GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION 3

Project Summary 4

Project Description Overview 4

PROJECT OUTLINE 8

A.CHANGES COMPARED TO PPG REQUEST 8

B. PROJECT RATIONALE 12

C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION 26

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project 59

Core Indicators 71

Key Risks 75

D. ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES 80

E. POLICY REQUIREMENTS 82

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 82

Stakeholder Engagement 82

Private Sector 84

Environmental and Social Safeguards 85

F. OTHER REQUIREMENTS 85

Knowledge management 85

Socio-economic Benefits 85

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES 85

Total GEF Financing Table 85

Project Preparation Grant (PPG) 86

Sources of Funds for non-GBFF GEF resources (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects) 87

Action Area Elements (and Focal Area Elements for Multi-Trust Fund projects) 87

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type 87

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS 88

GEF Agency(ies) Certification : 88

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s): 88

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK 88

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG) 102

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES 103

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING 106

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE 107

ANNEX H: BLENDED-FINANCE RELEVANT ANNEXES 143

ANNEX H.1: Termsheet 143

ANNEX H.2: Agency capacity to implement blended finance projects 143

General Project Information

Project Title Conservation of Biodiversity, its Sustainable Use, Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits in India (CONSERVE)	
Region Asia	GEF Project ID 11784
Country(ies) India	Type of Project GBFF
GEF Agency(ies): UNDP World Bank	GEF Agency Project ID 9953
Project Executing Entity(s) NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE	Project Executing Type Government
GEF Focal Area (s) Biodiversity	Submission Date 9/23/2025
Type of Trust Fund GBFF	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 12,378,900.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 1,114,100.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 13,493,000.00	Total Co-financing 30,250,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 300,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 27,000.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 13,820,000.00	
Project Tags : Support IPLC, GBF Target 1, GBF Target 2, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 14, GBF Target 18, GBF Target 19, GBF Target 22, GBF Target 23	
Rio Markers	

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation

Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project. (max. 2000 words, approximately 1/2 page)

India's rich biodiversity faces challenges from unsustainable land use, ecosystem fragmentation, inadequate monitoring and financing and requires attention to address these challenges. The project will address some of these challenges by adopting a transformative, phased approach as it will develop comprehensive biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans[1][1], institutionalize interoperable digital monitoring systems, and formally recognize Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) through participatory processes rooted in Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). It will also mainstream biodiversity into public budgets via expenditure reviews and tagging.

[1] The term Spatial planning used in the CEO-ER refers to a systematic, policy-driven process through which governments and institutions organize, regulate, and guide the use, management, and protection of land and natural resources across a defined geographic area. It uses geo-referenced evidence (from spatial mapping) to make strategic decisions about *where* activities should occur, *what* land uses are permissible, and *how* ecological and development objectives can be harmonized.

By systematically addressing the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss in India, and dismantling barriers related to governance, capacity, financing, and equity, the project will contribute to strengthening of biodiversity governance and financing, advancing the implementation of NBSAP in India. It will do so by implementing the following approaches:

1. Strengthening biodiversity governance and spatial planning to overcome fragmented land-use planning and poor management of non-protected areas.

2. Empowering local communities as biodiversity stewards through inclusive OECM management.

3. Leveraging biodiversity finance for sustainability by addressing chronic underfunding and weak monitoring.

Through these approaches, the project will bring at least (i) 200,000 hectares of landscapes outside PA under improved management practices, which (ii) directly benefiting more than 30,000 people (50% are women). These improved management interventions will result in GHG mitigation of ±3.48 million tons of CO2e (20-year estimates). They will strengthen ecological connectivity, enhance carbon sinks, and improve resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable communities to climate impacts. This holistic design positions biodiversity as integral to development, advances India's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Targets 1,2,3,14,18,19,20,21,22,23), and contributes to multiple SDGs, notably on poverty, gender equality, climate action, and life on land.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To improve biodiversity management, monitoring, sustainable financing and co-benefits from enhanced implementation of NBSAP

Project Components

Component 1: Strengthening Biodiversity Governance for improved ecosystem management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
5,356,233.00	

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity management integrated into the national and state spatial planning frameworks to accelerate implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Outcome 1.2: Capacities for monitoring NBSAP implementation strengthened through the development of an integrated biodiversity management information system (MIS)

Outcome 1.1 Indicators

a) An updated national map of key terrestrial biodiversity areas and ecosystems developed with three spatial plans for biodiversity and critical ecosystems mainstreamed into state's conservation plans with 50% women participation in local spatial planning consultation.

b) 195,000 hectares of high biodiversity / critical ecosystems outside PAs in Nagaland, Tripura & Uttarakhand brought under improved management through implementation of innovative management models, which will benefit 25,000 people (with 50% women).

Outcome 1.2 Indicators

a) A national biodiversity MIS and data portal is developed, operationalized, and used to generate and disseminate at least three biodiversity monitoring reports and three knowledge products by end of project.
b) At least 50% increase in institutional capacity (score) of NBA, SBBs, BMCs and other relevant agencies from baseline (measured through capacity assessment scorecard) with 50% of women trained in using MIS for biodiversity monitoring

Output:

Output 1.1.1: Key biodiversity areas and terrestrial ecosystems are mapped spatially at the national and state levels, and mainstreamed into the national conservation planning and the state's conservation plans.

Output 1.1.2: Innovative management models and strategies developed and implemented for conservation of high value biodiversity.

Output 1.2.1: A National biodiversity MIS portal established for monitoring and annual reporting on biodiversity protection, management and restoration.

Output 1.2.2: Knowledge products (policy briefs, case studies) generated utilizing MIS-data portal's monitoring reports and disseminated to public.

