the lack of adequate financial measures will likely stifle efforts to reach a desired outcome. A strong emphasis on policy and governance reform with complementary financial innovations that support the achievement of the KMGBF 30x30 target and resultant global environmental benefits would also be essential. Narrative 3 is more likely to deliver robust responses to the future uncertainty.

### **Theory of Change:**

The project's Theory of Change (as presented in Figure 1) makes the assumption that underlying the project's feasibility is the potential to enhance the conservation estate to meet 30x30 target as well as reverse, or at least, not accelerate the ongoing process of environmental degradation, whilst delivering benefits to communities. It is also premised on the commitment of the key stakeholders (public, private and communities) to actions in achieving this overall objective through the potential and sustainable uses of available terrestrial, coastal and marine resources. Proven management practices for ongoing and past projects, new and innovative technologies promoted through the project and financial solutions are factors that will help catalyze and scale-up change. To achieve this transformational change, the project's logical pathways are discussed below:

Five barriers were identified as key hindrances for maintaining and enhancing the conservation estate to improve ecological representativeness, connectivity and ecological integrity. These include the following:

- Barriers relating to national framework (policy, directives and capacity).
- Barriers relating to governance and management
- Barriers related to financing.
- Barriers related to monitoring
- Barriers related to awareness

The project's logical pathways are discussed below:

In response to these barriers, 17 key outputs were identified consistently applying six system transformation levers of the GEF-8: policy and capacity, coordination with parallel initiatives<sup>[1]<sup>20</sup></sup>, multi-sectoral governance, financial leverage, innovation and learning. The transformation levers also helped to thematically cluster program outputs into **five** interlinked and inter-dependent components. This intervention pathway sets a route to arrive at a coherent overall conservation framework to achieve KMGBF Target 3 through promotion of national policy, sustainable finance and MRV framework for public PAs and OECMs compared to the current baseline. To achieve this coherent approach, the project would in component 1 focus on the following actions to develop national policy, directives, and procedures to support national recognition of OECMs and other community and private conservation areas to ensure a more embracing community and private sector engagement in conservation (Output 1.1). To support implementation of national policy on OECMs and other community and private conservation areas, the project will facilitate the development of State and Sub-State directives and coordination and governance mechanisms to apply the national policy on OECMs, because the function of identification, notification and decision-making on OECMs rests at the State, Divisional and District levels. This will be **complemented by Output 1.4** that focuses on the development of an MRV system for OECMs and other conservation areas to assess management effectiveness of these conservation units. Implementation of OECMs and other conservation areas would be contingent on availability of financial resources, which is the focus of Component 2 in identifying and applying financial solutions emanating from the BIOFIN and BFP exercise in India. The BIOFIN exercise 2 and BFP will be aligned with the new NBSAP. The effectiveness of the efforts to promote OECMs and other conservation areas that will be assessed through the information architecture to support reporting and assessments of effectiveness of conservation outcomes (Outputs 1.4 and 4.3) that will provide the learning and experience to promote scaling up of OECMs and other conservation areas in other parts of the country as part of a national effort to meet the GBF 30x30 target. The project's focus on OECMs and other conservation areas will thus be national driven and part of an integrated and holistic approach to ensure a more comprehensive conservation network to meet the KMGBF 30x30 Target 3. Component 3 will focus on creating lasting behavioral change within local communities (including private industry) by facilitating sustainable resource use as well as supporting small-scale enterprises and livelihood investments and hence interest in increasing the coverage of the conservation estate through OECMs and other community and private conservation areas. Component 4 will also facilitate the replication and expansion of conservation area coverage efforts across various landscapes and seascapes within the country. As a means of replication, this component will also support the development of a national strategy that further elaborates criteria for prioritizing landscapes/seascapes and step-by-step procedures/practices for clustered planning (for OECMs and other high conservation value areas), the latter to ensure that decisions related to conservation are made at a landscape or seascape (and eventually at the local level) rather than at a parcel-by-parcel level to ensure that it captures the biological, social uniqueness and representativeness of an entire ecological system. Component 5 provides a cross-cutting approach to support monitoring protocols to track progress towards meeting planned environmental and socio-economic benefits from the project to provide for adaptive management as needed.

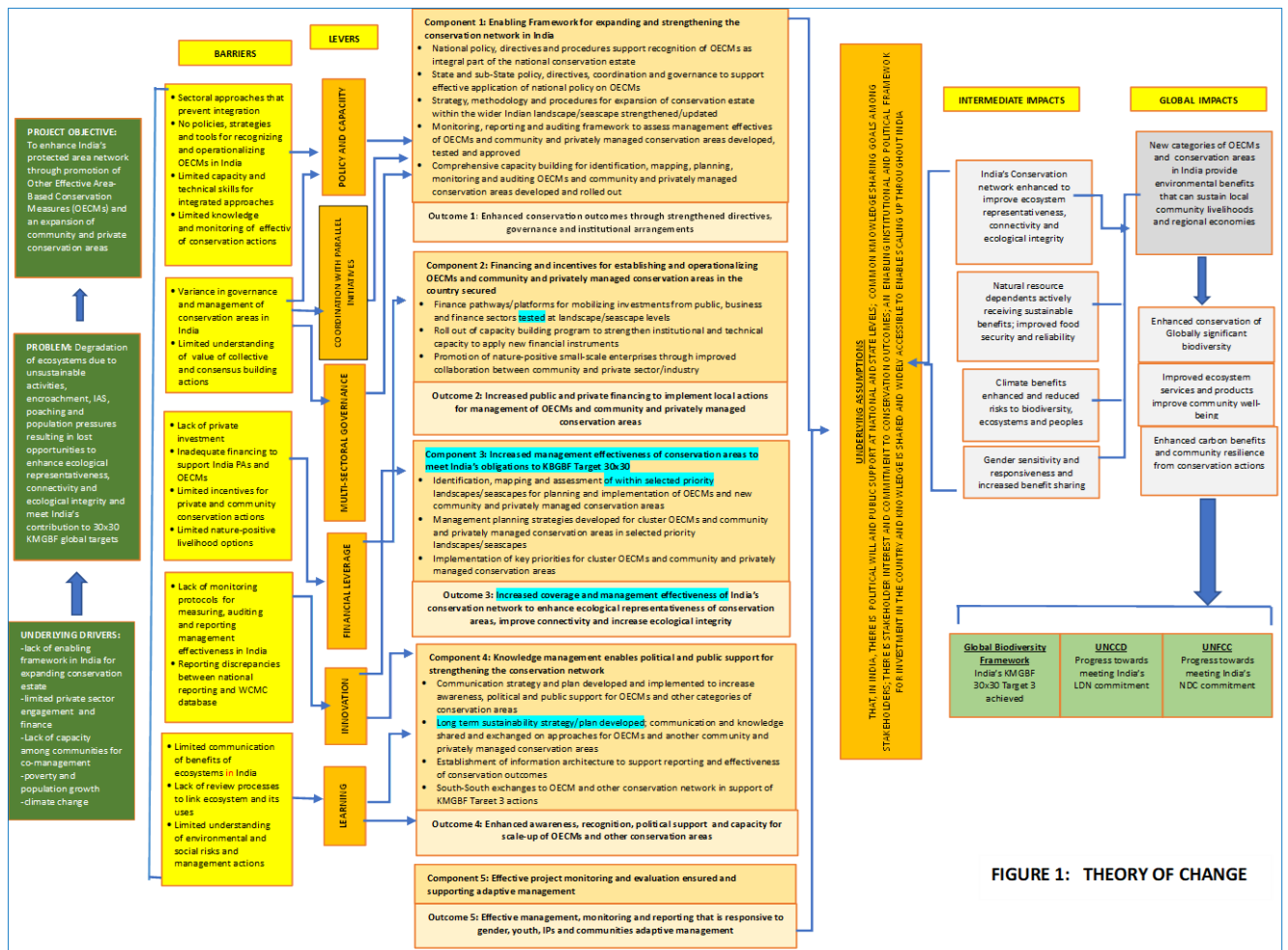


FIGURE 1: THEORY OF CHANGE

## Project Components

Based on the Theory of Change (above), the proposed alternative scenario involves the following Components:

### Component 1: Enabling framework for expanding and strengthening the conservation network in India

(Total Cost: USD 11,329,863; GEF project grant requested: USD 1,329,863; Co-financing: USD 10,000,000)

This will entail strengthening the policy and institutional framework that enables the participation of all relevant public, NGOs, private stakeholders and communities (including men, women, vulnerable people and indigenous groups) to enhance the conservation estate in India with the intent to ensure that gaps in ecological representation within the country are addressed and build viability and integrity within the conservation system. The introduction of policy, directives and practices for national recognition and acceptance of OECMs within all branches of government (as well as private sector and the public) can help in promoting an inclusive framework that integrates protected areas, forest reserves, biodiversity rich coastal and marine habitats and ecosystems and other community and privately managed areas and OECMs in helping India meet its commitments to the 30x30 GBF targets. This would entail the strengthening of existing or creating new multi-level governance and coordination frameworks that operate at the national, state, district and panchayat levels. The OECM national policy development and improved criteria for identification of OECMs, will ensure that they are better representative of inland waters and marine environments and areas that are under-represented in the protected area network, as well as ensure improved connectivity between biodiversity rich areas and habitats within landscapes and seascapes. Component 1 (in consonance with Components 2 and 3) will provide a coherent effort at the national level to contribute to a more holistic national policy, finance, and MRV framework for public PAs, compared to the current baseline. The new NBSAP that is under preparation will be the main vehicle for national engagements towards GBF Target 3 (in particular through aligning the new NBSAP with the GBF targets) and thus for integration of OECMs and community and private conservation areas into national policy, finance, and MRV framework for public PAs. Policies, directives and

governance mechanisms will ensure mainstreaming of gender issues to ensure that these do not perpetuate or deepen historical inequalities or marginalize women's rights, erode their land rights or overlook the rights within local communities.

## **Outcome 1: Enhanced conservation outcomes through strengthened directives, governance and institutional arrangements** This Outcome will have five Outputs:

### ***Output 1.1: National policy, directives, and procedures to support recognition of OECMs as integral part of the national biodiversity conservation estate***

This Output is intended to review and evaluate existing national policies (including standards, guidelines, mandates, etc.) in order to assess the best option (new and/or existing) to support the promotion of OECMs as a new and innovative approach to enhancing conservation outcomes in India. This might require creation of new national policy and directives for OECMs (and complemented at the state levels) for integration of OECMs and other conservation areas into existing protected area or forest policies, as appropriate. The intent is to align OECMs in the national context to ensure that the OECM framework is recognized in national policy and has the national government's political commitment to its 30x30 GBF targets to enable buy-in and support at different national and sub-national levels (state, district and panchayat levels). Overall, this will help to also align OECMs with the country's existing protected area legislation, policy and implementation framework. In addition to national directives related to OECM, the intent is to provide clear guidelines and procedures for identification, mapping, allocation and management of OECMs and assessing their management effectiveness, that will include the review and update of existing criteria for OECMs<sup>[2]<sup>21</sup></sup>, to include additional categories and promote a more robust approach for the identification of OECMs within the coastal and marine environments. Establishing these national policies and related directives will need consultation and agreement with important stakeholder groups (state and sub-state governments, and sector entities, private sector and community representatives).

### ***Output 1.2: State and sub-State policy, directives, coordination and governance mechanisms to support effective application of national policy on OECMs***

Since decisions regarding the expansion of OECMs and other conservation areas are made at the state and sub-state levels, it is important that States (and sub-state entities) align their policies (or create new policies) with the national OECM policy. To do so, the States will issue state level government orders and/or directives to align with the national context to ensure that the OECM framework is mainstreamed with state government policies and practices and their respective sectors. Additionally, the States will establish coordination and governance mechanisms to support decisions regarding identification and allocation of lands for OECMs and/or for expansion of the existing community and privately managed conservation systems (mainly related to community reserves, conservation reserves, BHS, MPCAs, industrial estates, etc.), in the form of an OECM Council at State level (or other similar arrangement) under the leadership of the Chief Secretary of the State and include representatives for key government sectors (forestry, wildlife, coastal and marine resources, inland wetlands, public works, irrigation, state administration and finance, etc.) and private and community sectors to make decisions regarding the allocation of land for OECMs and other categories of conservation areas. At the district and panchayat levels, efforts will be made to strengthen existing coordination arrangements (through engagement of District Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees (at Panchayat level) to include the mandate of OECMs.

### ***Output 1.3: Strategy, methodology and procedures for identification and expansion of the conservation estate, including OECMs within the wider landscape and seascapes strengthened***



The objectives of 30x30 GBF are to enhance the conservation estate, but also to ensure that biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection and landscape integrity and improving socio-economic benefits is taken into active consideration. Hence a clear strategy and step-by-step approach is needed to ensure that the identification and allocation of new conservation value areas and expansion of existing ones are undertaken in a manner that also effectively contributes to improving ecological representativeness, connectivity and landscape integrity. In this regard, the identification, mapping and allocation of these areas are developed and tailored within a regional context (landscape or seascape approach), considering the specificities of each region (in this specific case of each of the ten biogeographic regions in the country). The project used the ten recognized biogeographic zones<sup>[3]<sup>22</sup></sup> within the country (based on the distribution of species, organisms and ecosystems in geographic space and through geological time) as the starting point for prioritizing landscapes/regions for mapping that will be later used for identification and allocating OECMs and other conservation value areas for expansion of the conservation estate so that they are then conceived and recognized as entities that can contribute to the overall conservation outcomes for each biogeographic zone (or landscape). Using criteria (to be further refined at PPG stage) such as (i) gaps in ecological representation based on biogeographic zones of India; (ii) using the global standard of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for identifying areas of high conservation value; (iii) opportunities for achieving landscape connectivity; (iv) and consensus among key government, private and community entities to OECMs; and (v) available of co-financing of conservation actions through existing national and state-level programs. Eleven landscapes and seascapes within the ten biogeographic were prioritized for expansion of conservation estate (e.g. through OECMs, new community and privately managed conservation areas). Refer Annex C for maps and descriptions of these landscapes/seascapes and their biological significance. The outcome of this Output will be the further prioritization/ranking of landscapes/seascapes towards meeting the 30x30 GBF targets during the project phase and beyond, so that such allocations will take place in a staggered manner based on capacity, manpower and financial resources. It will also help develop and test a clear methodology and procedures for identification, assessment, mapping and allocation of land for OECMs (and other conservation areas) and its approval and planning processes that can be both applied for scaling up at a landscape/seascape level within India and outside the country. A national tool, including criteria, planning and assessment of management effectiveness for OECM and other conservation value areas will be developed and tested to allow for intensive assessment of a site's ability to meet desired conservation outcomes. The assessment tool will be flexible to accommodate the variability across various biogeographic zones and sites. This assessment tool will be institutionalized within a specific institution (to be identified at PPG stage), but could likely include Wildlife Institute of India, Indian Regional Association for Wildlife Ecology, IUCN-India or WWF-India.

***Output 1.4: Monitoring, reporting and auditing framework to assess the management effectiveness of the OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas developed, tested and approved***

There is a clear need to develop a methodology that acts as a companion (and in consonance with Outputs 1.1 and 1.2,) to the national OECM Guidelines for reporting on the effectiveness of declared OECMs and other conservation areas to ensure that they meet the international standards. However, the challenges are agreeing on the indicators amongst stakeholders to ensure that a critical mass of people support the objectives. Monitoring would cover biodiversity, ecosystem services and other social values –to track success and failure over time and to trigger management changes (adaptive management) if core values are declining. A thorough understanding of what does and does not work also helps generate lessons to facilitate future projects and scale-up ambitions. Defining the most suitable monitoring system(s) will take into consideration the local context in terms of governance and management as these can vary from one type of OECM (and/or PA) to another as well as the local political environment and commitment of landowners. The monitoring system will be backed up with standardized (but differently tailored) reporting systems based on the governance and ownership of the OECMs. The project will facilitate the development and testing of monitoring protocols and procedures with the intent of formalizing a standardized methodology (such as a modified and simplified METT tool) that can be applied in the longer term, in particular to ensure that funding is linked to management effectiveness. A suitable institution will be identified at PPG stage to lead this effort, institutionalize training necessary to conduct the assessment nationwide and develop a curriculum to train a number of auditors who will in the longer term serve as a resource to carry out the monitoring and

auditing. Potential to link this auditing and certification process to existing international (Rainforest Alliance and Forest Stewardship Council) or national certification programs will be assessed at PPG stage.

***Output 1.5: Comprehensive capacity building program for identification, mapping, planning, monitoring and auditing of the OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas developed and rolled out***

Output 1.5 will deliver a program to build the capacity of government, private sector, NGO and community level stakeholders at national, state, district and local levels to support the identification, mapping, planning, management and assessment related to OECMs (and other community and privately managed conservation areas) and broader expansion of the conservation estate using a landscape/seascape approach as the building block for ensuring that this takes place within an integrated and inclusive approach. The project will deliver training in priority sectors to build their capacity to look at OECMs and other conservation areas in the broader context (forestry, agriculture, medicinal plants, wetlands, marine and coastal fisheries, security institutions, private sector, industry and financial sectors). This will entail a capacity needs assessment to facilitate the development of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Stakeholder Engagement plan (SEP) responsive six-year capacity development plans for the project. Participation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups and private sector representatives will be strongly encouraged and ensured for both national and state level groups. During PPG stage, an assessment will be undertaken to identify potential agencies (or a combination of institutions) for institutionalization, part or whole of the capacity development program. Potential institutes might include (i) the Wildlife Institute of India, (ii) National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management; (iii) Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (for medicinal plant conservation); (ii) Indian Council for Agricultural Research (agrobiodiversity conservation); (v) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and others.

**Component 2: Financing and incentives for establishing and operationalizing OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas in the country secured**

(Total Cost: USD 4,569,941; GEF project grant requested: USD 569,941; Co-financing: USD 4,000,000)

Building on the findings of BIOFIN work in India (refer Annex J), the intent under Component 2 is to identify innovative financial instruments and their implementation mechanisms for promotion of OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas that could be applied at the national level with institutional entities that have a clear mandate on biodiversity and a demonstrable role in biodiversity finance. The Biodiversity Finance Plan for India identifies a mix of twelve potential replicable and scalable financial solutions (e.g. corporate social responsibility, ecological fiscal transfers, sustainable standards and labeling, ecolabels, ecotourism, augmentation of public budgetary support, diaspora savings and investment, revenue from environmental penalties and PES based on tourism) for filling the funding gap, recognizing that public financing which has been the mainstay of biodiversity finance in the past, will need to be supplemented by other sources of funding. However, with the new opportunities that the GOI has identified, including financing for protected areas and OECMs, it is anticipated that the contours of the resources needs and resource mobilization strategies would need to be accommodated in the new BFP, which would then be piloted through the project. The MOEFCC is seeking to focus on corporate social responsibility (CSRs) for OECMs and other conservation areas through engagement, and investments from the private sector. The Government of India anticipates that CSR can serve as a means to address gender inequality, particularly by facilitating women's empowerment in terms of being positioned as pall bearers of economies or communities and proponents of sustainability. Promotion of outcomes enacted by women farmers, women-led small local business entrepreneurship and climate resilience efforts can generate benefits to the community as a whole. The financial solutions will focus on ensuring using these funds to target conservation complementary activities that provide opportunities for participation of men and women in decision-making and benefit sharing through activities such as ecotourism, restoration, livelihood and small-scale local enterprise development. It will create a favorable environment for participation of women in BIOFIN investments (refer Annex J for examples of women participation in BIOFIN generated solutions), foster partnerships with specialized local organizations and NGOs that can facilitate promotion of gender needs and considerations.



**Outcome 2: Increased public and private sector financing to implement local actions for management of OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas.** This Outcome will have three outputs:

***Output 2.1: Finance pathways/platforms for mobilizing finance investment from public, business/industry and finance sector tested at landscape/seascape level***

This Output will assist in the development and adoption of domestic resource mobilization/biodiversity finance plans as a means to finance the development and implementation of OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas within a selected number of cluster conservation management plans in the landscapes/seascapes, particularly in resource deficient areas and sectors to demonstrate scalable financial solutions for implementation of priority conservation action. It will base the identification of financial solutions from recommendations emanating from the second phase of BIOFIN support and updated BFP. Selection of financial solutions will be based on identifying the most suited finance solutions in consultation with stakeholders. The state finance departments will be engaged in this exercise so as to be able to guide and support this effort and facilitate any subsequent fiscal reforms that can help formalize and scale up such instruments in their respective states. Based on past experiences within BIOFIN in India, gender participation will be promoted under the project through policy level repurposing subsidies to include considerations for women, especially female farmers, labourers, landowners etc., supporting improved decision making among male and female stakeholders in project activities, including collection of gender disaggregated data, provision of gender sensitive awareness and knowledge products, gender inclusive training modules, gender sensitive CSR products, etc. (see Annex J for details of BIOFIN experiences in gender mainstreaming that the project will build on)

***Output 2.2: Roll out of capacity building program to strengthen institutional and technical capacity to apply new financial instruments.***

This will also entail building institutional capacity at the key institutions (at national, state and sub-state levels) in tracking and tagging biodiversity expenditures, results-based biodiversity budgeting, mechanisms for leveraging existing sectoral budgets and private financing for positive biodiversity outcomes, identifying and implementing innovative financial mechanisms, negotiation skills development for accessing financial solutions, etc. Special efforts will be undertaken to build capacity of women to promote sustainable nature-based solutions to resource use and governance, generation of small-business opportunities and climate resilient agriculture, farming and livelihood improvement activities.

***Output 2.3: Promotion of nature-positive small-scale enterprises through improved collaboration between community and private sector/industry***

In order to continue receiving benefits from the terrestrial, coastal and marine systems, it is imperative to look at ways of protecting, restoring and improving its health and ecosystem goods and services to overcome the current degradation of these ecosystems and ecosystems services that they provide. This Output will help identify appropriate non-GEF resources, including from the private and public sector financing to support communities and local stakeholder-based nature-positive small enterprise and livelihood improvements (including specific investment opportunities for women, youth and vulnerable groups) and potentially using financial instruments (particularly those tested in Output 2.2). The project will assess existing private sector interests and incentives for engagement in nature-positive actions, identify opportunities for private sector engagement in new and sustainable agricultural and resource use techniques and products, organic farming, NTFP and wetland natural resource-based enterprises, community-based ecotourism, forest and wetland-based livelihoods and sustainable fisheries-related activities, etc. It will also support the preparation of a database of nature-friendly enterprises that are promising for the key landscape/seascapes that will be regularly updated as new and innovative value chain opportunities become available. It will work with private enterprise to undertake assessment of value chain feasibility, existing supply and demand, availability of raw materials and the feasibility of the intermediary processes,

marketing and linkages with service providers, as well as their environmental and social impacts. It will support capacity building efforts and skills development for a selected number of small-scale community enterprises (around 30 number), working with the private sector enterprises to train and build capacity of local entrepreneurs to engage in these enterprises. The project will support a market assessment and help develop market strategies to link enterprises with buyers. The feasibility of these enterprises, the interest of the community, capacity needs and availability of service providers will be assessed during the PPG stage and a few value chains identified and tested under the project. The intent of this Output is to introduce sustainable low impact nature-positive livelihood activities based on assessments of their economic feasibility.

### **Component 3: Increased management effectiveness of conservation areas to meet India's obligations of KM-GBF Target 30x30**

(Total Cost: USD 31,410,131; GEF project grant requested: USD 3,410,131; Co-financing: USD 28,000,000)

This Component will build on the strategies developed under Components 1 and 2. The intent is to ensure that the tools and solutions developed under Component 1 get integrated into the identification, assessment, mapping and planning for expansion of the conservation areas to achieve the 30x30 GBF targets using a landscape/seascape lens as the vehicle for delivery. The overall expectation is that through this process, conservation, sustainable resource management and economic decisions are integrated into landscape/seascape planning process will result in the identification of around 1,050,000 hectares<sup>[4]<sup>23</sup></sup> to populate and demonstrate a range of OECM and community and privately managed conservation practices in key landscapes/seascapes identified under Output 1.3.

**Outcome 3: Increased coverage and management effectiveness of India's conservation network to enhance ecological representativeness of conservation areas, improve connectivity and increase ecological integrity demonstrated.**

This Outcome will have three Outputs:

***Output 3.1: Identification, mapping and assessment of selected priority landscapes/seascapes<sup>[5]<sup>24</sup></sup> for planning and implementation of OECMs and new community and privately managed conservation areas***

Based on the eleven landscapes/seascapes already identified, further assessments will be undertaken at PPG stage to identify 4-5 priority landscapes/seascapes from among the eleven for piloting under the project. Within the priority landscapes/seascapes, the identification of OECMs and expansion of other categories of community and privately managed conservation areas will be based (to the extent feasible) on the following values: (i) presence of biodiversity of global significance; (ii) biological and ecological values, in particular to address gaps in ecological representation (and can include KBAs or HCV habitats); (iii) options for defining clusters of OECMs and other conservation value areas; (iv) opportunities for establishing connectivity between key conservation clusters/areas; (v) intricate relationships between different habitat types/ecosystems

that are critical for the delivery of key ecosystem services; (vi) economic potential in terms of building supplementary incomes for local communities, in particular for women and disadvantaged groups; and (vii) existence of effective institutional structures (or interest in forming such structures) that can serve as a vehicle for the planning and management of conservation areas, etc. At PPG stage, it will be ensured that the following will be taken into consideration: (i) that the above-referenced criteria is included for the definition of priority landscape and seascapes to receive GEF support and it is then reported under GEF Core Indicators; (ii) that these sites provide evidence that it is of global biodiversity significance and (iii) budget availability will be contingent of KBA registration during the implementation phase. Participatory mapping (including participation of women and indigenous people) will entail overlay of natural vegetation and habitats, KBAs and HCV areas with existing protected areas to identify suitable sites (outside the PAs) for OECMs and other new conservation areas to ensure fuller representation, connectivity and ecosystem integrity. Through this process the intent is to create 600,000 hectares of biodiversity rich terrestrial areas as community and privately managed conservation areas and 400,000 hectares of high conservation areas (OECMs) under improved practices to benefit biodiversity to ensure that gaps in ecological representativeness are adequately covered, connectivity is improved with existing and new protected areas. In addition, 50,000 hectares of high value marine habitat will be brought under OECMs to improve its effectiveness to benefit biodiversity. 5,000 hectares of degraded or partly degraded terrestrial habitats will be restored to improve connectivity of improved biological areas. Gender equality considerations will be taken into consideration in the mapping and identification of OECMs and conservation areas so these exercises do not marginalize women and their land rights and resource needs. Options for co-financing the remaining of the eleven landscapes/seascapes will be assessed at PPG stage so as to replicate and scale up project interventions.

The global significance of these eleven priority landscape/seascapes, along with existing PAs and opportunities for conservation are provided in Annex C. During the life of the project, once the national strategy, methodology and capacity have been developed for identification, mapping and planning of OECMs and other conservation value areas, the intent is to expand this to other landscapes/seascapes with possible co-financing resources. This will be further investigated at PPG stage and a plan developed (with targets) for replication through co-financing within and beyond the life of the project.

***Output 3.2: Management planning strategies developed for cluster OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas within selected priority landscapes/seascapes to improve conservation outcomes***

Complementary to other outputs in Component 3, Output 3.2 will help strengthen the management of OECMs and other conservation value areas that are identified and mapped under Output 3.1 in the selected priority landscapes/seascapes. GEF funds will provide training, operational and technical guidelines and support to local community groups (including women, youth and IPs), private sector institutions and other community groups to (i) facilitate inventory of resources, assessment of sustainable use parameters, planning and management of their individual conservation areas; (ii) facilitate ecological restoration (techniques in areas that are degraded by fires and invasive alien species) to enhance conservation outcomes and promote their resilience to climate risks; (iii) support consultation and dialogue with neighboring PA managers (national parks, sanctuaries, reserved forests, etc.) to enhance the viability and conservation of key species; (iv) and enhance community and stakeholder engagement and co-management. The planning would be done at a cluster level, so as to promote gender sensitive and inclusive integrated approach to conservation that would capture key connectivity, integrity and restoration issues at a sub-landscape/seascape level (or other appropriate conservation levels as determined later) tied to primary objectives (e.g., increasing biodiversity and key species population, promoting gene flow, minimizing habitat loss, improving ecosystem services, etc.). Decisions regarding management interventions would be agreed amongst land owners and land users, women and IPs would be based on Free Prior Informed

Consent and their collective agreement rather than be imposed by government directives. It would identify indicators for inputs (investment of resources to conserve or restore habitat integrity and connectivity), outputs (implementation of OECM related policies and practices), intermediate outcomes (changes in structural connectivity, e.g., mean habitat patch size or riparian corridors), and ultimate outcomes (changes in functional connectivity, e.g., gene flow or local extinction/colonization dynamics). Indicators will also track socio-economic and cultural impacts. A wide range of stakeholders would be involved in identification of indicators and to develop a formal process for evaluation of the performance and subsequent updating of the cluster management plan based on results of monitoring and evaluation. Based on the agreed cluster planning strategies, each landowner (or individual conservation packages with the sub-landscape/seascape level) will be responsible for undertaking management actions so as to contribute to the overall objectives of the cluster management plans. There may be one or many cluster management strategies for each landscape/seascape.

### ***Output 3.3: Implementation of key priorities for cluster OECMs and community and privately managed conservation areas in selected priority landscapes/seascapes***

On the basis of the cluster management planning defined in Output 3.2, key activities will be undertaken (either collectively between the individual land owners or individually depending on the specific activity and spatial distribution of activities). While, the specific activities will vary within cluster management units, broadly these might fall in these broad range of activities, namely: (a) recovery/restoration of species and habitats; (b) improving protection and conservation actions; (c) establishing and implementing sustainable harvest protocols; (d) implementing survey and monitoring protocols; and (e) developing survey and monitoring protocols; and other measures that emerge from the cluster management planning process. Special efforts will be made to identify specific livelihood, resource use and business opportunities for women, youth and vulnerable groups, that will ensure that they are not left out of the benefits. This would specifically help in reducing the burden of work on women and improving their livelihood opportunities through improved access to resources and services. The project will provide limited GEF financing, in terms of technical support and capacity building to support activities that require a collective planning response from conservation area landowners, with additional funding for investments to be solicited from ongoing national and state funded schemes (as discussed in the baseline section of the PIF) or funds generated through innovative funding instruments achieved through Output 2.1. The project will also provide training, technical support and restoration guidelines to conservation landowners, including women, youth and indigenous groups to implement these actions. The livelihood investments will be supported through co-financing arrangements (national, state or other sources of funding) that will be further assessed and validated at PPG stage.

### **Component 4: Knowledge management enables political and public support for strengthening the conservation network**

(Total Cost: USD 6,723,249; GEF project grant requested: USD 823,249; Co-financing: USD 5,900,000)

This Component will apply learning as levers to ensure the required knowledge and capacity is available not only to achieve outcomes of components 2 and 3 but also to sustain them over the longer term and to achieve programmatic outcomes by effectively linking and upscaling project level investments. It will ensure that lessons learned from previous initiatives of GEF and other development partners are synthesized and shared together with good practices resulting from the implementation of this project are shared between different landscapes/seascapes to support their widespread adoption for greater impact and long-term sustainability, while also raising the profile of the terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems amongst sector entities, private sector partners and the public nationally, regionally and globally. More specifically, this component will support: (i) promotion of gender sensitive awareness and communication of OECMs and other high conservation value areas and the 30x30 GBF agenda and India's commitment to it; (ii) documentation and

dissemination of best practices and enhanced communication; (ii) use of social media, internet based platforms and forums and other forms of easily accessible sources of information exchange; (iii) preparation of guidance notes to address current gaps in policy, knowledge and institutional capacities; (iv) technical reports, publications and other knowledge management products; (v) national and sub-national workshops to facilitate dissemination and promote replication of OECMs and related concepts; (v) preparation of replication and scaling up strategy, and (vi) to track and report (including to the WCMC) on the effectiveness of management of OECMs and other categories of PAs as part of the coherent effort to ensure a more holistic national policy, finance, and MRV framework for public PAs.