Output 1.2.3: Capacity building for at least 150 key personnel from government agencies[1][2] at national, sub-national and local levels for operationalizing the MIS portal.

[1] National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)/ Union territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), and other relevant agencies

Component 2 Advancing Tools for Strengthening Community-Level Biodiversity Conservation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
5,770,965.00	25,873,703.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Enhanced biodiversity protection, management and monitoring (MRV) achieved through community co-management approaches in three states.

Outcome 2.2: Innovative financing instruments deployed to support biodiversity management, monitoring, and community-level OECMs

Indicators:

Outcome 2.1 Indicators:

a) Five OECMs notified and brought under improved biodiversity and habitat management through community co-management mechanisms across 5,000 hectares.

b) At least 5,000 TPLC[1][3] members (50% women) engaged in OECM identification and management, with at least 2 knowledge products documenting their roles disseminated.

Outcome 2.2 Indicator:

- At least $2 Million additional funds mobilized for community level biodiversity conservation activities including for OECMs from market-based instruments (carbon/biodiversity/ green credits etc.) and/or from ABS mechanism with more than 40% of the ABS beneficiaries and biodiversity enterprise participants as women.

[1] In India, Tribal People are constitutionally recognized as Scheduled Tribes with distinct cultures, traditions, and governance. Local communities, often rural and dependent on natural resources, may not be tribal but play a key role in conservation and resource management.

Output:

Output 2.1.1: Management plans developed for identifying, recognizing and managing OECMs.

Output 2.1.2: Knowledge products and lessons from OECM identification, establishment and management produced and disseminated to public.

Output 2.2.1: Additional financing instruments mobilised for funding community-level OECM conservation.

Component 3: Enhancing innovative financing instruments and development of finance plans for supporting NBSAP implementation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
414,731.00	

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Financial resources mobilized and efficiently allocated through adoption of updated biodiversity finance plans

Indicator(s)

Outcome 3.1 Indicator:

One national and three state-level biodiversity budget (finance) plans for implementation of the NBSAP, and SBSAPs (Nagaland, Tripura & Uttarakhand).

Output:

Output 3.1.1: National and state-level biodiversity action plans budgeted[1][4], and adopted for improving efficiency of resource allocation for NBSAP and SBSAPs implementation.

[1] Budget plan development will incorporate the results and recommendations of the biodiversity spatial plans and monitoring procedures under Outcomes 1 and Outcome 2.

Component 4: Project monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
247,500.00	250,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: Effective management, monitoring and reporting that is responsive to gender, youth, IPs, and communities' actions related to project interventions, impacts and outcomes.

Indicator(s)

Outcome 4.1 Indicator:

Project monitoring and evaluation (annual PIRs, MTR and TE) facilitated and delivered, and recommendations taken on board to improve project management and for the development of the project sustainability plan.

Output:

Output 4.1.1: Project implementation coordinated and monitored through proactive steering committee functions and inclusive annual monitoring and evaluation (M&E), as well as project MTR and TE covering fiduciary requirements including environmental and social safeguards

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Strengthening Biodiversity Governance for improved ecosystem management	5,356,233.00	
Component 2 Advancing Tools for Strengthening Community-Level Biodiversity Conservation	5,770,965.00	25,873,703.00
Component 3: Enhancing innovative financing instruments and development of finance plans for supporting NBSAP implementation	414,731.00	
Component 4: Project monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management.	247,500.00	250,000.00
Subtotal	**11,789,429.00**	**26,123,703.00**
Project Management Cost	589,471.00	4,126,297.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**12,378,900.00**	**30,250,000.00**

Please provide Justification

N/A

PROJECT OUTLINE

A.CHANGES COMPARED TO PPG REQUEST

Please describe and justify any major changes to the project design, including to elements put forward in the PPG request to meet the following GBFF selection criteria:

a. Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);

b. The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;

c. The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;

d. Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and

e. Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

1) Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);	No change
2) The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;	No change
3) Project Development Objective	The PDO has been simplified and more focused on specific outputs and outcomes on the recommendation of the govt and stakeholders.
4) Merging of outcome indicators	While the outcome indicators and overall targets remain unchanged, some indicators have been consolidated for greater clarity. For example, at the *PPG Request* stage, Outcome 1 included the following indicators: 1. An updated national map of key terrestrial biodiversity areas and ecosystems developed. 2. Three spatial plans for biodiversity and critical ecosystems mainstreamed into state land-use plans in Nagaland and Tripura. 3. 200,000 hectares of high-biodiversity/critical ecosystems outside PAs in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand brought under improved management through innovative models, benefiting 25,000 people (50% women). At the *CEO-ER* stage, indicators 1 and 2 were merged into a single indicator: *"An updated national map of key terrestrial biodiversity areas and ecosystems developed, with three spatial plans for biodiversity and critical ecosystems mainstreamed into state land-use plans.*
5) Numbering and language for outputs have been revised	Changes from PPG The language of the following outputs has been revised to bring better clarity and specificity: - Output 1.2 is merged with Output 1.1 - Output 2.2 is merged with 2.1 - Outcome 5 has been merged with Outcome 4, and the previous Output 5.1 is now referring to as Output 4.2 - Component 4 added as M & E Component and Outcome 5 and Output 5.1. Revised CEO-ER

	<table><tr><th>Section</th><th>Original CEO-ER</th><th>Revised CEO-ER</th></tr><tr><td>Component 1 Strengthening Biodiversity Governance (UNDP)</td><td>Outcome 1: Biodiversity management integrated into spatial planning & 200,000 ha improved mgmt. - Output 1.1: Mapping - Output 1.2: Management models </td><td>Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity management integrated into spatial planning & 195,000 ha improved mgmt. - Output 1.1.1: Mapping - Output 1.1.2: Management models </td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Outcome 2: MIS strengthened - Output 2.1: MIS portal - Output 2.2: Knowledge products - Output 2.3: Capacity building </td><td>Outcome 1.2: MIS strengthened - Output 1.2.1: MIS portal - Output 1.2.2: Knowledge products - Output 1.2.3: Capacity building </td></tr><tr><td>Component 2 Community-Level Conservation (WB)</td><td>Outcome 3: OECMs established (5,000 ha) - Output 3.1: OECM management plans - Output 3.2: OECM knowledge products </td><td>Outcome 2.1: OECMs established (5,000 ha) - Output 2.1.1: OECM management plans - Output 2.1.2: OECM knowledge products </td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Outcome 2.2: Innovative financing for OECMs - Output 2.2.1: Additional financing instruments mobilised </td></tr><tr><td>Component 3 Innovative Financing for NBSAP (UNDP)</td><td>Outcome 4: Finance mobilized & innovative mechanisms deployed - Output 4.1: Finance plans - Output 4.2: Innovative financing instruments </td><td>Outcome 3.1: Financial resources mobilized through updated finance plans - Output 3.1.1: Finance plans </td></tr><tr><td>Component 4 Monitoring & Evaluation (Both UNDP and WB)</td><td>Outcome 5: M&E system strengthened - Output 5.1: Steering committee + MTR/TE </td><td>Outcome 4.1: M&E system strengthened - Output 4.1.1: Steering committee + MTR/TE </td></tr></table>
6) The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;	No change
7) Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and	No change

8) Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to local communities.	No change
9) Changes pertaining Outcome 3 and Outcome 5	The geographic coverage has been expanded from Tripura and Nagaland to also include Uttarakhand. This expansion enhances national representativeness and enables demonstration of OECM management across diverse ecological and institutional contexts
10) SES Output (previously Output 6.1) integration into Outcome 1 and Outcome 3	The budget for Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES), which was originally allocated under M&E, has been redistributed to Outcome 1 and Outcome 3, where safeguards-related activities will be directly implemented. Only the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) portion of the SES framework remains under the project's M&E component.
11) Revision of co-financing	The co-financing amount at the 'PPG Request' stage was USD100,000,000, comprising of USD 69M from Government of India, USD1M from UNDP, and USD 30M from World Bank (ELEMENT load). At the CEO-Endorsement stage, the co-financing amount has been reduced to $30,250,000, comprising of USD 30 Million from the World Bank Financed ELEMENT project and USD250,000 by UNDP. All project expenditures are budgeted from the GBFF grant. The project will be implemented under convergence mode with the WB funded ELEMENT project in Tripura and Nagaland and Schemes of the State Governments of Tripura, Nagaland and Uttarakhand. State governments: USD 33 million (USD 11 million each by the Government of Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand) is envisaged to be used under convergence mode with projects and programmes of the 3 State Governments. The reduction in co-financing occurred due to revised estimates of ongoing projects in the States providing opportunities for funding through convergence. World Bank (ELEMENT Project): USD 30 million (no change from the original commitment). UNDP: UNDP's co-finance commitment is dedicated mostly to M&E and Knowledge Management. The proposed cost of M&E under the project is USD 247,500. Therefore USD 250,000 will be sufficient.
GBFF - Action Area 2 has been added during the PPG stage.	Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs) are central to achieving durable conservation outcomes in India's biodiversity-rich landscapes outside Protected Areas. Accordingly, Project Outcome 3 and Output 4.2 were dedicated to OECMs, institutionalizing TPLC stewardship through recognition, co-management, and biodiversity-compatible livelihoods. Incorporating Action Area 2 ensures alignment with GBFF priorities and strengthens the project's ability to deliver socially legitimate, equitable, and sustainable global biodiversity benefits.

B. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation including: the global biodiversity problems that the project will address; the key elements of the system to be addressed by the project; 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).

Development challenges in India and implications for Biodiversity Conservation:

India, a megadiverse country, possesses rich biodiversity and traditional knowledge across various ecosystems and habitats. With just 2.4% of the world's geographical area[1][5], India harbours 8% of known global floral and faunal species. Its varied ecosystem holds a good proportion of global species, including 13.7% of birds, 8.6% of mammals, 7.9% of reptiles, 11.7% of fishes, and approximately 11.8% of plants.[2][6] It is also home to four of the 34 globally recognized BD hotspots: the Himalayas, Western Ghats, Indo-Burma Region, and Sundaland,[3][7] making its ecosystems critical not only for national heritage but also for global ecological balance.

At the same time, India's development trajectory reflects the dual imperative of achieving rapid economic growth while ensuring social equity and ecological sustainability. Over the past three decades, the country has experienced significant GDP growth averaging 6–7% annually, accompanied by reductions in poverty and improvements in infrastructure, energy access, and food production. However, these gains have also generated complex environmental trade-offs, including land use change, resource over exploitation and habitat fragmentation, which directly impact the country's biodiversity. Against this backdrop, India faces a set of interlinked development challenges, including:

- Demographic and economic pressures: India supports nearly 18% of the global human population on only 2.4% of the world's land area, leading to one of the highest population densities worldwide. Rising urbanization, which is expected to reach 600 million people by 2031, has accelerated demand for land, energy, and water, intensifying competition between development and conservation objectives[4][8]. Industrialization and infrastructure expansion, including highways, mining, and energy corridors, frequently overlap with ecologically sensitive landscapes such as the Himalayas, the Western Ghats and Northeast India, causing habitat fragmentation and biodiversity loss.[5][9]

- Agricultural intensification and food security: Agriculture remains the backbone of India's economy, supporting nearly half the population. Policies focused on food security, including subsidies for water, fertilizer, and electricity, have incentivized intensive monoculture practices. This has contributed to soil degradation, declining agro-biodiversity, and water over-extraction. Conversion of forests and wetlands into agricultural land has further fragmented natural ecosystems, undermining their resilience to climate change.[6][10]

- Energy demand and resource dependence: India's energy demand is projected to grow by 25–35% by 2030, with biomass still accounting for nearly 216 million tonnes of annual fuelwood consumption, especially in rural areas[7][11]. Unsustainable harvesting of forest products not only undermines regeneration but also erodes ecosystem services critical for local livelihoods. While renewable energy expansion is a national priority, large-scale hydropower and solar projects are often sited in biodiversity-rich areas, posing new risks for fragile ecosystems[8][12].