**Outcome 4: Enhanced awareness, recognition, political support and capacity of stakeholders for scale-up of OECMs and conservation areas.** This Outcome will have four outputs:

***Output 4.1: Communication strategy and plan developed and implemented to increase awareness, political and public support to promote the implementation of OECMs and other conservation areas***

To move away from business-as-usual, it is necessary to ensure that across all stakeholder groups, including the wider society, women, youth and vulnerable communities that potential OECMs are valued and appreciated for their functional and supportive role in helping to achieve national mandates. Enhancing political support is particularly crucial, as without political will, the country cannot meet the relevant 30x30 GBF targets. Key to increasing political support will be advancing their recognition of the value and importance of OECMs and other community and privately managed areas in achieving national and international commitments, particularly as they related to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Sustainable Development Goals and Nationally Determined Contributions and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as well as their contribution to the national economy. The development and implementation of effective and targeted communication and awareness strategies will be essential for mobilizing action in government and non-government stakeholders. This will entail preparation and implementation of a gender-sensitive communication strategy and plan that would focus on sharing knowledge, especially focusing on technical documentation of OECMs. The implementation of this strategy should be a co-operative process and as such places the effective participation and collaboration of local, national, state and sub-state stakeholders, encompassing inter-governmental agencies, local communities, civil society, private sector, research/academic community, PA and OECM networks and relevant Regional and International Organizations at its core for successful implementation. This communication and awareness plan will be designed and implemented in local languages through awareness events, competitions, website, mass media, video and film, educational festivals, etc. It will also promote teaching materials for schools, schools projects, and awareness workshops for industry and businesses, etc. The intent is to promote awareness and interests in promotion of OECMs and community and private conservation areas, explain the economic values and benefits that can be derived by community and businesses from improved conservation actions and dissemination of the procedures and practices for establishment of OECMs and community and private conservation areas.

***Output 4.2: Long-term sustainability strategy/plan developed; communication and knowledge shared and exchanged on approaches for OECMs and other community and private conservation initiatives***



This Output will ensure that successes (and failures) from the introduction of OECMs and expansion of the conservation network to meet the 30x30 GBF targets will be documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in regional, national and international fora. As part of an effort to promote scaling up, this output will support the following activities: (i) documentation and dissemination of case studies, best practices and experiences (including the role of women, youth and IPs) emanating from the project for decision-making on scaling up; (ii) development of policy guidance notes to address gaps and constraints of existing planning and policies that favor OECMs, landscape/seascape integrated planning, OECM cluster management planning etc.; (iii) technical reports, publications and other knowledge management products in English and local languages; (iv) documentation of best state level workshops to facilitate dissemination of field lessons; and (vi) inter-state site visits to share lessons. In particular, efforts will be made to identify best practices (that promote gender equality so as to provide specific guidance and examples for mainstreaming gender perspectives across the lifecycle of the project – to achieve greater effectiveness, better outcomes and stronger co-benefits. As a means of post-project replication regionally and nationally, the project will support the following actions: (a) institutionalization of best practices through promotion of planning instruments in order to secure long-term replication; and (b) development of a replication/up-scaling strategy based on lessons and experiences from the project. The gender sensitive replication strategy will provide guidance on steps and key factors that define the successes (institutional, planning, financial solutions and decision-making), participatory planning and consultative practices, capacity assessment and skills development, tools for adaptive management, monitoring, reporting and auditing, etc. This will be further defined at PPG stage that will define measures for enable uptake through training, technical support, identification of financial mechanisms, etc.; (c) regional and national workshops and site visits to build learning and capacity for post-project replication; and (d) prioritization of landscapes/seascapes for potential post-project replication. The anticipated outcome from this output is a national scaling-up strategy that defines objective criteria for selection of landscapes/seascapes, objective criteria for cluster planning (so as to ensure that OECMs and other high value conservation areas are defined and management interventions planned at an aggregate level) to ensure complementarity of interventions, enhance connectivity between individual conservation parcels, ensure integrity of the landscape and support collective decision-making and actions across the landscape. This scaling-up strategy will build on the tool, capacity and approaches developed under the project that would be available for national post-project scaling up through non-GEF funding sources.

#### ***Output 4.3: Establishment of information architecture to support reporting and assessments of effectiveness of conservation outcomes***

This Output complement the results of Output 1.4 that sets out a national monitoring, reporting and auditing framework to assess the management effectiveness of the OECMs and other community and privately managed conservation areas. This is premised on the fact that meeting the 30x30 targets need to be accurately tracked and reported. The World Database on OECMs provides a single, standardized source of data on the world's OECMs. To do so, the national government will need to accurately record and report on OECMs, after consent has been provided and verified by the governance authority that makes decisions about how the OECM is managed, in a standardized format that is required for submission to the WCMC database. This would require (a) spatial (GIS) data (a polygon or point of each OECM; (b) tabulated data (such as name and governance type) with link to supporting information, if available and (c) a signed data-contribution agreement. To enable this to happen in an effective manner (including the rationalization of current national data and the WCMC database) would require the establishment of information architecture to support the reporting as well as the effectiveness of conservation outcomes (the latter as a subsequent step). This aspect will be further assessed at PPG stage, including the institutional arrangements to establish this information and reporting needs, equipment and capacity needs. In addition, the project will help develop a simple and practical management effectiveness tracking tool that can be applied for small conservation areas (OECMs, community and privately managed areas).

#### ***Output 4.4: South-South exchanges to OECM and other conservation networks in support of GBF Target 3 actions***

To bring the lessons learned from the project and to share best practices, this Output will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on OECM and GBF promotional issues. UNDP can facilitate South-South exchange via (for instance) their communication channels such as Exposure (<https://stories.undp.org/categories>) and Panorama (<https://panorama.solutions/en/about-panorama-solutions>) a partnership initiative of 12 organizations providing solutions for a healthy planet. UNDP could also engage by building stronger ties between OECM-related projects in countries such as Indonesia and Eswatini. This could potentially be done via engagement through UNDP's new Nature Pledge (<https://www.undp.org/nature/nature-pledge>). In addition, UNDP India, is very supportive of Gol's efforts to promote OECMs within the country and this could also be used as a springboard where the project might host a national event with international invitations from other "OECM

Countries” for India to learn and discuss how to strengthen its own processes. Such an event could also be a south-south exchange event. UNDP will also encourage visitation between countries to support dialogue and knowledge sharing on lessons learned and best practices to support transfer of knowledge for improved implementation of relevant project activities, in particular on OECMs and participate in relevant regional and global events for information and lessons sharing and learning. These opportunities will be further explored during the PPG stage, including potential non-GEF funding for participation from other OECM countries, **noting that the GEF funding would only cover the project-relevant local cost, and that any international travel cost to and from other OCEM countries, if any, would be covered by co-financing.**

**Component 5: Effective project monitoring and evaluation ensured and support adaptive management**

(Total Cost: USD 2,199,497; GEF project grant requested: USD 199,497; Co-financing: USD 2,000,000)

**Outcome 5: Effective management, monitoring and reporting that is responsive to gender, youth, IPs, and communities adaptive management.**

***Output 5.1: M&E system supports project reporting of impact, learning and community benefits***

The project will design and operate a monitoring and evaluation system to track environmental and socio-economic benefits generated by the project. The M&E system will follow UNDP and GEF M&E policies. The monitoring system can be used to inform decision-making by government resource managers and private resource users. It would include the following activities: (i) development and validation of the monitoring framework for the project, including methods and responsibilities for monitoring, data standardization and reporting, accuracy and reliability, etc.; (ii) undertake monitoring and compliance in relation to safeguard, gender, stakeholder engagement and Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM); (iii) regular update of safeguard, gender and stakeholder engagement plans and approaches; (iv) prepare regular progress reports for sharing among partners, GEF and government and non-government entities; (v) conduct mid-term evaluation, make adjustment and adapt as required to ensure achievement of project outcomes and (vi) conduct terminal evaluation and disseminate findings.

**Stakeholder engagement:**

The project provides the opportunity for partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including key national, state, district and sector agencies with the mandate for biodiversity conservation; communities living in these areas; and key sector agencies that benefit and/or impact on biodiversity and land productivity. During the PPG phase and implementation, a broad approach to stakeholder engagement will be continued, as strong partnerships across government and with the private sector and local communities (including IPs) are needed to achieve sustainable biodiversity-related natural resources and economic development. A stakeholder engagement plan will be developed at PPG stage that would describe the general role and mandate of the different stakeholders and their role in project design and implementation, including the means of engagement.

**Table 3: Stakeholder Engagement**

Stakeholders	Project Implementation Role
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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	MoEFCC is the executing nodal agency for the planning, promotion, coordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes. It is the coordinating agency for the implementation of all actions mentioned under the NBAP. The Biodiversity Division will oversee the implementation of the project.
National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	It is a statutory, autonomous body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. NBA is at the apex of the institutional mechanism developed for biodiversity conservation, management and regulation in the country. NBA will be one of the key executing agencies of the project.
State Biodiversity Boards	The project will be implemented in the states in partnership with the State Biodiversity Boards, which are the key agencies for biodiversity conservation, management and regulation at the subnational level.
Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)	The BMCs are local bodies mandated to be formed under the Biological Diversity Act of 2002 to make decision relating to the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with such resources occurring within the territorial jurisdiction of the BMC.
Sectoral Ministries/ Departments	At the target landscapes a number of sectoral Ministries will be important stakeholders e.g., the Ministries of Rural Development (MoRD), Urban Development (MoUD), Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Agriculture (MoA), Water Resources (MoWR), Tourism (MoT), State Forest Departments, State Medicinal Plants Board etc. These Ministries are critical for their contributions to funding for biodiversity conservation in the country and for meeting the NBTs. They will also play in key role in design, development, screening and implementation of finance solutions for biodiversity.
Panchayati Raj (MoPR)	The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was set up to give an impetus to strengthening of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and has devolved responsibility for planning of economic development and social justice as well as the implementation of “entrusted” schemes of economic and social development. The MoPR will be one of the key stakeholders in planning, and implementation of local conservation action plans
State Forest Departments	The State Forest and Wildlife departments are responsible for all forest and wildlife protection related activities and the interface between National and State level programs. Representation in key committees. Involvement in implementation, consultations, participatory workshops, training workshops, enabling stakeholder participation and interaction, strengthening enforcement activities and gathering information related to illegal trade
Medicinal Plants Boards	The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) will be a key stakeholder in development, conservation and management of Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas in project landscapes, sustainable use and value addition of medicinal plant based products and enterprise development and integrated planning of conservation actions based on medicinal plants conservation and management at local level
NABARD	NABARD will be a key player in design and implementation of innovative financial solutions for implementing local level integrated conservation action plans as well as in demonstration of FINTECH in agriculture.



State governments, municipal and district level government bodies (corporations, agencies, etc.)	This group also includes the municipal and district level government bodies (such as municipal corporations, rural development agencies, tourism and infrastructure agencies etc.). State, municipal, and district level government bodies will participate in project activities related to implementation of existing government plans, programmes and schemes with the lens of positive outcomes for biodiversity.
Research and academic institutions and universities	The project will work with Institutes like State Institute of 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 training institutions will be explored as important sustainability mechanisms for the capacity building outputs of the project.
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	Dissemination of information and awareness about the project at national and regional level through mainstream channels, television, print, festivals, press and direct institutional arrangements, and addressing communication gaps related to stakeholders as well as general public. Key Partner for information dissemination at global, regional and national levels.
Women's organizations	In particular, Women Welfare Organizations in project landscapes will provide training, advisory services and oversight to strengthen the participation in women in decision making, in ability to be involved in planning and sharing benefits. Women's organizations will be engaged in the project including through consultation in the PPG process and also that the Social and Environment Screening will critically review and ensure involvement.
Local Communities	Local communities represented through CBOs like the Biodiversity Management Committees, Joint Forest Management Committees, Gram Panchayat etc. will be engaged in project implementation as primary agents for managing priority biodiversity conservation actions at the local level and taking measures for other effective area based conservation measures, mobilisation of financial resources through convergence and other financial models etc.
Indigenous Communities	Key target groups in the project landscapes (to be finalized during PPG will play a key role in planning and implementation at site level – from effective 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. Participatory role in workshops, consultations, recipients for capacity building in different aspects from data collection, mapping, pastureland management, eco-tourism, information collection and monitoring, to communication. Indigenous communities will be actively engaged through consultation using FPIC procedures to ensure that their needs, concerns and priorities are addressed.
NGOs	There are several NGOs in the country working on biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, environmental protection, and environmental awareness and education. These NGOs (e.g. BNHS, BVIEER, FRLHT, Zoo Outreach, CCD, CEE, ATREE, WII, WWF etc., and local level NGOs) will be engaged in design and implementation of the project, including in community mobilization, implementation of biodiversity actions, training and capacity building, communication, education and public awareness etc. NGOs will be engaged in the project including through consultation in the PPG process and beyond to ensure inputs in terms of social and environmental concerns are addressed.
Private Sector	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 will be key stakeholders of the project, including advising on potential financing instruments and mechanisms including

	mainstreaming biodiversity in business and Corporate Social Responsibility.
Private Sector Banks	Private sector banks in India like RBS, YES Bank and HDFC Bank are investing in biodiversity conservation through CSR in areas including afforestation, sustainable agriculture, alternative livelihoods and water resources management.
International development partners (JICA, World Bank, KFW etc.)	These international development agencies that supports 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.
UNDP	UNDP, as GEF implementing agency will oversee the successful design and implementation of the project providing oversight, technical coordination and monitoring.

[1] Such as the projects in the baseline section for component 3 of the proposed as well as e.g. BIOFIN for component 2

[2] Criteria and guidelines for identifying Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India (may 2022)

[3] Rodgers, W.A. and Panwar, H.S. Planning a Wildlife Protected Area Network for India. Wildlife Institute of India (1988)

[4] Refer indicator table and Annex I for breakdown of this figure

[5] Priority landscapes and seascapes within the biogeographic regions will be validated and further prioritized during PPG stage based on following criteria: (i) gaps in ecological representation; (ii) opportunities for promotion of landscape connectivity, ecological integrity and habitat restoration; a (iii) commitment and ownership of state governments, communities and private sector entities; and (iv) availability of co-financing through various national and state government programs.

## Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The Implementing partner for the project will be the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (MOEFCC) and the project will be implemented over a period of six years with UNDP as the GEF Implementing Agency. The project is expected to be implemented through the National Implementation Modality (NIM). Policy guidance will be obtained through the National Steering Committee set up with the Secretary of the MOEFCC as the chairperson. The Project Manager will head the PMU and be responsible for coordination with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and state-level State Biodiversity Boards and their respective District Biodiversity Committees and overseeing the implementation of the project. At the State level, an OECM Council will be established under the leadership of the Chief Secretary of the State and include representatives for key government sectors (forestry, wildlife, coastal and marine resources, inland wetlands, public works, irrigation, state administration and finance, etc.) to made decisions regarding the allocation of land for OECMs and other categories of PAs. At the district and panchayat levels, efforts will be made to strengthen existing coordination arrangements (through engagement of District Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees (at Panchayat level) to include the mandate of OECMs. Community committees (to be assessed at PPG stage) will help mobilize the local communities and other stakeholders in identification and planning of OECMs and additional community managed conservation areas along with private sector industry. The proposed GEF project will coordinate closely with ongoing initiatives to ensure sharing of information and lessons and collaboration in related activities as described in Table 4 below:

**Table 4: Complementarity with existing Projects and Programs**

Ongoing Initiatives	Complementarity with GEF 8 project
GEF/UNDP Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of high range (2017-2024) \$11,544,192	The landscape based approach, sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic activities for communities will be useful lessons, including strengthening of partnerships between conservation institutions (PAs and Forest Reserves) and Gram Panchayats and communities
GEF/UNDP Strengthening conservation and resilience of globally significant landscapes through a focus on small cat and leopard conservation (2022-2027) \$1,975,000	This project aims to secure the conservation of globally significant wild cat landscapes through a 'landscape-based conservation approach' that brings together species conservation programs, connects stakeholders and empowers communities. The GEF-8 project may learn from the useful lessons including 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. It may also be useful for identification of potential OECMs in these areas.
Phase II of Japan Supplementary Budget- Leveraging NDCs for Low Carbon Development Pathways' (2023-2024) \$5,174,839	The GEF-8 project can learn from the project's Just Transition plans supporting eco-restoration and alternate nature-based livelihood practices by the communities in areas with closed coal mines. The other interventions of the project on promoting sustainable use of natural resources and nature-based livelihoods would align well with the GEF-8 project.
FCDO, UK -Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth (ICRG) (2019-2-23) \$3,700,000	The project provides climate change related inputs towards planning and design of Natural Resource Management structures built under MGNREGS program, strengthening capacities of Program staff, enhance income of vulnerable people through various schemes in convergence with MGNREGS program. The GEF-8 project can build on the best practices for utilization of large government schemes
Green Climate Fund- Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (2019-2024) \$43,418,606 (GCF funding)	<p>The project intends to protect and restore the natural ecosystems of India's coastal zone to strengthen the climate resilience of coastal communities. It will help strengthen the climate resilience of coastal communities by protecting and restoring India's natural ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass, which are essential for buffering against storm surges. It will also support climate-adaptive livelihoods and value chains to increase the climate resilience of these coastal communities. Specific ecosystem-based</p> <p>adaptation and climate-adaptive livelihood interventions will be undertaken, with pathways to replication and scale across all coastal states, and learning shared across the South Asian region. It promotes</p> <p>inter-sectoral coordination, where multi-stakeholder coordination structures: -comprising representatives from relevant state-level ministries, district-level governments, NGOs and academic/research institutions are established to promote dialogue and coordination concerning climate-resilience. The GEF project will build on multi-stakeholder coordination arrangements at various administrative levels, help identify climate resilient ecosystem-based mitigation measures that can be applied at the local level and identify pathways to climate-adaptive livelihood options</p>
GEF Small Grants Program in India (2021-2026) \$4,474,886	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.
UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) (2021-2027) \$1,700,000	The GEF-8 project will take forward the three prioritized biodiversity finance solutions of BIOFIN India. This will be done through resource mobilization strategies focused on a Central and state government schemes and missions, CSR etc. For the latter, BIOFIN's detailed review of 60 public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations 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.
GEF/UNDP Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments. (pipeline) (2024-2029) \$4,880,000	<i>While this project is yet to commence, it can offer opportunities for sharing of lessons and knowledge on establishing multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at subnational level, integrated and inclusive multi-sectoral planning at the landscape/seascape levels as well as at the local levels, trialing of financial solutions at the local level, promotion of private-community partnerships for conservation and community benefits and restoration practices for improving the ecological integrity and connectivity of habitats.</i> The project GEF-8 project aligns with and may build on the project's outcome of creating platforms for replicating this approach across other states, in other high-biodiversity landscapes of India, and across the country through the National Biodiversity Authority
GEF/UNDP Sustainable management and restoration of degraded landscapes for LDN in India (2023-2028) \$6,600,000	The project will take a three-pronged approach starting with strengthening the enabling environment for LDN; followed by support to develop and implement SLM practices, and scaling up of resilient SLM practices across degraded landscapes and developing information and knowledge management systems; national outreach approaches; and enhanced South-South cooperation. The GEF-8 project

	can build on lessons for implementing SLM practices in intervening parts of the landscape to establish connectivity
High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People inter-governmental group	<i>The project will support the Government of India's commitment to develop domestic 30x30 plans and increase the pace and scale of conservation. It will support implementation of OECMs and promotion of new community and private conservation areas to ensure conservation/protection of at least 30% of the terrestrial land area of India and increase area under marine conservation by 2030</i>
GEF/UNEP-IUCN Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance (2021-2026) \$6,266,883	The project focuses on increasing production capacity of India's agricultural land and the conservation of biodiversity both on farm and in forested landscapes would provide learning and sharing of knowledge on appropriate agricultural and related best practices (nature-based solutions), resolution of wildlife-human conflict and dealing with watershed management and forest restoration to reduce forest fragmentation
GEF/FAO Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes (2019-2025) \$33,558,716	The primary objective of the project is to catalyze transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscape, focusing on intersectoral coordination mechanisms (agricultural and allied sectors, forestry and natural resources management, and economic development) at the national and state levels. This project will enable assessment of coordination mechanisms, conservation actions to protect critical biodiversity hotspots and establishing connectivity of habitats through restoration practices that work in different climatic and ecological conditions
GEF/World Bank Integrated SLEM Approaches for Reducing Land Degradation and Desertification (2018-2023) \$4,140,000	Its strategy is directly relevant to the GF 8 project as it addresses the scaling up and measures to using co-financing to leverage provisions to address socio-economic and natural resource management.
World Bank/GEF Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change (2014-2019) \$8,000,000	<i>This project provides lessons on measures that were successful in helping poor farm-based households to enhance their climate risk adaptation strategies, scaling up and mainstreaming community-based climate adaptation, and measures to ensure the convergence of government sector budget to support climate risk management</i>

## 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)
600000	0	0	0

#### Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
600000	0	0	0

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)
			600,000.00			

#### 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)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
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### 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)
5000	0	0	0

#### 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)
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#### 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)
5,000.00			

#### 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)
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#### 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)
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### 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)
400000	0	0	0

#### 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)
400,000.00			

#### 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)
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### 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)
	VI	400,000.00			

**Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title

**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)
50,000.00			

**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)

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)
	VI	50,000.00			

**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)
<b>Female</b>	25,000			
<b>Male</b>	25,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,000</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Core Indicator 1: This will include the identification, mapping and allocation of 600,000 hectares of KBAs and HCVMs as OECMs, new community and privately managed conservation areas (that are considered as protected areas by the Government of India) within the selected priority landscapes so as to ensure representativeness of habitats and ecosystems within the landscapes, enhance connectivity, improve relationships between different habitat types/ecosystems that are critical for the delivery of key ecosystem services; enhance ecosystem integrity and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. These can include new Community reserves, conservation reserves, sacred groves, biodiversity heritage sites, medicinal plant conservation areas and other similar community managed conservation areas are now classified by the Government of India as protected areas as they fall under one form or another of national legislation. The PAs will be identified at PPG stage once the 4-5 landscape/seascape sites are defined at PPG stage.

Core Indicator 3: This will include restoration of 5,000 hectares of forests and other habitats with the intent of enhancing connectivity through simple and cost-effective measures should as protection, assisted natural regeneration and limited gap fillings

Core Indicator 4: This will include the identification, mapping and allocation of 400,000 hectares within the target priority landscapes for establishment of OECMs and its administration and management. Refer Table 1 for types of OECMs.

Core Indicator 5: This will include the identification, mapping and allocation of 50,000 hectares within the priority marine areas for establishment of OECMs and its administration and management. Refer Table 1 for types of OECMs. At least one of the priority landscapes/seascapes would be a marine area. This figure will be further assessed at PPG stage with the intent to try to further increase the area under marine OECMs.

Core Indicator 6: This will be calculated at PPG stage when the final 4-5 priority landscapes/seascapes are selected, as GHG emissions will depend on the nature of habitats, level of degradation and other factors in each landscape site

Core Indicator 11: This is include a total of 50,000 people (25,000 men and 25,000 women) who will directly benefit from improved

protection and conservation actions and ecosystem services delivery, sustainable harvest of forest, wetland, marine and other natural products; improved livelihood and income generating activities, etc. They will be also involved in planning and decision-making, capacity building exercises and monitoring and enforcement activities.

## Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
<b>CONTEXT</b>		
Climate	Moderate	Please see pre-SESP (Annex D)
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Please see pre-SESP (Annex D)



Political and Governance	Moderate	Despite the GOI having agreed on 30x30 GBF target, its implementation will take place at state and local levels, the willingness of the administrative entities at these levels to work together to meet these national targets could present some problems, given that political priorities tend to generally over-ride other priorities. During PPG stage, the risk will be further assessed to identify additional and focused consultation, dialogue and planning needs for engagement of administrative structures at the state, district, divisional and panchayat levels. The functionality of this governance arrangement is critical to ensure better coordination in identifying and allocating land for OECMs and PAs
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy		
Technological		
Financial and Business Model		
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	The limited capacity of government and state administrative bodies for integration of economic and ecological considerations into conservation planning and management could negatively affect implementation of the project. This will be further assessed at PPG stage applying UNDP's Partner Capacity Assessment and HACT Micro assessment, and arrangements will be made in consultation with the IP to identify potential training and technical support to enhance capacities.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Some capacity constraints might exist in terms of financial management and procurement within the IP that can delay project implementation. This will be rectified with identification of limited UNDP support to execution and training needs in procurement and financial management for PMU staff
Stakeholder	Moderate	Stakeholders may not immediately recognize the benefits of expansion of OECMs and new PAs from a perspective of improving ecosystem services and benefits to sustainable fisheries, forestry, agriculture and livelihood improvement and be reluctant to engage in the project. This will be rectified through identification of capacity development and training needs and means for demonstration of nature-based activities that could incentivize community and stakeholder engagement.
Other		NA
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	The overall risk is rated as 'Substantial' that can negate and/or delay project implementation. Overall project design will assess needs for



	<p>improved capacity, coordination and collective decision-making for the project. It will ensure that IPs are adequately consulted, engaged and benefit through the application of FPIC procedures. The above rated risks are not expected to undermine the viability of the project. Note: The overall risk rating is considered ‘substantial’ on the basis of the safeguard rating, which is further elaborated and detailed in UNDP SES Annex. At PPG stage, this will be further assessed and more detailed analysis will be conducted, including the preparation of ESMF and IPF that would provide means to ensure that these safeguard concerns do not undermine the viability of the project. A PPG stage the need SESP, ESMF and IPF will detailed additional management actions that might be needed to further mitigate the risks include the preparation of SESA, LAP, process framework and GRM.</p>
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### C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project is consistent with *BD-1-1: Financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of protected area systems*. Relevant project components include identification and implementation of blended/innovative/incentive-based finance solutions to bridge the finance gap in short, medium and long term at the local levels (Outputs 2.1 and 2.2). It will also demonstrate implementation of locally based financial solutions, such as linking with government sector financing, generating revenues from private sector, conservation-related tourism activities and supporting biodiversity-friendly small-scale enterprises that will build community support for conservation. The project is also supporting the creation and improved management of a number of community and privately managed conservation areas (community conservation reserves, BHS, sacred groves, etc.) and OECMs (IBAs, Unique agricultural systems, wetlands, marine biodiversity areas, coastal biodiversity areas, etc.) management planning, ecological restoration and connectivity, enhancing the viability of the conservation network by collaborative efforts with local communities, improve public-private partnerships for supporting community engagement in nature-positive activities, etc. (Outputs 3.2, 3.3 and 2.3). In terms of *BD 1-4, the project will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into priority sectors* (sectors to be determined at PPG stage) at the landscape and seascape levels (Outputs 3.1 and 3.2) and its sustainable use and aim to improve/enhance positive environmental practices in economic sectors. It would improve guidelines, protocols and planning strategies and build institutional capacities at the administrative levels and across key sectors to better integrate conservation outcomes at the local level. The intent is to use local community organizations and private sector institutions as the key vehicle for delivery of conservation actions, so that local communities and local business entities become agents of change. Without the GEF project, it is likely that there will be limited effort at strengthening the integration of biodiversity at the landscape level and in economic development planning at various administrative levels that will likely result in further loss of biodiversity, associated habitats and ecosystem services. This will be corrected through improved mapping, decision making and integrated landscape/seascape planning and the management and sustainable use resources and developing integrated planning approaches. Project components include improved planning processes that address direct threat to habitat loss by increasing habitats through conservation and restoration of key habitats (Output 3.2), improved conservation management in combination with sustainable tourism (Output 3.3); enhancing conservation in forests, coastal habitats and other natural and productive use areas; capacity building and improved community participation in sustainable resource use practices to reduce threats and community livelihood improvement to reduce unsustainable practices (Output 2.3). *BD 3: To increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity* - the project aims to identify and mobilize domestic resources for investment in biodiversity conservation. In terms of *BD 3-2*, the project will facilitate the implementation of the finance plan, working closely with the district and local government authorities and private sector to enhance their capacity for resource mobilization through targeted training programs and their capacity for making investments in conservation actions through development of guidelines and availability best practice examples.

The proposed project is in conformity with the NAPA, NAP, and other national instruments as discussed in Table 7 below:

**Table 7: Conformity with Existing National Strategies and plans**

Strategy/Plan	Conformity with the proposed project
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	The NBSAP is aligned with the newly adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and the proposed project will further align with Target 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 19, 21 and 22 of the KM-GBF which revolve around conservation and management of protected areas and OECMs, restoration of degraded terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems and management actions towards conservation of threatened species.
National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)	The proposed project aligns with the core focus of the NAPCC on climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as natural resource conservation. The project aligns with the objectives of the National Mission for Green India and the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture under the NAPCC by contributing to the following objectives: enhancing carbon sinks and carbon sequestration, adaptation of vulnerable species/ecosystems to changing climate, adaptation of forest-dependent communities and water and soil health management.
National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being	The project, through its activities on conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services and strengthening community engagement and livelihoods shows convergence with the focus areas of the National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being that aims to promote ecosystem restoration, build adaptation and mitigation capacities on climate change and sustainable agriculture.
Nationally Determined Contributions	It is also aligned to the updated NDC on putting forward and further propagating a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LIFE' – 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change'.
National Adaptation Plan	The GEF- 8 project is aligned to major theme of NAP to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience. It will also promote integration of adaptation into new and existing national, sectoral and sub-national policies and programs, especially development strategies, plans and budgets.
National Environment Policy	The GEF-8 project is aligned to the dominant theme of this policy to conserve environmental resources as a means to secure livelihoods and well-being of all, the most secure basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the fact of conservation, than from degradation of the resource. The project would also support building partnerships of different stakeholders, i.e. public agencies, local communities, academic and scientific institutions, the investment community, and international development partners, in harnessing their respective resources and strengths for environmental management.
National Strategy for Tourism	The GEF-8 project is aligned to increase the economic, social and environmental benefits to build a low carbon, inclusive and resilient tourism sector in India. It is aligned to the strategic pillars including promoting environmental sustainability, protecting biodiversity, and promoting Socio-Cultural Sustainability.