- Climate change vulnerabilities: Climate change acts as a multiplier of existing development challenges. India is already experiencing increasing temperatures, altered monsoon cycles, glacial retreat in the Himalayas, and rising

frequency of extreme weather events[9][13]. These dynamics exacerbate agricultural uncertainty, freshwater scarcity, and disaster risks, disproportionately affecting communities dependent on biodiversity for subsistence. Without climate-resilient development planning, conservation gains will remain fragile.

- Governance and equity dimensions: Development challenges are compounded by governance fragmentation and inequitable participation. Biodiversity considerations are often marginalized in mainstream economic planning, while Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs), who are central to sustainable land management, remain underrepresented in decision-making. Development-induced displacement, insecure tenure, and lack of livelihood alternatives reduce incentives for conservation and undermine trust in governance systems.[10][14]

While development challenges, to support a vast and growing population through agricultural expansion, infrastructure growth, and economic modernization, are central to improving human well-being, they often translate into ecological costs. This trajectory, characterized by weak integration of biodiversity into land-use planning, coupled with rising demands for energy, water, and natural resources, has hampered the country's commitment and effort to achieve sustainable development growth. The result is a landscape of systemic imbalances where ecosystems are increasingly fragmented, overexploited, or poorly managed. This has directly undermined the very natural capital and biodiversity that support the country's long-term development and resilience. These development pressures manifest as four principal, interconnected threats to biodiversity conservation, eroding ecosystem resilience and undermining India's commitments under the CBD and the GBF:

Threats to Biodiversity Conservation

- Land-use change and habitat fragmentation: Rapid urbanization[11][15], road and infrastructure expansion, and conversion of forests and grasslands into agriculture have accelerated habitat loss. India has already witnessed a 5% increase in croplands since 20[12][16], disrupting ecological connectivity and threatening species that depend on large, contiguous habitats. Critical hotspots such as the Western Ghats and Northeast India are especially vulnerable. Without robust spatial planning and enforcement of the Biological Diversity Act (2002), fragmentation will continue to erode biodiversity.

- Unsustainable resource extraction: Overharvesting of timber, fuelwood (estimated at 216 million tonnes annually), non-timber forest products, and fish has severely undermined natural regeneration and species populations. In the Himalayas and central India, reliance on biomass for energy intensifies pressure on forests. Freshwater ecosystems face destructive fishing practices, placing nearly 19% of freshwater fish species at risk of extinction[13][17], threatening both biodiversity and local food security.

- Invasive alien species (IAS): India has recorded over 2,000 alien species, with at least 330 considered harmful[14][18]. Invasive plants such as *Lantana camara*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, and *Prosopis juliflora* dominate terrestrial ecosystems, while aquatic systems are destabilized by Eichhornia crassipes (water hyacinth) and invasive tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*). These species displace natives, degrade ecosystem services, and increase management costs for conservation and restoration.

- Climate change impacts: Rising temperatures, shifting rainfall, and frequent extreme weather events are intensifying biodiversity stress. The Eastern Himalayas have already warmed by +0.6°C over the last century, contributing to glacial retreat and altered monsoon cycles are exacerbating species loss[15][19]. These shifts disrupt breeding cycles and habitats in sensitive zones such as the Indo-Burma floodplains and alpine ecosystems. Charismatic and keystone species like the red panda, snow leopard, and high-altitude migratory birds are especially threatened, with cascading impacts on ecosystem balance.

The complex interplay between India's development imperatives and its biodiversity governance creates a critical juncture, presenting multiple possible futures. The trajectory that unfolds will be determined by how the country navigates the trade-offs and synergies between economic growth, social equity, and ecological sustainability. Based on the powerful trends and systemic drivers previously outlined, several plausible **future scenarios** can be projected (below). These scenarios illustrate how different policy choices could either lead to a future of escalating risk and erosion of biodiversity and natural resource or one of resilience, where development and biodiversity conservation are mutually reinforcing. These policy choices are determined by (i) the extent to which biodiversity is integrated into state and national planning and budgets; (ii) the strength of customary institutions and community rights to steward ecosystems; (iii) the trajectory of climate variability and disaster risks; and (iv) the adequacy of financing and decision-support systems for biodiversity conservation. Based on these factors, the projected scenarios are:

a) **Baseline/BAU scenario for Biodiversity Conservation and OECMs in India:** Under this scenario, India's biodiversity governance and conservation architecture would remain fragmented with substantial scope for improvement. Current conservation governance would continue to operate largely within sectoral silos, with biodiversity considerations weakly integrated into national and state-level land use, development, and financial planning. While strides will be made under the Biological Diversity Act (2002) and related policies, spatial planning still prioritizes short-term economic growth drivers such as infrastructure, agriculture, and mining over long-term ecosystem sustainability. High-biodiversity landscapes outside the formal Protected Area (PA) network would therefore remain highly vulnerable to conversion and degradation.

Monitoring and information systems would remain fragmented across ministries, with limited interoperability and weak coverage of non-protected areas. State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) often lack the capacity to update People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) or consolidate data in formats that inform decision-making. This constrains India's ability to track NBSAP targets or report effectively under the CBD.

Additionally, financing for biodiversity conservation would still be chronically underfunded, fragmented, and largely donor driven. Public financial management systems will seldom tag or track biodiversity expenditures, leaving conservation outside mainstream budget priorities. Emerging instruments such as biodiversity offsets, and market-linked green finance will remain nascent.

Lastly, the majority of community conservation, deeply embedded in local customary systems, particularly among Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs), would be yet to be formally recognized or supported at scale. In the absence of secure recognition or consistent incentives, stewardship of biodiversity outside PAs would remain informal, fragile, and under-resourced.

-

b) **"Ideal-World" scenario: Full sustainability transition:** Under this scenario, India's biodiversity governance systems, spatial planning frameworks, and financial mechanisms would rapidly undergo a sustainability transformation without the need for targeted intervention. All states would adopt biodiversity-inclusive land-use planning protocols, backed by updated ecosystem maps and integrated biodiversity databases. High biodiversity-value areas outside PAs would be recognized and managed through community-led OECMs, with strong legal backing and adequate public financing. Local communities, including TPLCs, would be fully engaged in decision-making, with conservation and livelihood objectives integrated seamlessly. Monitoring systems would operate at national, state, and local scales, feeding into a unified biodiversity information system aligned with NBSAP and GBF targets. Under this scenario, biodiversity loss would slow dramatically, ecosystem services would be maintained or restored, and long-term socio-economic benefits from nature would be secured. However, given current governance, financing, and institutional constraints, this transition is highly unlikely to materialize organically.

-

c) **"Realistic" scenario: Gradual sustainability transition:** Under this scenario, India's biodiversity conservation efforts are likely to progress unevenly, with limited institutional and financial reforms. While isolated initiatives, often donor-driven or sector-specific, may continue to deliver localized gains, Spatial planning will likely remain fragmented, with biodiversity data only partially influencing land-use decisions. Except in some areas, local communities will remain on the periphery of conservation decision-making. Funding for biodiversity will increase marginally but will continue to be insufficient, sporadic, and heavily

dependent on external grants. Under this scenario, biodiversity degradation will continue, albeit at varying rates across regions, with significant risks of irreversible loss of critical habitats and species. Opportunities for aligning development and conservation goals might be missed, and India's ability to meet its NBSAP and GBF targets will remain constrained.

While the "Realistic" scenario forecasts a future of gradual, uneven progress where biodiversity degradation continues due to fragmented planning and limited institutional reform, it is precisely this challenging yet plausible context that this GBFF project's (CONSERVE) design is intended to transform. The project's strategy is not predicated on an idealistic future but is instead engineered to inject systemic enablers and demonstrate scalable models within the very constraints the realistic scenario describes. By bridging institutional reforms (interoperable monitoring systems, biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, and expenditure tagging) with community-led stewardship (community-based OECMs), the project creates tangible proof points and mechanisms for change. The project's interventions will become the critical catalysts that make a feasible transition toward sustainability possible, actively working to elevate the realistic scenario's outcomes, mitigate its risks of irreversible loss, and secure both biodiversity and livelihoods in line with India's KM-GBF commitments.

The GBFF CONSERVE project is strategically designed to counter the trajectory of the "Realistic" scenario by targeting the most critical systemic constraints/limitations driving biodiversity loss in India. It moves from diagnosing these overarching gaps to implementing a focused set of transformative interventions. The project's theory of change is predicated on the conviction that closing these five key gaps is the fundamental prerequisite for achieving a durable sustainability transition. Therefore, the project will deliver the following **outcomes** to create an enabling environment for durable pathway toward sustainability:

a. Integration of biodiversity into spatial planning and land-use decision-making to curb fragmentation and safeguard ecological connectivity.

b. Strengthening of biodiversity monitoring systems through interoperable MIS platforms linked to state and community levels.

c. Formal recognition and support of OECMs and community-led conservation approaches to extend effective area-based conservation beyond PAs.

d. Mobilization of innovative biodiversity finance instruments to provide sustainable incentives for TPLCs and biodiversity enterprises.

e. Mainstreaming of biodiversity in public financial management systems through expenditure tagging, reviews, and biodiversity action plans.

To achieve these outcomes, the project's strategies are anchored in India's existing biodiversity policies and programs, while drawing extensively on lessons from both global and national initiatives. This grounding ensures that the project complements ongoing efforts, avoids duplication, and directly addresses gaps that have limited the durability of past investments.

Baseline policies, programs, and lessons learned for project design to achieve intended outcomes

1. National Policy and Programmatic Baseline:

India has established a strong policy and institutional foundation for biodiversity conservation, which provides an enabling environment for the proposed project. The Biological Diversity Act (2002) remains the cornerstone of India's biodiversity governance, mandating conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing (ABS). Through its provisions, the Act empowers State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) to prepare People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), giving legal and institutional recognition to local custodians of biodiversity. These instruments are directly relevant to the project's outcomes on strengthening local institutions and mainstreaming biodiversity into sub-national planning.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP - 2024) sets national priorities in alignment with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and now provides the framework for India's contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). By aligning project interventions—such as biodiversity-inclusive land-use planning, recognition of OECMs, and biodiversity finance mechanisms—with NBSAP priorities, the project ensures strong policy coherence and durability of outcomes beyond the project's lifetime.

The National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing (NMBHW) further provides a future-facing programmatic framework by linking biodiversity conservation with human health, climate resilience, and livelihood security. This integrated perspective reinforces the project's focus on community-led conservation and ecosystem-based livelihoods in biodiversity-rich landscapes such as Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand.