In terms of global programs, the project is in conformity with the following:

**Table 8: Contribution to key Global Programs**

Program	Program targets/goals	Project conformity with targets/goals
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture,	The project will facilitate promotion of nature-positive small-scale enterprises and livelihood operations to help improve nutrition and food security
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	Project investments are targeted at enhancing the role of women in decision-making, enhance economic benefits to women and promote gender equality
	SDG 13: Climate Action	The project will promote climate resilience through enhanced conservation outcomes, ensuring sustainable natural resources use that reduces climate negative impacts on critical ecosystems and and support diversification of incomes and livelihoods
	SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development	Through the promotion of enhancing of the marine conservation estate, the intent is to ensure delivery of sustainable ecosystem services

	SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	The focus of the project is to enhance the conservation estate at the landscape level to enhance conservation outcomes through creation of OECMs and enhancing community and private conservation areas
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	GOAL A: Maintain ecosystem integrity, connectivity, resilience; halt extinctions; maintain genetic diversity by 2050.	The project through its integrated landscape/seascape approach and expansion of conservation outcomes through creation of OECMs and community and private conservation areas intends to improve ecological connectivity between component parts of these landscapes and maintain genetic diversity
	GOAL B: Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development	The intent of the project is improve the provision of sustained ecosystem goods and services through creation of awareness, enhancing sustainable harvest regimes tied to improved value chains and livelihoods to create opportunities for local community participation in achieving conservation outcomes, while improving the contribution of forests and natural habitats and associated ecosystems to benefit local communities.
	Goal D: Ensure adequate implementation, including finance, capacity, technology and science.	The project intends promoting an integrated, participatory and inclusive landscape/seascape planning and management approach to resource governance and use
	Target 2: At least 30 percent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration	To meet the above goal, the project intends to reduce degradation by improved and sustainable management of 400,000 ha of terrestrial habitats and 50,000 ha of marine habitats for biodiversity conservation and restore about 5,000 ha of degraded habitats.
	Target 3: At least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas effectively conserved and managed including over their traditional territories.	To meet this goal, the project intends to improved management effectiveness of 600,000 ha of terrestrial PAs and some extent of marine PAs,
	Target 10: Ensure agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably	The overall intent of the project is to ensure through improved ecosystem services delivered that fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture and other livelihood activities within the landscape/seascape sites are managed in a sustainable fashion.
	Target 11: Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people	The project recognizes and promotes maintenance and enhanced contribution of these landscape/seascapes for the economic benefit of local communities through its conservation and sustainable use.
	Target 14: Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes.	Output 3.2 and 3.3 is directed on ensuring integrated and cross-sectoral planning and budgeting across the landscapes/seascapes to avoid activities that impact biodiversity.
	Target 19: Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner	Component 2 seeks to improve financing for conservation actions, such as Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 seek private sector engagement (and resources) to support co-management models in resource use and the development of small business and value chain programs respectively, while Output 2.3 specifically targets the improved capacity to assess and apply new financial models to test innovative financial solutions to resource use and community benefit building of the BIOFIN program in India.
	Target 21: Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective management of biodiversity,	Outputs 1.4 and 2.3 are specifically geared at improving inventory and sharing information in particular related to effectiveness of OECMs and other conservation areas
Target 22: Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity	The overall intent of the project is to ensure full and inclusive participation of all stakeholders (including women, youth and ethnic groups) in decision making, access to information and benefit sharing from project interventions.	

### Incremental/Additional Cost reasoning

Table 9: Incremental Cost Reasoning

Baseline	Alternative to be put in place	Project impact including GEBs
<b>Enabling framework for expanding and strengthening the conservation network in India</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No formal policy and directives to support the promotion of OECMs and community and private sector conservation areas at national and sub-national levels</li> <li>- Lack of institutional coordination arrangements for the promotion of OECMs and community and private conservation areas</li> <li>- Limited information for monitoring, reporting and verification of the management effectiveness of the protected area network</li> <li>- Limited recognition and capacity for identifying, planning and development of integrated conservation networks that include PAs, forest reserves, OECMs and community and private conservation areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthened/new policies that promote the establishment and management of OECMs and community and private conservation areas</li> <li>- Improved guidelines and practices to identify best options for identification, mapping, demarcation and management of OECMs and private and community conservation areas to enhance the conservation network</li> <li>- Improved governance and coordination arrangements at the sub-national level to support the promotion of OECMs and private and community conservation areas</li> <li>- MRV framework for management of the PA network</li> <li>- Capacity for integrated approaches for biodiversity conservation developed and strengthened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coherent national framework (policies and directives) aligned to KM GBF target 3 approved to promote the recognition of OECMs and community and private conservation areas as integral to the PA network in India</li> <li>- Multi-sectoral OECM Councils established at State level under leadership of Chief Secretary of State (or similar arrangement) to coordinate and support implementation of the national policy and directives on OECMs</li> <li>- Criteria, guidelines, methodology and procedures approved for identification and allocation of new conservation value areas (OECMs, private and community conservation areas) in order to improve ecological representativeness, connectivity and landscape integrity.</li> <li>- Development of monitoring framework (with indicators) and formalizing a standardized methodology that can be applied assess the management effectiveness of OECMs, private and community conservation areas and other forms of PAs.</li> <li>- Improved capacity of institutions for identification, mapping, reporting and verification of management effectiveness of conservation areas</li> <li>- Monitoring and reporting systems track status of terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystem health</li> </ul>
<b>Financing and incentives for establishing OECMs and other community and private sector conservation areas in the country applied</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current financing for conservation is largely from the public sector</li> <li>- Limited private sector engagement and financing is an impediment to promotion of support for co-management of OECMs and other managed conservation areas</li> <li>- Nature is being viewed as an externality by business and finance sector in India.</li> <li>- Lack of incentives for corporate sector to integrate nature and biodiversity as a core risk and internality in business operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diversification of funding sources for supporting conservation outcomes</li> <li>- Increased focus on private sector financial instruments to support OECMs, private and community conservation areas</li> <li>- Improved capacity of institutions, including at sub-national level to generate increased financial resources and promote public-private partnership in support of conservation outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilization of domestic biodiversity finance for implementation of OECMs and community and private conservation areas</li> <li>- Sub-national institutions have capacity and able to mobilize private sector financing for conservation actions.</li> </ul>
<b>Improved management effectiveness of landscapes and seascapes to meet India's obligations of GBF Target 3</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Lack of an enabling framework for strengthening ecologically representativeness, connectivity and ecological integrity within a landscape and/or seascape context:</li> <li>- Lack of suitable models that promote integrated conservation approaches that include PAs, forest reserves, OECMs and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enabling framework and planning procedures available for promoting integrated and inclusive planning at landscape and seascape level to improve ecological representativeness and connectivity and promote ecological integrity</li> <li>- Suitable and proven models for integration of PAs and OECMs and other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 4-5 landscape/seascape management strategies developed that identify OECMs and community and private community conservation areas for demarcation and management to conserve species, habitats and biodiversity</li> <li>- Identification, mapping, allocation and implementation of 600,000 hectares of KBAs and HCVFs as OECMs, new community and privately managed conservation</li> </ul>

<p>private and community conservation areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Limited nature positive solutions for incentivizing local community participation and benefit from conservation actions</li> <li>-Inadequate and sustainable community-private sector participation in promotion of nature-based sustainable solutions</li> </ul>	<p>categories of conservation areas available for replication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nature positive solutions in resource use and benefit sharing demonstrated and being applied</li> <li>-Private-public partnerships actively supporting conservation actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved management of 400,000 hectares of terrestrial landscapes and 50,000 hectares of marine seascapes (outside of protected area network) to benefit biodiversity through integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations in sectoral and economic development plans and programs</li> <li>- At least 5,000 hectares of degraded forests and productive lands restored to benefit biodiversity and improve ecosystem services</li> <li>-At least 50,000 (25,000 men and 25,000 women) direct beneficiaries from improved protection and conservation actions and ecosystem services delivery, sustainable harvest of forest, wetland, marine and other natural products; improved livelihood and income generating activities, training and capacity development, etc.</li> <li>-Reduction in threats to biodiversity, species and habitats associated other species and habitats through promotion of conservation practices</li> <li>-Private-public partnerships increase contribute towards community business, livelihood and conservation efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knowledge management enables political and public support for strengthening the conservation network</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Natural ecosystems remain poorly appreciated due to lack of baseline information for decision-making</li> <li>- Awareness and understanding about biodiversity, ecosystem service values and threats is limited at all levels and in all sectors, which constrains engagement and behavior change.</li> <li>-No comprehensive efforts to raise awareness of the benefits and need for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species, habitats, ecosystem management and threat reduction</li> <li>-Lack of effective information sharing, coordination and sharing of experiences hinders collaborative actions for conservation outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased awareness and knowledge sharing promote community and stakeholder conservation actions</li> <li>- Results and lessons learned from project are made available to a wide national and global audience</li> <li>-Increased level of information available to support a coordinated and collaborative regional effort to protect biodiversity and ecosystems</li> <li>-Resource use in natural ecosystems are effectively managed in accordance of rules, regulations and self-enforcement by local communities</li> <li>-Communities have information and improved knowledge of ecological and economic values of improving sustainable management of natural resources</li> <li>-Improved information, procedures and practices reduces conflicts arising from different priorities and needs for use of natural resources-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Improved awareness among local communities on importance of natural ecosystem and value to their livelihoods among beneficiaries</li> <li>-At least ten lessons of best practices in biodiversity conservation in OECMs and community and private conservation areas available for public access</li> <li>- At least ten 10 initiatives demonstrate active participation and knowledge exchange in OECMs and community and private conservation activities</li> <li>-Improved collaboration among south-south countries as measured by the number of collaborative bi-country or multi-country events for information sharing, training and programs under implementation</li> </ul>

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

### Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

### Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations: No

Private Sector: No

### Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

During the PIF stage, consultation was limited to government stakeholders, but a broad approach to stakeholder engagement will be developed during the PPG stage, including specifically enhancing consultations with the private sector, local communities, IP and state and local level entities. Consultation will further ensure application of FPIC principles.

**Table 10: Consultations during PIF stage**

Name of the expert/ institute	Description	Date
National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), MOEFCC	Discussion of potential entry points to identify OECMs in India's diverse context. Strategy regarding communication and awareness generation. Along with this pilots can be demonstrated in selected potential landscapes. The importance of resource mobilization through public and especially private sector was discussed. Through the project a cadre of biodiversity auditors can be trained to ensure that the process of identifying and validating OECMs. Since potential OECMs are identified in industrial estates and private land, a streamlined governance machinery was considered crucial. Initial OECMs being reported to WDPA were identified from the list of India Biodiversity Awardees who fitted the bill and were vetted. It was agreed upon that a strategy is needed for the same and the project must also focus on communication and awareness generation. Along with this pilots can be demonstrated in selected potential landscapes. Through project funds, sites that have potential but may not fulfil all four of the criteria to be recognized as an OECM can be supported. The importance of resource mobilization through public and especially private sector was discussed. Through the project a cadre of biodiversity auditors can be trained to ensure that the process of identifying and validating OECMs.	August 25, 2023
National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management	Strategic mapping of potential sites with priority towards the less explored coastal/marine OECMs. Extension of scope of projects to also include specific PA types (e.g. Biodiversity Heritage Sites, Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas,	August 30, 2023



<p>(NCSCM), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), MOEFCC</p>	<p>community reserves, conservation reserves etc.) so as to align with target 3 of GBF. Establish national guidelines on OECMs. The quantitative targets of the project were also discussed.</p> <p>Based on the first consultation, the scope of the project was extended from just OECMs to also inclusion of Biodiversity Heritage Sites, Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas (MPCAs), community reserves, conservation reserves etc. This will support the alignment of the project to the achievement of target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. The need of national and state guidelines to make headway in the work on OECMs in India. Some potential areas could also be those covered under the Coastal Regulation Zones (outside legal protection).</p> <p>The proposed project objectives were re-visited to ensure inclusion of a broader range of practices. 1) Strengthening existing areas in the PAs not state managed, 2) remaining 3% would achieved through a range of innovative mechanisms, 3) focus on new PAs not state managed that are not already part of the currently identified 27% PA area in the country. It also highlighted that inclusion of wetlands to bridge the remaining 3% target. Although many of the wetlands are already PA's and major part of them are under the ambit of the Irrigation Department but quite a few are not PAs but are government owned lands, so could have the potential of identification in through this project. Inclusion of Eco-Sensitive Regions (ESZ) will be discussed at a later stage with state level consultations.</p>	
<p>Stakeholder consultation with Wildlife Institute of India and WWF, NSCSCM, NBA</p>	<p>The intent was to agree on criteria for selection of priority landscapes/seascapes and identify eleven potential sites in important biogeographical regions of the country. The longlisting of potential sites were done based on several criteria to ensure representative sites.</p>	<p>September 15 and 18, 2023</p>
<p>Biodiversity Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest &amp; Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards (18 states)</p>	<p>This meeting was chaired by the Director/Scientist of Biodiversity Division at MoEFCC. The intent was to gather inputs from the key project stakeholders such as the state biodiversity boards and included a discussion on the concept rationale, proposed components and outcomes, as well as alignment with the National Priorities. The State Biodiversity boards will be crucial partners on the sub-national level for project implementation. The chair of the session emphasized on the inclusion of degraded post mine closure areas as well within the purview of the project.</p>	<p>October 04, 2023</p>

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

### Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

### Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes



## Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
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High or Substantial

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	5,897,542.00	560,267.00	6,457,809.00
UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	751,773.00	71,418.00	823,191.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>6,649,315.00</b>	<b>631,685.00</b>	<b>7,281,000.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

200000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
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UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	176,000.00	16,720.00	192,720.00
UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-3	Grant	24,000.00	2,280.00	26,280.00
<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>						<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>

Please provide justification

### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	7,500,000.00
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>7,500,000.00</b>

### Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	3,680,010.00	3200000
BD-1-4	GET	2,217,532.00	1920000
BD-3-2	GET	751,773.00	480000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>6,649,315.00</b>	<b>56,000,000.00</b>

### Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000

Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Defense/Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Highways	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Defense/Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Highways	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Ayush	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Ayush	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare/ Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare/ Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Jal Shakti- Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Jal Shakti- Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Panchayati Raj/ Ministry of Rural Development	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Panchayati Raj/ Ministry of Rural Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1500000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Tourism	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2000000

Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Tourism	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Recipient Country Government	State Governments	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	6000000
Recipient Country Government	State Governments	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Private Sector	Financial Institutions such as TVS Company, Coromandel International Ltd, Godrej and Boyce, Aditya Birla Group, TAT steel Pvt Ltd, Adani Group, Vedanta SESA, etc.	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1000000
Private Sector	Financial Institutions such as TVS Company, Coromandel International Ltd, Godrej and Boyce, Aditya Birla Group, TAT steel Pvt Ltd, Adani Group, Vedanta SESA, etc.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>56,000,000.00</b>

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Note: Co-financing activities are tentative and will be formally agreed to at PPG stage

1. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Investment will be mobilized through the on-going Centrally-Funded Government Schemes: (i) National Afforestation Program (NAP) for the eco-restoration of degraded forests/habitats and adjoining areas through people's participation; (ii) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to support rewilding through ANR, fire management, forest and soil and water protection; (iii) Green India Mission (GIM) for increasing forest cover; (iv) Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats Scheme to support conservation of wildlife and habitats within and outside PAs and species recovery; (v) Project Tiger to support community programs for forest, water and grassland related livelihoods for local communities in PA buffer zones; (vi) Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems Program. For conservation/restoration of mangroves, wetland, etc. (vii) National Coastal Management program for protection of coastal habitats, community sustainable fisheries activities, etc. (viii) National Mission on Himalayan Studies focus on conservation and sustainable development activities; (ix) National Coastal Mission for conservation of coastal ecosystems and community livelihood and employment promotion; (x) National River Conservation Program supports financial and technical support to States for pollution control, and water quality improvements. The National Biodiversity Authority and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management will provide in-kind support in the form of technical support.
2. Ministry of Defense/Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways: Investment of USD 1 million to be mobilized through implementation of interventions for preservation and protection of marine environment and control of marine pollution.
3. Ministry of Ayush: Investment of USD 2 million to be mobilized through National Mission on Medicinal Plants to promote in-situ conservation, survey, inventory and documentation of medicinal plants, habitat recovery, livelihood promotion, information, education and communication and climate change mitigation.

4. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare/ Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Investment of USD 2 million is expected to be mobilized through (i) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) improved agronomic practices, soil and water conservation, integrated approaches, agroforestry, etc. (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to restore soil fertility, improved multi-cropping systems, nutrient and soil management, etc. (iv) Blue Revolution Scheme to promote enhancing the production and productivity of aquaculture and fisheries both from the inland and marine sources; (v) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to enhance the adoption of precision - irrigation and other water saving technologies, recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices and watershed approach to soil and water conservation.
5. Ministry of Jal Shakti: Investment of USD 2 million is expected to be mobilized through the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD), implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the National Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for the conservation of rivers, lakes, and wetlands in the country. NRCD has now amalgamated biodiversity conservation and community participation in the conservation process.
6. Ministry of Panchayati Raj/ Ministry of Rural Development (Water Resources, River Development): Investment of USD 2 million is through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on NRM works focused on check dam, ponds, renovation of traditional water bodies, land development, embankment, field bunds, field channels, plantations, contour trenches etc.
7. Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Investment of USD 1.5 million through schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) and Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) focus on developing value chains for forest-based products and enhancing the income of tribal communities by providing them with skill training and capacity building.
8. Ministry of Tourism: Investment of USD 2 million through various schemes namely- Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0, Adopt a heritage scheme, and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD Scheme). It would support the implementation of sustainable policies to implement a clear-cut sustainable tourism strategy in and around heritage sites, monuments and tourist sites; promotion of cultural and heritage value of the country and development of avenues to create awareness and promotion of sustainable tourism products and support for livelihoods of local communities
9. State Governments: The state government schemes can be finalized during the PPG phase based on the project landscapes, but will include support for forest and wildlife conservation, ecodevelopment programs for forest communities, rewilding, etc.
10. Private Sector: Investment of USD 1 million is expected to be mobilized through on-going and planned initiatives related to biodiversity conservation by corporates that own OECM industrial estates that are mandated to implement conservation activities in 30% of their individual holdings. Other private sector entities will be tapped (based on the financial assessment) within for supporting the promotion of OECMs, community reserves and BHS. The private sector partners will be finalized during the PPG.
11. UNDP will provide staff time and resources from their relevant sector units (conservation, climate change, private sector etc.) to support the project activities. This will be finalized at PPG stage

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Pradeep Kurukulasuriya	10/17/2023	Tashi Dorji		pradeep.kurukulasuriya@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Tashi Dorji		Tashi Dorji		tashi.dorji@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Carsten Germer		Tashi Dorji		carsten.germer@undp.org

### Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Neelesh Kumar Sah	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	12/1/2023

### ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

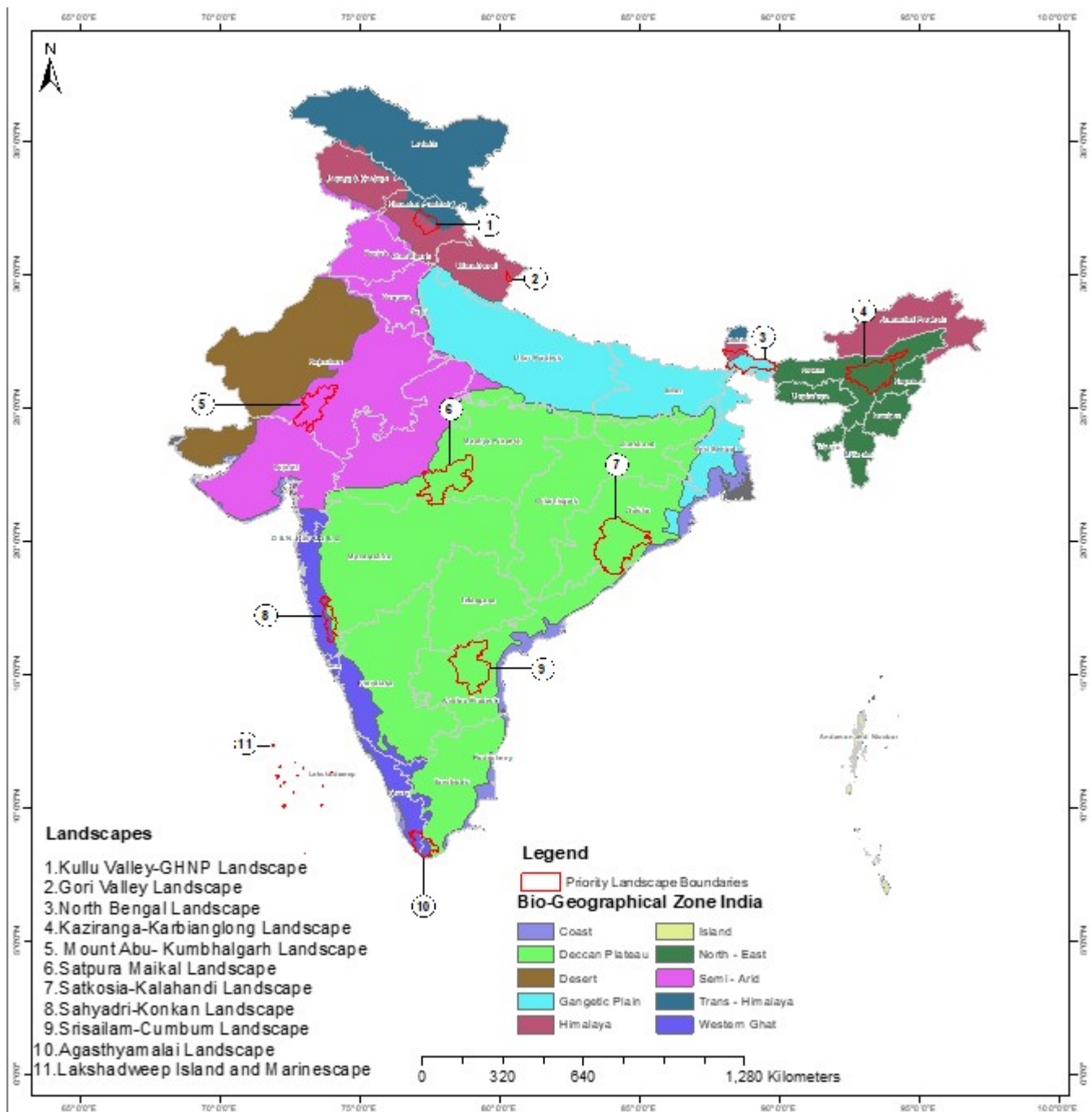


Figure C.1: Map of proposed landscapes and seascape and biogeographic zones of India



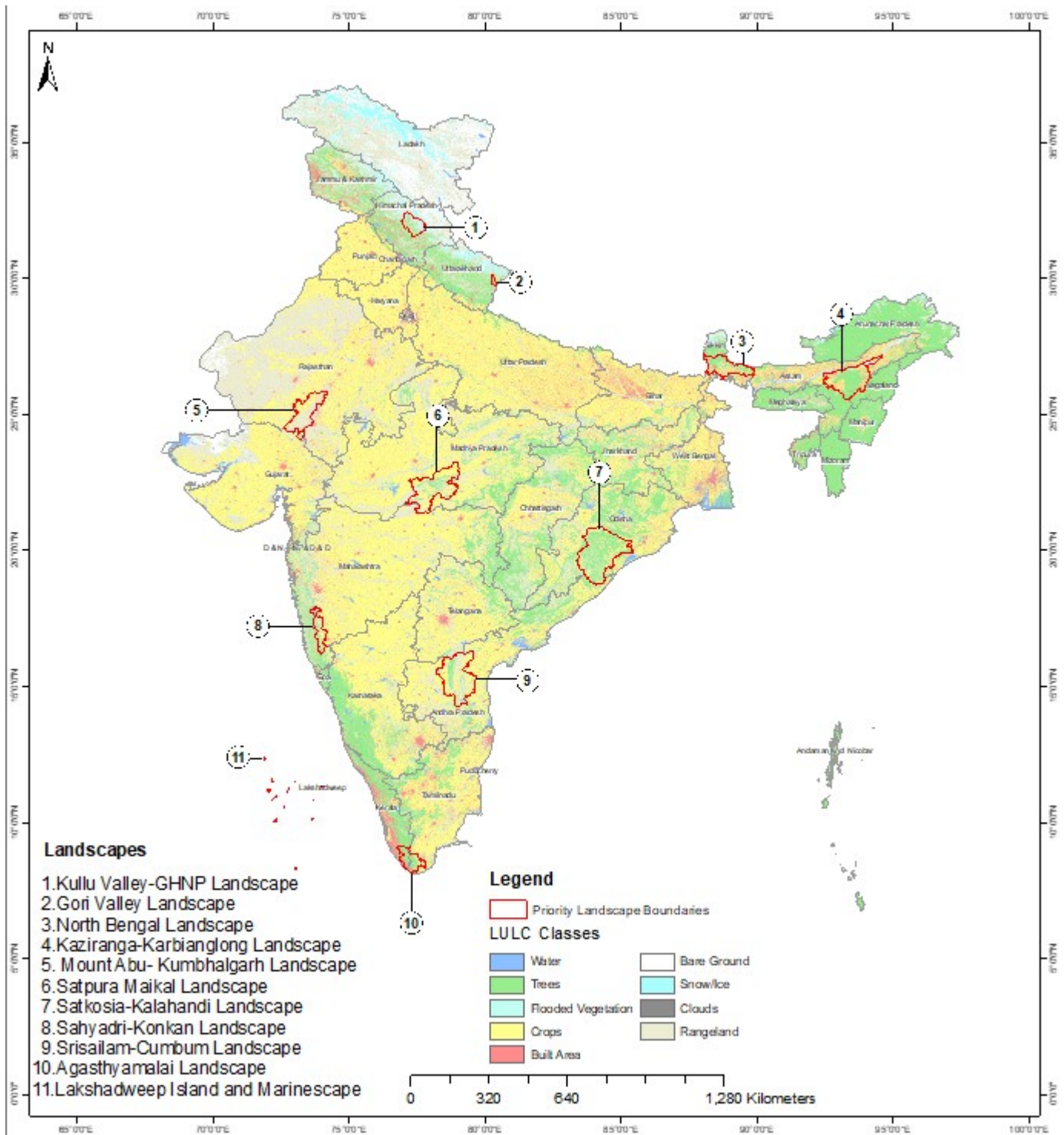


Figure C.2: Map of proposed landscapes and seascapes and land use

Sites Name	Central Coordinates	Longitude	Longitude
Kullu Valley-GHNP Landscape	77.401428 E /31.966270 N	76.921158 - 77.85236	31.533345 - 32.41853
Gori Valley Landscape	80.291947 E /29.865069 N	80.229655 - 80.409379	29.734532 - 30.119181
North Bengal Landscape	89.346582 E /26.705062 N	87.983937 - 89.886671	26.251571 - 27.220398
Kaziranga-Karbianglong Landscape	93.377617 E /26.077112 N	92.386341 - 94.587544	25.52495 - 27.183136



Mount Abu- Kumbhalgarh Landscape	73.242700 E /24.942750 N	72.612831 - 74.217097	24.090341- 25.860314
Satpura Maikal Landscape	78.104250 E /22.410693 N	77.052544 - 79.048549	21.35154 - 23.251932
Satkosia-Kalahandi Landscape	84.505290 E /20.020432 N	83.376336 - 85.446958	18.743159 - 20.904389
Sahyadri-Konkan Landscape	74.032702 E /16.921194 N	73.582852 - 74.198443	16.190672 - 17.923382
Srisailam-Cumbum Landscape	79.015790 E /15.219652 N	78.171799 - 79.682794	14.271648 - 16.30246
Agasthyamalai Landscape	77.496556 E /8.616047 N	76.754076 - 77.836022	8.123321 - 9.166674
Lakshadweep Island and Marinescape	72.756546 E /11.188617 N	72.001026 - 74.123048	8.262931 - 11.707096

**Table C.1 Coordinates of Potential Landscape/seascape sites**

The biological values of the biogeographic zones are provided in Table C.2.

**Table C.2: Characteristics of Landscapes/Seascapes Biogeographic Zones of India (Rodgers and Panwar 1988)**

Biogeographic zone	Geographic and Geomorphoc characteristics	Biological Values
Trans-Himalayan	The Himalayan ranges immediately north of the Great Himalayan range are called the Trans-Himalayas. It accounts for ~5.6% of the country's landmass. This region mostly lies between 4,500 to 6,000 meters (14,800 to 19,700 ft) and is very cold and arid.	The Trans-Himalayan region with its sparse alpine steppe vegetation has the richest wild sheep and goat community in the world. The rare snow leopard, black and brown bears, wolf, marmots, marbled cat, ibex, and kiang is found here, as are the migratory Black-necked Cranes ( <i>Grus nigricollis</i> )
Himalayan	The Himalayas consist of the youngest and loftiest mountain chains in the world. The 2,400 km long Himalayan mountain arc have a unique biodiversity owing to their high altitude, steep gradient and rich temperate flora; biogeographically, they form part of the <u>Paleartic realm</u> . It constitutes about 6.4% of the country's area	Tropical rainforests predominate in the Eastern Himalayas while dense subtropical and alpine forests are typical in the Central and Western Himalayas. This zone is one of the richest areas in terms of habitats and species. Important animals living in the Himalayan ranges include wild sheep, mountain goats, ibex, markhor, Himalayan Thar, musk deer and serow. Red panda, black bear, dholes, wolves, martens, weasels, leopard and snow leopard are also found here. However carnivores are scarce and often locally threatened
Desert	This region consists of two biogeographical provinces. The larger is the <u>Thar</u> or <u>Great Indian Desert</u> , adjoining Pakistan and which comprises Rajasthan and parts of Punjab and Haryana. The Indian part of the Thar desert occupies 170,000 km <sup>2</sup> . The climate is characterized by very hot and dry summer and cold winter. are found in hot and arid parts of the desert. The <u>Rann of Kutch</u> , which lies in Gujarat, is the second biogeographical province. The Rann is a large area of salt marsh that spans the border between Pakistan and India.	In the Thar region, the plants are mostly <u>xerophytic</u> . The <u>Indian Bustard</u> , a highly endangered bird is found here. Camels, gazelles, foxes, spiny-tailed lizards and snakes. The Rann of Kutch is the only large <u>flooded grasslands</u> zone in the <u>Indo-Malayan region</u> . The area has desert on one side and the sea on the other enables various ecosystems, including <u>mangroves</u> and <u>desert vegetation</u> . Its grassland and deserts are home to forms of wildlife that have adapted to its often harsh conditions. These include <u>endemic</u> and <u>endangered</u> animal and plant species, such as the <u>Indian wild ass</u> . The Rann is home to many resident and migratory bird populations including the <u>greater flamingo</u> , <u>lesser flamingo</u> , <u>lesser florican</u> and the <u>houbara bustard</u> . <sup>[19][16]</sup> The Little Rann is home to the world's largest population of <u>Indian wild ass</u> . Other mammals found in the Rann include the <u>Indian wolf</u> , <u>desert fox</u> , <u>chinkara</u> , <u>nilgai</u> , <u>blackbuck</u> and others.
Semi-Arid	Adjoining the desert are the semi-arid areas, a transitional zone between the desert and the denser forests of the Western Ghats. The natural vegetation is thorn forest. This region is characterized by discontinuous vegetation cover with open areas of bare soil and soil-water deficit throughout the year.	Thorny shrubs, grasses and some bamboos are present in some regions. Jackals, leopards, snakes, fox, buffaloes are found in this region, as well as birds such as <u>Great Indian Bustard</u> , <u>Asian Houbara</u> , <u>Cream-colored Courser</u> , <u>White-eared Bulbul</u> , <u>Spotted Sandgrouse</u> , <u>Pin-tailed Sandgrouse</u> (or <u>White-bellied Sandgrouse</u> ), <u>Black-bellied Sandgrouse</u> , <u>Sykes's Nightjar</u> , <u>Greater Hoopoe-Lark</u> , <u>Black-crowned</u>