On the financing front, India has demonstrated global leadership through its participation in the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). BIOFIN has pioneered biodiversity expenditure reviews, tagging methodologies, and the design of innovative financing solutions. These achievements directly inform the project's components on budget tagging, biodiversity expenditure reviews, and mobilization of biodiversity finance instruments, ensuring that financial sustainability is embedded into the project from the outset.

In addition, the project benefits from synergy with flagship national programs, such as the Green India Mission (GIM) and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), both of which emphasize ecosystem restoration and resilience. By linking project outcomes to these national priorities, the initiative will facilitate convergence of resources, ensure institutional buy-in, and avoid duplication of efforts.

2. Complementary projects

The project will also build on the existing GEF and non-GEF investments, as specified in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Complementary projects with CONSERVE project

Ongoing and recently closed Initiatives	Complementarity with GBFF CONSERVE & Measures to Avoid Duplication/Overlap
GEF/UNDP - Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to meet India's commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets by 2030 (2026 – 2032) - US$ 7,500,000	GBFF CONSERVE will build on this project in scaling up the establishment of OECMs in the project's landscapes. Approaches/methods/frameworks related to the identification, recognition, management and monitoring of OECMs and other conservation initiatives at the local level will be applied by this project to ensure synchronization with the national systems.
GEF/UNDP – Strengthening conservation and resilience of globally significant landscapes through a focus on small cat and leopard conservation (2022–2027) – US$ 1,975,000	GBFF CONSERVE will complement this landscape-based conservation work by extending the approach beyond species-focused interventions to broader spatial planning, OECM recognition, and inclusive governance models in high-biodiversity landscapes. Lessons on strengthening partnerships between PAs/Forest Reserves and Gram Panchayats will directly inform GBFF CONSERVE's community engagement and benefit-sharing mechanisms. Duplication will be avoided by targeting non-overlapping landscapes and species priorities, and by using information and trained human resource to benefit the GBFF project.
GEF Small Grants Programme in India (2021–2026) – US$ 4,474,886	Complementary through community-driven conservation and sustainable use pilots. GBFF CONSERVE will integrate successful SGP models into larger-scale OECM and restoration plans. Duplication is avoided by scaling up only those models that are proven and not replicating grant-making processes; GBFF will also avoid funding the same communities already covered by active SGP grants.
UNDP – Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) (2021–2027) – US$ 1,700,000	GBFF CONSERVE will build on BIOFIN's finance solutions, CSR analyses, and expenditure tracking methodologies. Complementarity lies in applying BIOFIN tools at the state/local level in project landscapes. Duplication is avoided as GBFF will not re-develop finance tools but will deploy them in biodiversity-linked sectors identified in BIOFIN India's work.
GEF/UNDP – Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments (2024–2029) – US$ 4,880,000	GBFF CONSERVE will complement this project's multi-sectoral coordination platforms by piloting site-based applications of policies and plans generated through it. Duplication is avoided by focusing on field implementation and testing of approaches rather than creating parallel coordination bodies.
GEF/UNDP – Sustainable management and restoration of degraded landscapes for LDN in India (2023–2028) – US$ 6,600,000	GBFF CONSERVE will complement LDN practices by applying them to enhance ecological connectivity in OECM landscapes. Duplication will be avoided by using the LDN project's technical protocols and focusing GBFF on biodiversity outcome monitoring, not on general land productivity improvements.
High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People	GBFF CONSERVE directly contributes to India's 30x30 targets by identifying and managing OECMs and new conservation areas. Overlap is avoided by

Ongoing and recently closed Initiatives	Complementarity with GBFF CONSERVE & Measures to Avoid Duplication/Overlap
	focusing on state-specific operationalization in the three target states, while the Coalition remains a high-level policy commitment platform.
ELEMENT Project – Ecosystem-based Landscape Management in Tripura and Nagaland (World Bank, ongoing)	In Tripura and Nagaland, GBFF CONSERVE will be implemented with ELEMENT's State PMUs. It will build on ongoing investments on community mobilization, stakeholder engagement, data collection, monitoring framework and applying its decision-support outputs once available. Duplication is avoided by not overlapping ELEMENT's activities in the selected landscapes and focusing on complementary interventions such as OECM identification, restoration of sensitive ecosystems, and biodiversity finance.
SECURE Himalaya (GEF/UNDP, ongoing in Uttarakhand)	GBFF CONSERVE will complement SECURE Himalaya's high-altitude biodiversity conservation by focusing on mid- and low-altitude landscapes with OECM potential. Duplication is avoided by selecting distinct landscapes and species priorities, while sharing governance and community engagement models.

Overall, the project builds on this strong national baseline, filling critical gaps in spatial planning integration, recognition of biodiversity outside PAs, community empowerment, and innovative financing mechanisms. In doing so, it leverages existing policies and programs as both anchors and accelerators, ensuring that outcomes are well-aligned with India's national vision and international commitments under the CBD and GBF.

3. Global and Regional Lessons:

Building upon a foundation of existing enabling policies, government programs, and ongoing GEF and non-GEF investments, the project's design is critically informed by lessons learned from past conservation initiatives. This intentional integration of experiential knowledge ensures the project avoids previous limitations, enhances effectiveness, and maximizes the potential for durable, transformative impact.

Globally, GEF- and UNDP-supported projects have shown that biodiversity outcomes are strongest when national frameworks are coupled with empowered sub-national institutions and community-led conservation. Experiences from Colombia, Kenya, and the Philippines demonstrate that Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) can complement protected areas and expand conservation coverage provided they are institutionalized through policy, financing, and spatial planning. These lessons directly inform the project's focus on OECM recognition and community co-management in the selected State for project interventions in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand.