		<u>Sparrow-Lark</u> , <u>Desert Lark</u> (Bar-tailed Finch-Lark), <u>Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin</u> , <u>Isabelline Wheatear</u> , <u>Asian Desert Warbler</u> , etc. Also found here is the endangered Asian Lion, Caracal, Jackal and Wolf.
Western Ghats	The mountains along the west coast of peninsular India are the Western Ghats, which constitute one of the unique biological regions of the world. The Western Ghats extend from the southern tip of the peninsula (8°N) northwards about 1,600 km to the mouth of the river Tapi. The mountains rise to average altitudes between 900 and 1,500 m above sea level, intercepting monsoon winds from the southwest and creating a rain shadow in the region to their East. The varied climate and diverse topography create a wide array of habitats that support unique sets of plant and animal species. Apart from biological diversity, the region boasts of high levels of cultural diversity, as many indigenous people inhabit its forests.	The Western Ghats are amongst the 25 biodiversity hot-spots recognized globally. These hills are known for their high levels of endemism expressed at both higher and lower taxonomic levels. Most of the Western Ghat endemic plants are associated with evergreen forests. The higher altitude forests were, if at all, sparsely populated with tribal people. The Western Ghats are well known for harboring 14 endemic species of caecilians (i.e., legless amphibians) out of 15 recorded from the region so far. These include the endemic Nilgiri Langur ( <i>Presbytis jobni</i> ), Lion Tailed Macaque ( <i>Macaca silenus</i> ), Grizzled Giant Squirrel ( <i>Ratufa macroura</i> ), Malabar Civet ( <i>Viverricula megaspila</i> ), Nilgiri Tahr ( <i>Hemitragus bylocrius</i> ), and Malabar Grey Hornbill ( <i>Ocyerous griseus</i> ) as well as the endangered Tortoise ( <i>Indotestudo forstem</i> ) and Cane Turtle ( <i>Heosemys silvatica</i> ) that are found only in a small area of the central Western Ghats.
Deccan Plateau	Beyond the Ghats is Deccan Plateau, a semi-arid region lying in the rain shadow of the Western Ghats. This is the largest unit of the Peninsular Plateau of India.	The majority of the forests are deciduous, but there are areas of greater biological diversity in the hill ranges. The zone, also includes thorn forests, and degraded scrubland, is home to a variety of wildlife species. Species found in this region include: Chital ( <i>Axis axis</i> ), Sambar ( <i>Cervus unicorn</i> ), Nilgai ( <i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i> ), Chousingha ( <i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i> ), Barking deer ( <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i> ), Gaur ( <i>Antilope cervicapra</i> ), Elephant ( <i>Elephas maximus</i> ) and Wild Buffalo ( <i>Bubalus bubalis</i> ). The hard ground Swamp Deer ( <i>Cervus duvauceli</i> ) is to a single locality in Madhya Pradesh
Gangetic Plain	In the North is the Gangetic plain extending up to the Himalayan foothills. This is the largest unit of the Great Plain of India. Ganga is the main river after whose name this plain is named. The aggradational Great Plains cover about 72.4m ha area with the Ganga and the Brahmaputra forming the main drainage axes in the major portion.	The trees belonging to these forests are teak, sal, shisham, mahua, khair etc. This region's fauna includes the <i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> , Elephant ( <i>Elephas maximus</i> ), Buffalo ( <i>Bubalus bubalis</i> ), Swamp Deer ( <i>Cervus duvauceli</i> ), Hog-Deer ( <i>Axis porcinus</i> ), and Hispid Hare ( <i>Caprolagus hispidus</i> ).
North-East	The North East Region accounts for 5.2 percent of the total geographical area. This region is a transition zone between the Indian, Indo-Malayan, and Indo-Chinese bio-geographical regions, as well as a meeting point for the Himalayan mountains and peninsular India.	The North-East is thus a biogeographical 'gateway' for much of India's fauna and flora, as well as a biodiversity hotspot (Eastern Himalaya). Many of the species that contribute to this biological diversity are either restricted to the region itself or to smaller localized areas of the Khasi Hills.
Coasts	India has a coastline extending over 7,516 km with varied characteristics and structures. The backwaters are the characteristic features of this coast. The east coast plains, in contrast are broader due to depositional activities of the east-flowing rivers owing to the change in their base levels. Extensive deltas are the characteristic features of this coast. Mangrove vegetation is characteristic of estuarine tracts along the coast for instance, at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra.	Mangrove vegetation is characteristic of estuarine tracts along the coast for instance, at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra. Sandy beaches, mangroves, mud flats, coral reefs, and marine angiosperm pastures make it India's wealth and health zone. The Lakshadweep is made up of 25 coral islets with a typical reef lagoon system rich in biodiversity.
Islands	The two groups of islands, i.e., the Arabian Sea islands and Bay Islands differ significantly in origin and physical characteristics. The Arabian Sea Islands (Laccadive, Minicoy, etc.) are the foundered remnants of the old land mass and subsequent coral formations. On the other hand, the Bay Islands lay only about 220 km.	Lakshadweep in the Arabian Sea have some of the best-preserved evergreen forests of India. Some of the islands are fringed with coral reefs. Many of them are covered with thick forests and some are highly dissected. In India, only the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have endemic island biodiversity. Some of the endemic fauna of the Andaman and Nicobar islands include the Narcondam hornbill and the South Andaman krait

The biological and ecological value of the landscapes and seascapes are provided in Table C.3

**Table C.3: Priority Landscapes/Seascapes selected for potential consideration under project**[\[1\]](#)<sup>25</sup>

Priority landscape/ seascape names	Biological and biodiversity significance of landscapes	Area of landscape/seascape	Key PAs, KBAs, and HCVMs within landscapes/seascape	Opportunities for conservation (e.g. ecological representation, opportunities for landscape connectivity, ecological integrity and options for OECMs and community/private conservation areas)
1. Kullu Valley – GHNP Conservation Area	This landscape lies within the ecologically distinct Western Himalayas at the junction between two of the world’s major biogeographic realms, the Palearctic and Indomalayan Realms. Displaying biotic elements from both these realms. This landscape includes the upper mountain glacial and snow meltwater sources of several rivers, and the catchments of water supplies that are vital to millions of downstream users. The conservation area protects the monsoon-affected forests and alpine meadows of the Himalayan front ranges. It is part of the Himalaya biodiversity hotspot and includes twenty-five forest types along with a rich assemblage of fauna species, several of which are threatened e.g. Himalayan Thar, Asiatic black bear, brown bear etc. This gives the site outstanding significance for biodiversity conservation.	4,795 km <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>IBA’s</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Great Himalayan National Park (1171 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>2. Lambri Forest (Banjar Forest Division) (28.2 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>3. Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary (67.6 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>4. Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary (65.6 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>5. Kais Wildlife Sanctuary (12.6 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>6. Inderkilla National Park (303 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>7. Manali Wildlife Sanctuary (36.4 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> </ol> <p><b>PA’s</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Great Himalayan National Park (</li> <li>2. Kanawar WLS (162 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>3. Kais WLS (16 sq. km)</li> <li>4. Manali WLS (30.7 km<sup>2</sup>)</li> </ol>	This landscape is embedded within mountain ranges and globally important conservation areas, with a series of private forest and horticulture, offering ecosystem services. The OECMs here will include stretches of rivers/riverbeds, and fragmented forests that act as stepping stones for mammals and birds, and also climate resilient components. This landscape has significant cultural value and thus has the opportunity for community engagement in biodiversity conservation involving rural/urban biodiversity.

			5. Nargu WLS (194 km <sup>2</sup> )	
2. Gori Valley Landscape	This is part of the Askot Conservation Landscape and a zone of transition between the biogeographical elements of the Greater and Trans Himalayas. The alpine rangelands here provide a wide range of habitat mosaics supporting unique arrays of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Key species include the Snow leopard, Himalayan thar, Blue sheep, and Himalayan Musk deer. It also harbors threatened medicinal and aromatic plants that is of economic value. It is also one of the orchid-rich localities in the Western Himalayas.	409 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>IBA's</b> 1. Askot Wildlife Sanctuary and Goriganga Basin (2,018 km <sup>2</sup> )  <b>PA's</b> 1. Askot Musk Deer WLS (600 km <sup>2</sup> )	It is a landscape with a large number of designated forest villages where the community uses a significant amount of forest areas. Located within the larger conservation area, the village forest and the rivers can form excellent clusters of OECMs.
3. North Bengal Landscape	Mosaic of fragmented forests, revenue villages and tea gardens. It is an important conservation area as it provides critical habitat for Asian elephants ( <i>Elephas maximus</i> ) and leopards that however use a large part of the non-protected landscape but administrative conservation and management focus is restricted to a small patch of protected area in the region.	9,362 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>IBA's</b> 1. Buxa Tiger Reserve (National Park) (760 km <sup>2</sup> ) 2. Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary (216 km <sup>2</sup> ) 3. Gorumara National Park (111 km <sup>2</sup> ) 4. Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary (139 km <sup>2</sup> ) 5. Lava - Neora Valley National Park (138 km <sup>2</sup> )  6. Singhalila National Park (88.9 km <sup>2</sup> {area which falls inside landscape})  <b>PA's</b> 1. Senchal WLS (166 km <sup>2</sup> ) 2. Gorumara National Park (71.1 km <sup>2</sup> ) 3. Neora Valley National Park (175 km <sup>2</sup> ) 4. Chapramari WLS (10 km <sup>2</sup> )	<i>Increasing the connectivity of forest patches is necessary to facilitate elephant and leopard movement through OECMs, community reserves, and conservation-compatible agroforestry. This area is also dominated by over 140 ethnomedicinal species and provides an opportunity for the creation of community-managed medicinal plant conservation areas.</i>

			5. Jaldapara National Park (248 km <sup>2</sup> ) 6. Buxa Tiger Reserve (760 km <sup>2</sup> )	
4. Kaziranga-Karbianglong Landscape	The Kaziranga-Karbianglong Landscape presents an area of lush forests and grasslands that are home to flagship species like the Asian elephants, Indian rhinoceros and the Bengal tigers. It is home to about half of Assam's elephant population, more than 70 percent of Assam's tigers, and close to 90 percent of the rhino population of India. Of the 500 bird species in this landscape 25 are globally threatened.	27,277 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>PA's</b> 1.Orang National Park (65 km <sup>2</sup> ) 2.Nambor-Doigrung WLS (49 km <sup>2</sup> ) 3.Kaziranga National Park/Tiger Reserve (470 km <sup>2</sup> ) 4.Burachapori WLS (28 km <sup>2</sup> ) 5.Lawkhowa WLS (50 km <sup>2</sup> ) 6.Sonai Rupai WLS (202 km <sup>2</sup> ) 7.Marat Longri WLS (303 km <sup>2</sup> ) 8.East KarbiAnglong WLS (107 km <sup>2</sup> ) 9.North KarbiAnglongWLS (196 km <sup>2</sup> ) 10.Nambor WLS (17 km <sup>2</sup> ) 11. Nameri National Park/Tiger Reserve (207 km <sup>2</sup> )	The tiger reserves are connected by wildlife 'corridors' that fall outside the protected area network. These corridors are crucial for the movement of tigers and other wildlife often falling in human-dominated landscapes and thus require adequate management and restoration. This landscape is especially important as a refugee to the wild animal during the flood season.
5. Mount Abu-Kumbhalgarh Landscape	This landscape belongs to the semi-arid biogeographic zone of India, representing one of the oldest mountain ranges i.e., the Aravali hill range. In addition to being an evolutionarily significant biogeographic unit, it has strong biological links with Western Asia and Northern Africa. This region has exceptionally high ungulate densities. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary harbors the <a href="#">Indian wolf</a> , <a href="#">Indian leopard</a> , <a href="#">sloth bear</a> , <a href="#">striped hyena</a> , <a href="#">golden jackal</a> , <a href="#">sambhar</a> , <a href="#">nilgai</a> , <a href="#">chausingha</a> , <a href="#">chinkara</a> , and <a href="#">Indian hare</a> . The leopard is the <a href="#">apex predator</a> in the sanctuary, although the tiger's presence is sporadically recorded in	12,205 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>IBA's</b> 1.Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (700 km <sup>2</sup> ) 2. Jawai Dam Leopard Conservation Reserve (35 km <sup>2</sup> ) 3. Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary (366 km <sup>2</sup> )	This landscape is a mosaic of dry deciduous forest, scrubland, extensive grass patches, and human habitation, with several places of worship. The areas within the protected area offer excellent opportunities for community-based conservation in the form of OECMs.

	<p>the landscape. Kumbhalgarh is now prepared as a new tiger reserve in Rajasthan.</p> <p>Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary boasts over 146 species of birds. It is very rich in floral bio-diversity starting from xenomorphic sub-tropical thorn forests in the foothills to sub-tropical evergreen forests and valleys at higher altitudes.</p>		<p>4. Sei Dam reservoir and surrounding environs (4.26 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p><b>PA's</b></p> <p>1. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary (700 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>2. TodgarhRaoli WLS (425 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>3. PhulwarikiNal WLS (727 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>	
6. Satpura – Maikal Landscape	<p>The Satpura-Maikal landscap falls in the heart of India. This part of central India contains some of the country's biggest forests, and is rich in wildlife. It is particularly important for tigers and priority tiger landscape of 118,000 sq km, of which almost 40% is forest, and includes some of the country's most famous tiger reserves and protected areas.</p>	19,565 km <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>IBA's</b></p> <p>1. Bori Wildlife Sanctuary (1,505 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p><b>PA's</b></p> <p>1. Satpura National Park/Tiger Reserve (351 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>	<p>The tiger reserves are connected by wildlife 'corridors' that fall outside the protected area network. These corridors are crucial for the movement of tigers and other wildlife and thus require adequate management and restoration. The Satpura-Maikal landscape falls in the Mineral belt of central India and faces mining pressure. OECMs can address these issues by working within these corridors which are majorly falling in human-dominated areas while involving the communities.</p>
7. Satkosia-Kalahandi Landscape	<p>Represents the biodiversity of eastern central India. Forests surrounding the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi river including the stretch of river flowing through the gorge with rich diversity of habitats and mosaic of landscapes having a fascinating floral and faunal composition. Key species include the Elephants, Tigers and Sloth bear. It is a critical area for the gharial (<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>) and the mugger (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>).</p>	27,948 km <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>PA's</b></p> <p>1. Kothgarh WLS (434 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>2. Satkosia Tiger Reserve (930 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>3. Lakhari Valley WLS (35 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>	<p>It is a large landscape with mosaics of forest and human habitation, with tenuous connectivity between the fragments. Human-dominated areas include development activities such as mines, and linear infrastructure. This landscape offers OECM opportunity in the form of reclamation of mine sites, restoration of degraded areas, green belts etc.</p>
8. Sahyadri – Konkan Landscape	<p>This landscape is situated in northern western ghats forms a patchy distribution of forest and represents a linear montane habitat that connects tiger reserves in Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Western Ghats is a crucial habitat for wildlife and biodiversity, and the Sahyadri-Konkan</p>	5,491 km <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>IBA's</b></p> <p>1. Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (489 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>	<p>The forested areas of this landscape are majorly situated in undulating terrains with intensive agricultural landscapes on the eastern and western</p>

	<p>region is the northern range limit for three of the four large carnivores found in the Western Ghats – the Tiger, Dhole, and Sloth bear. This region matters; as the chances of local extinction of these species are very high here, making the forested landscape/corridors very crucial for the existence of these species.</p>		<p>2. Chandoli National Park (321 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>3. Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary (454 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>4. Amboli-Tilari Reserve Forest (520 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p><b>PA's</b></p> <p>1.Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (1,166 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>2. Chandoli National Park (321 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>3. Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary (454 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>	<p>sides. The forest is fragmented outside the protected areas. The economy of this landscape is majorly agriculture-based and it has many private and revenue forests providing opportunities for the OECMs.</p>
9. Sirsailam – Cumbum Landscape	<p>The diversity of geo-morphology and vegetation gives rise to a multitude of habitats and ecological niches that support rich wildlife. Extensive forest areas along the river allow the development of genetically viable populations.</p> <p>It is home to over 80 species of mammals, 303 species of birds, 54 species of reptiles, 20 amphibians, 55 fishes, 101 species of butterflies, 57 species of moths, 45 species of coleopteran, 30 species of Odonata and numerous other forms of insects some of which are very rare and important species of arachnids like Emperor Scorpion, Tarantula Spider, Whip Scorpion and Whip Spider. This landscape has the largest tiger reserve in India, but also constitutes significant piscine fauna comprising</p> <p>55 species of 36 genera under 20 families. The water bodies like ponds, puddles, foothills, hill streams rivulets form suitable habitats for these species. The main faunal species include Tiger, Leopard, Sloth bear, and typical dry land predators – Wild dog, Hyena and Jackal; prey species like Sambar, Chital, Chowsingha, Nilgai, Mouse deer, Wild boar and Chinkara.</p>	21,138 km <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>IBA's</b></p> <p>1. Rajiv Ghandi Wildlife Sanctuary (Nagarjunasagar - Srisailam Tiger Reserve) (5201 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>2. Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary (485 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p><b>PA's</b></p> <p>1. Rajiv Ghandi Wildlife Sanctuary (Nagarjunasagar - Srisailam Tiger Reserve) (5201 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>2. Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary (485 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>	<p>It represents eastern ghat elements exposed to a high level of human interface. The series of fragmented forests offers stepping stones and connectivity opportunities for dispersing mammals and birds. There are indigenous communities who are dependent on the forest, and these people can be involved in community-based conservation involving traditional knowledge systems.</p>
10. Agasthyamalai Landscape	<p>It represents the biodiversity of the southern western ghats. It is a natural habitat of rare medicinal herbs and is included in UNESCO's list of 'World Network of Biosphere Reserves'. The Western Ghats is one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots and also the source of many major rivers. Thus, its conservation is important both for the biodiversity as well as the ecological</p>	6,366 km <sup>2</sup>	<p><b>IBA's</b></p> <p>1.Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (820 km<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>2. Kulahupuzha Reserved Forest (365 km<sup>2</sup>)</p>	<p>Given that the entire landscape is not under PAs, this provides opportunities for community conservation initiatives (such as the creation of BHS, Medicinal plant conservation areas,</p>