Lessons from Indian Experience: India's own portfolio of GEF- and World Bank-supported projects offers valuable lessons:

a. The SECURE Himalaya Project and the SLEM Programme demonstrated that landscape-level planning is most effective when aligned with ecological priorities, administrative capacities, and livelihood needs. Evaluations highlighted the need to move beyond site-specific interventions toward institutional integration of biodiversity in governance and finance.

b. The ABS Partnership Project emphasized that biodiversity benefit-sharing requires clear legal frameworks and strong state-level institutions to ensure compliance and equitable distribution.

c. The ELEMENT Project in Nagaland and Tripura, supported by the World Bank, has confirmed the importance of agro-ecological planning, inclusive governance (e.g., Village Element Management Committees - VEMCs), and digital monitoring. However, it also showed that vertical integration between state, district, and village institutions and long-term financing are essential for sustainability.

d. The Community-Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP) in Meghalaya highlighted the power of community ownership, demonstrating that local restoration gains can be substantial when communities are empowered with flexible financing and simple planning tools. Yet, it also revealed the risks of limited durability when digital monitoring systems and budgetary integration are absent.

Drawing from these experiences, the project design emphasizes:

- State-level biodiversity-inclusive planning to ensure ecological priorities are embedded into development processes.
- Digital monitoring systems (MIS) to ensure accountability, transparency, and adaptive management.

- Community recognition and incentives (OECMs, enterprises) to secure durable stewardship.
  Finance mainstreaming to align state budgets and mobilize new biodiversity-linked instruments for long-term sustainability.

Barriers to achieving the outcomes

While the outcomes identified above are essential to closing systemic gaps in India's biodiversity governance, their achievement is constrained by deep-rooted and interconnected barriers. These barriers explain why the BAU trajectory remains insufficient and why targeted interventions are critical to achieve the 'Realistic' scenario. These barriers are:

a. **Fragmented biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning:** Biodiversity considerations are not systematically integrated into conservation and development planning. Spatial data on priority biodiversity areas is scattered across agencies and often incompatible, resulting in sectoral silos between environment, infrastructure, and land-use departments[16][20]. This lack of a unified, enforceable planning framework weakens the ability to safeguard ecologically sensitive areas, particularly in landscapes facing rapid land-use change.

b. **Low management attention to non-protected areas:** High biodiversity-value landscapes outside the formal protected area network—such as community-managed forests, wetlands, and agroforestry mosaics—lack institutionalized conservation approaches[17][21]. These areas face high pressures from resource extraction, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure, but remain outside the scope of most conservation investments. Weak jurisdictional mandates and absence of dedicated management plans exacerbate vulnerability.

c. **Limited recognition of community engagement in conservation**: Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs) are often excluded from formal decision-making, reducing local stewardship of biodiversity[18][22]. Many conservation interventions are externally designed, with limited recognition of customary tenure, traditional knowledge, and cultural priorities. This undermines the legitimacy, effectiveness, and sustainability of conservation actions, particularly in landscapes where local livelihoods are directly tied to ecosystem health.

d. **Inadequate biodiversity monitoring systems**: Current biodiversity monitoring in India is under-resourced and lacks standardized protocols[19][23]. There is no unified biodiversity information system to track progress against National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets, making it difficult to assess trends, identify emerging threats, or evaluate conservation effectiveness. Monitoring gaps are especially severe in areas outside PAs, where baseline data is often absent.

e. **Limited sources of biodiversity financing**: Biodiversity conservation suffers from underfunding and highly fragmented financing flows[20][24]. Non-protected areas and community-led initiatives receive minimal support, and few mechanisms exist to mobilize private capital or incentivize conservation-compatible livelihoods. The absence of biodiversity expenditure reviews, tagging systems, and costed biodiversity strategies means that funding priorities are rarely aligned with ecological priorities.

Project's approach and resilience to address the drivers and barriers

Addressing the above discussed drivers and barriers requires a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy that combines governance reform, financial innovation, and community empowerment. The GBFF CONSERVE project provides this integrated approach, bridging systemic governance gaps while delivering tangible incentives for biodiversity stewardship.

Alternative options, such as standalone investments in protected area management, isolated community projects, or piecemeal policy reforms, have historically yielded fragmented results. Protected areas cover less than 5% of India's land area, leaving high-biodiversity non-protected landscapes without support. Donor-driven pilot projects often fail to scale due to lack of

integration into state systems. Policy reforms alone struggle to influence ground-level practices without community buy-in or financial mechanisms.

Thus, project's approaches differ by:

a. Embedding biodiversity into state spatial planning, ensuring conservation is treated as a cross-sectoral foundation rather than an add-on.

b. Developing biodiversity-linked financial instruments and budget tagging to secure long-term financing streams.

c. Recognizing and strengthening community-led conservation (OECMs) as a scalable institutional pathway to expand effective area-based conservation.

d. Establishing a national biodiversity information system to enable transparency, adaptive management, and alignment with GBF targets.

This integrated design ensures not just localized impact, but systemic transformation replicable across states. The project's interventions are deliberately designed with institutional, financial, legal, and social pillars (specified below) to ensure they persist even as development pressures, demographic changes, and climate risks evolve. By embedding reforms at multiple levels, the project creates self-reinforcing systems that will continue to function beyond the life of GEF/GBFF support.

a. Institutionalization: Biodiversity data, finance tagging, and planning tools will not remain as project pilots but will be formally embedded in state planning departments, finance ministries, and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs). This reduces dependence on external actors and ensures biodiversity-inclusive decision-making becomes part of the routine governance cycle. Integration with national MIS platforms further guarantees visibility and accountability across ministries, locking biodiversity into long-term policy frameworks.

b. Legal frameworks: By developing enforceable protocols for OECM recognition, standardized revenue-sharing MoUs, and compliance documents, the project will hardwire community stewardship into India's biodiversity governance architecture. Once codified, these legal tools create durable rights and obligations, ensuring that communities cannot be excluded from governance and that conservation agreements survive political turnover or shifts in priorities.