	<p>functions that are essential to safeguard the livelihoods of several million people.</p> <p>The flora of the Agasthyamalai hills bears a remarkable similarity to that of Sri Lanka's south-western wet zone. A total of seven species of mammals are endemic to the southern Western Ghats and Sri Lanka considered together as one ecological unit; they are the Mountain shrew, Slender loris, Stripe-necked mongoose, Sri Lankan Giant squirrel or Grizzled Giant squirrel, Layard's Striped squirrel, Dusky Striped squirrel, and the Travancore Flying squirrel. Also, this place is home to many endangered species of wild animals, like Lion-Tailed macaques, Bengal tiger, Nilgiri marten, Nilgiri tahr, Malabar Spiny dormouse, Great Pied hornbills, Gaur, and Sloth bear.</p>		3. Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary (105 km <sup>2</sup> )	community reserves, sacred groves, etc.)
11. Lakshadweep Marinescape	It is a group of 11 inhabited and 16 uninhabited coral islands, 12 atolls, 3 reefs and 5 submerged banks. The islands are major feeding grounds for turtles and important for nesting seabirds, with large extent of seagrass beds. The coral ecosystem having more than 140 species, 400 species of plants, 101 species of birds and 603 species of marine fishes are recorded. The Islands also has huge potential for blue carbon economy.	>311 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>IBA's</b> 1. Pitti Island (274 km <sup>2</sup> ) 2. Beliyapani Island (37.7 km <sup>2</sup> ) <b>PA's</b>	Lakshadweep is a fragile coral ecosystem and is deteriorating due to natural and manmade causes. There are good OECM clusters representing islands and marinescape that can be managed by local communities.

[1] During PPG stage after further refining of selection criteria and extensive consultation 4-5 landscapes/seascapes will be selected from the priority list of 11 in this table for demonstration under the project. Following this, a number of smaller clusters would be further demarcated (based on agreed criteria to be defined at PPG stage) within each of the selected 4-5 landscapes/seascapes. These clusters will exclude current PAs, but options for ensuring connectivity with the current PAs could likely be one criteria for cluster selection. These clusters will undergo further detailed mapping to identify potential options for OECMs and creation of new community and privately managed conservation areas within them. The remaining landscapes/seascapes in this table (those not selected for project investment) will be considered for potential co-financing (around year 3 or 4) based on methodology and processes defined under the project for mapping of landscapes/seascapes, identification and allocation of OECMs and new community and privately management conservation areas and cluster planning.

#### ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

Annex D\_9663 OECM\_Pre-SESP\_v

#### ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Influencing models			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deploy innovative financial instruments		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Sector		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Capital providers	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Large corporations	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMEs	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Grant Pilot	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Project Reflow	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Communities		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Society		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Based Organization	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Governmental Organization	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academia	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Type of Engagement		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Dissemination	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness Raising	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Campaigns	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behavior Change	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabling Activities		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Development		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Research		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theory of Change	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Management	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicators to Measure Change	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovation		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Learning		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Management	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Development	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality			

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Mainstreaming		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women groups	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender-sensitive indicators	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender results areas		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access and control over natural resources	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation and leadership	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to benefits and services	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity development	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness raising	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge generation	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focal Areas/Theme	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programs		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Commodity Supply Chains ('Good Growth Partnership)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Commodities Production
			<input type="checkbox"/> Deforestation-free Sourcing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Screening Tools
			<input type="checkbox"/> High Conservation Value Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> High Carbon Stocks Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> Soybean Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Oil Palm Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Beef Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farmers
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Management
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Resilience (climate and shocks)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Production Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Agroecosystems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Land and Soil Health
			<input type="checkbox"/> Diversified Farming
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Land and Water Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farming
			<input type="checkbox"/> Small and Medium Enterprises
			<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Genetic Diversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Food Value Chains
			<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Dimensions
			<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Food Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Restoration
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Commodity Production
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Landscapes
			<input type="checkbox"/> Food Value Chains
			<input type="checkbox"/> Deforestation-free Sourcing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farmers
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Cities	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated urban planning

			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban sustainability framework
			<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and Mobility
			<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
			<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal waste management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Green space
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Biodiversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Food Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency
			<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Financing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Resilience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Protected Areas
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Productive Landscapes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Productive Seascapes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Based Natural Resource Management
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainstreaming	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry (including HCVF and REDD+)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certification (National Standards)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Certification (International Standards)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Species	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Illegal Wildlife Trade
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened Species
			<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Wild Relatives
			<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Genetic Resources
			<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Genetic Resources
			<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Wild Relatives
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biomes	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mangroves
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coral Reefs
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sea Grasses
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rivers
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lakes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tropical Rain Forests
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tropical Dry Forests
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate Forests
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grasslands
			<input type="checkbox"/> Paramo
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Desert
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial and Accounting	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment for Ecosystem Services
			<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Trust Funds
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Finance
		<input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Biosafety
			<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Forests		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Forest and Landscape Restoration	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	<input type="checkbox"/> REDD/REDD+
			<input type="checkbox"/> Amazon
			<input type="checkbox"/> Congo
			<input type="checkbox"/> Drylands
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Degradation		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Land Management	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem Approach
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community-Based NRM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Livelihoods
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income Generating Activities
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Agriculture
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Pasture Management
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Fire Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		<input type="checkbox"/> Land Degradation Neutrality	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Land Productivity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Land Cover and Land cover change
			<input type="checkbox"/> Carbon stocks above or below ground
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Security	

<input type="checkbox"/> International Waters		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ship	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Aquifer
		<input type="checkbox"/> River Basin
		<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Basin
	<input type="checkbox"/> Learning	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent toxic substances	
	<input type="checkbox"/> SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Research	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pollution	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent toxic substances
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plastics
		<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
		<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
	<input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Large Marine Ecosystems	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector	

	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine Protected Area	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Biomes	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Mangrove
		<input type="checkbox"/> Coral Reefs
		<input type="checkbox"/> Seagrasses
		<input type="checkbox"/> Polar Ecosystems
		<input type="checkbox"/> Constructed Wetlands
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals and Waste		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mercury	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Coal Fired Power Plants	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cement	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ozone	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent Organic Pollutants	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste Management
		<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Waste
		<input type="checkbox"/> e-Waste
	<input type="checkbox"/> Emissions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Disposal	
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastics	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Eco-Efficiency	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides	
	<input type="checkbox"/> DDT - Vector Management	
	<input type="checkbox"/> DDT - Other	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Emissions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Open Burning	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Green Chemistry	

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Finance
			<input type="checkbox"/> Least Developed Countries
			<input type="checkbox"/> Small Island Developing States
			<input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Risk Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sea-level rise
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Resilience
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate information
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation Tech Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> National Adaptation Programme of Action
			<input type="checkbox"/> National Adaptation Plan
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mainstreaming Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector
			<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Complementarity
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community-based Adaptation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> livelihoods
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy
			<input type="checkbox"/> Financing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Enabling Activities
		<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Transfer	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Endogenous technology
			<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Needs Assessment
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation Tech Transfer
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United Nations Framework on Climate Change	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nationally Determined Contribution
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Development Goals
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Finance (Rio Markers)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 1
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 2
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 1
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 2

## ANNEX H: GHG Estimate

Will be calculated when the final 4-5 priority landscapes/seascapes are selected at PPG stage, as GHG emissions will depend on the nature of habitats, level of degradation and other factors in each landscape sites.

## ANNEX J: CURRENT EXAMPLES OF BIOFIN INVESTMENTS IN INDIA AND GENDER INTEGRATION

BIOFIN COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVES	GENDER COMPONENT
Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Public Sector Schemes and Policies (Agriculture)	Partnership with the Indian Council for Research on Internal Economic Relations (ICRIER) to conduct a detailed study on 'Repurposing Public	The impact of repurposing subsidies across select states on different genders will be a part of the assessment.



	Policies and Programmes in Agriculture for Protecting Biodiversity’.	<i>Impact:</i> Policy-level recommendations on repurposing subsidies to include considerations for women, especially female farmers, labourers, landowners etc.
	Awareness generation through trainings and capacity building of stakeholders at different levels (policy makers, scheme managers, farmers etc.) on the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into the agriculture sector	The trainings and capacity building workshops to ensure stakeholders include both men and women agri- farmers, male and female managers associated with agriculture sector schemes etc. to generate awareness & sensitization on mainstreaming of biodiversity.  <i>Impact:</i> Improved decision making among male and female stakeholders on integrating elements of biodiversity conservation into traditional agricultural policies, practices and interventions
	Development of a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Index (BMI) to help assess and measure the extent of mainstreaming of various biodiversity related components in different sectors and schemes	Biodiversity Mainstreaming Index (BMI) would have a component on gender mainstreaming.  -  <i>Impact:</i> The Index would include gender disaggregated data on biodiversity mainstreaming right from the policy making levels down to the implementation levels and associated impact.
	Development of knowledge products/capacity building modules on mainstreaming biodiversity in public finance in the agriculture sector.	Knowledge products/capacity building modules would have a component on women empowerment in biodiversity conservation and sustainability.  <i>Impact:</i> Knowledge dissemination and capacity building to become gender inclusive through the said tools/knowledge products
	Documentation of best practices underway through a Compendium on ‘Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Agriculture sector in India	Documentation to ensure inclusion of gender-sensitive best practices.  <i>Impact:</i> Increased recognition of the initiatives by individuals and organisations involved in gender- sensitive mainstreaming of biodiversity into the agriculture sector. The Compendium will further strengthen gender-inclusive knowledge dissemination on best practices and provide examples to other states and stakeholders to undertake similar initiatives, with potential for recognition and scale-up.
Enhancing flow of CSR funds for biodiversity conservation based on National/subnational priorities.	Partnership with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) to develop a comprehensive training module for middle and senior-level CSR managers and executives on ‘Business and Biodiversity Conservation’, incorporating elements of responsible business reporting.	Modules and curriculum to be gender-inclusive and to train women leaders on integrating biodiversity into business decisions.  <i>Impact:</i> Improved decision-making among corporate leadership on integrating biodiversity-related risks and impacts into business decision-making, subsequently influencing targeted resource mobilisation.
	Conducting workshops for sensitizing law makers/ policy and decision makers at local level regarding the role of biodiversity in socio-economic development	Ensure there are sessions on GEWE and the role and importance of women in biodiversity conservation.

		<p><i>Impact:</i> Improved and gender inclusive decision-making among the public sector on integrating biodiversity-related risks and impacts into socio-economic developments and decision-making, subsequently influencing budgeting and resource mobilisation towards the same.</p>
	In collaboration with various CSO and NGOs, development of CSR projects on biodiversity conservation and protection.	<p>Project proposals to ensure gender inclusion in terms of areas targeted, project beneficiaries, overall impact, scale-up and sustainability.</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> gender-sensitive CSR projects on conservation developed for funding by the corporate sector</p>
Enhancing Resources for Benefit Sharing from Access, Utilization, etc. of Bio-Resources	Validation of methodologies for Assessment of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Potential and methodology for distribution of ABS money collected to BMCs/providers of bio-resources	<p>For the purpose a working group has been constituted in NBA. The new members of this working group would be nominated and at least one-third of members would be women.</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> ABS methodology to have a holistic, gender inclusive lens for validation.</p>
	Demonstration of Benefit Transfer under the ABS mechanism through a web-based system	<p>Demonstration to ensure equal participation of male and female stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> awareness generation, capacity building and piloting of the benefit transfer system to be disseminated to both men and women for efficient use and adoption.</p>
	Organization of national level stakeholder awareness and sensitization workshops on ABS fund flow in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.	<p>Workshops to ensure participation of women across the spectrum of different stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> wider and gender-inclusive dissemination and awareness generation of the ABS mechanism, its modes of use and application, its benefits etc.</p>
Leveraging FinTech for Biodiversity Conservation based on National/subnational priorities:	Workshops and stakeholder consultations on 'FinTech for Biodiversity Conservation' with financial and conservation sector.	<p>Workshops and consultations to ensure equal representation and participation of women among panelists, participants and representatives.</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> given that FinTech is a niche sector in India, discussions, knowledge building, inputs and expert insights must incorporate all points of view, so as to develop better gender-inclusive initiatives and support a diverse range of stakeholders for implementation and scale-up in this sector.</p>
Nature-related Risk Assessments and Reporting in India	Development of sector-specific nature-related reporting standards, nature-specific targets and indicators of success	<p>The reporting templates include gender-inclusive reporting metrics and indicators of success.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>Impact:</i> the mandatory BRSR reporting template to become gender-responsive, triggering a chain reaction of gender-inclusive project implementation by corporates and its subsequent reporting in these templates.</p>
	Designing and conducting a 'Training and Certification Program for Environmental Auditors on Standards of Sustainability Reporting' to refine nature-specific auditing processes and	The program includes aspects on integration of gender roles into nature-related assessments and reporting and the trainings shall be targeted towards an equally represented cohort of male and female auditors.

	enhance credibility of sustainability reporting in the country.	<i>Impact:</i> increased awareness and capacities among both male and female environmental auditors on nature-related risk assessments and reporting.
Enhancing resources for innovative conservation measures through identifying, recognizing, and supporting community conservation initiatives including potential Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).	Support to community level organizations for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood initiatives including OECMs in the North East Region.	Dedicated trainings and capacity building support to female participants.  <i>Impact:</i> technical capacities and management skills built among female stakeholders to take on leadership roles during project design and implementation.
	Providing communication, knowledge management and expert mentoring support to the Initiative	Communication products to ensure dedicated gender-related outreach aspects and prioritizing gender equitable mentoring support to the communities.  -  <i>Impact:</i> increased dissemination among different stakeholders through gender-responsive knowledge products
Supporting commitments under Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) including NBSAP and NBT updating	Organization of National and regional level consultations towards the alignment of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) with the Kunming Montreal-Global Biodiversity Framework.	Ensuring women participation among the stakeholders, including govt officials, officials of partner organizations and community leaders for gender-equitable discussions  <i>Impact:</i> the NBSAP to be developed through a gender-inclusive lens, taking into account different stakeholders and differing impacts, leading to different methods of monitoring and evaluation.
	Partnership with the Indian Institute of Forest Management to conduct a study on Appropriate Forest Resource Accounting Frameworks and Assessment of Potential for REDD+ and Biodiversity Credits in India	The frameworks developed to be gender-inclusive and take into account measurement metrics and indicators corresponding to gender disaggregated data collection
	Supporting green entrepreneurship and microenterprises by conducting training and capacity building of local stakeholders in project landscapes	Targeted capacity building workshops for female entrepreneurs and local female business owners.  <i>Impact:</i> increased awareness on market linkages, greening supply chains and operations and accessing additional funding and other support for sustainable management, scale-up and output generation for the green microenterprises.