c. Financial sustainability: The project introduces biodiversity expenditure tagging, budget integration, and innovative instruments such as offsets, and biodiversity-linked enterprises. These mechanisms diversify funding sources, create predictable fiscal flows, and reduce reliance on short-term donor projects. By aligning biodiversity finance with state budgeting cycles, the project ensures that resource allocations persist and adapt to changing macroeconomic contexts.

d. Community ownership and social legitimacy: The project prioritizes Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs) as co-developers, rather than beneficiaries, of conservation models. By embedding biodiversity stewardship in customary governance systems and cultural values, the project enhances legitimacy and long-term adoption. Community-led enterprises create direct livelihood incentives, ensuring conservation is not only ecologically desirable but also economically rational for local actors.

Together, these pillars create a **multi-layered durability strategy**. Institutional reforms ensure continuity within government systems; legal frameworks secure recognition of conservation areas; financial mechanisms create sustained incentives; and community ownership grounds conservation in local legitimacy. Even as land-use pressures, economic transitions, or climate shocks evolve, these mechanisms will mutually reinforce one another, anchoring biodiversity conservation in India's long-term development and governance trajectory.

Table 1 below provides a comparative summary of alternative approaches versus the integrated GBFF CONSERVE project design, highlighting how the proposed intervention builds on lessons learned and ensures long-term sustainability.

Table 1: Alternative approaches versus the integrated GBFF project design

Dimension	Other Options (Status Quo Approaches)	GBFF Integrated Approach (Proposed Project)
Scope of Intervention	Focused on protected areas (<5% of India's land area) or isolated donor-driven pilots; limited to sectoral silos.	Expands coverage to non-protected areas & OECMs in three pilot states, integrated with state planning, finance, and community systems.
Governance & Policy	Fragmented policies, biodiversity rarely mainstreamed into state planning; weak	Institutionalizes biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning in state land-use frameworks; strengthens legal

Dimension	Other Options (Status Quo Approaches)	GBFF Integrated Approach (Proposed Project)
	enforcement of Biological Diversity Act in non-PAs.	recognition of OECMs; embeds monitoring and finance in governance structures.
Community Engagement	Communities often treated as beneficiaries; limited formal role in governance; incentives absent or short-term.	Co-management with TPLCs, ensuring FPIC, benefit-sharing, and livelihood integration (biodiversity enterprises). Anchors legitimacy in local governance.
Financing	Short-term, projectized, heavily reliant on grants; little biodiversity expenditure tagging or private capital mobilization.	Biodiversity finance mechanisms piloted (budget tagging, biodiversity-friendly enterprises) to create sustainable financing flows aligned with GBF targets.
Monitoring & Knowledge	Fragmented biodiversity monitoring, scattered datasets, no unified system to track trends or progress against GBF/NBSAP.	Establishes national biodiversity MIS linked to state dashboards and PBR updates, enabling real-time, interoperable, and participatory monitoring.
Scalability & Replication	Success often remains local due to weak institutional uptake; policy pilots not systematically replicated.	Demonstrates scalable models across three states with strong potential for national replication through integration with SBBs, MoEFCC, and budget systems.
Long-term Endurance	Dependent on external funding; outcomes fade once donor projects close.	Outcomes institutionalized in governance, finance, and community systems, ensuring endurance despite shifting drivers or funding cycles.

The meaningful engagement of stakeholders is not a peripheral activity but the fundamental cornerstone for success implementation of the project's approaches (described above) and achieving its transformative outcomes. Success hinges on moving beyond mere consultation to foster genuine co-creation and shared ownership with Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs), government agencies, the private sector, and civil society. Their knowledge, priorities, and active participation are indispensable for designing contextually appropriate interventions, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, and building the robust local stewardship required to sustain results long after the project's conclusion. Without this deeply embedded collaborative foundation, even the most technically sound solutions risk being ineffective, unsustainable, or inadvertently exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. The project has identified the following key stakeholders for engagement. The roles of these stakeholders are also indicated under **Part C's Stakeholder Role and Contribution**. More details on the stakeholder analysis and engagement plan are provided in **Annex 10** 'Stakeholder Engagement Plan' of the project document.

Key stakeholders

National Government Institutions:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), as the nodal ministry, will provide overall policy direction and ensure alignment with India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) commitments. Its leadership is essential for embedding biodiversity-inclusive planning into national policies, laws, and reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). At the sub-national level, the State Governments of Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand, along with their planning and finance departments and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), will institutionalize biodiversity expenditure tagging, integrate biodiversity into spatial planning, and operationalize Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). Their commitment will be critical to ensuring that lessons learned are mainstreamed into state governance systems and replicated nationally.

Sub-national and Local Governance Actors:

Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), mandated under the Biological Diversity Act, are frontline custodians of biodiversity knowledge through People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). Strengthening their capacity will ensure that biodiversity governance is anchored at the community level. Village councils and tribal institutions, particularly in Nagaland and Tripura, hold customary authority over land and resources. Their role in legitimizing and implementing OECMs, upholding Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and aligning conservation with local cultural and livelihood priorities is indispensable for the project's long-term sustainability. This aligns with the NBSAP (2024–2030) priority to strengthen BMCs as key community-level institutions for biodiversity governance and ownership.

Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs):

Definition and Rationale for Terminology For the purpose of this project, the term "Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs)" is used in place of the GBFF's terminology "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)" to ensure alignment with India's constitutional and legal framework, while maintaining full conceptual consistency with GBFF reporting requirements. In the Indian context, Scheduled Tribes recognized under Articles 342 and 366(25) correspond to Indigenous Peoples as understood under international frameworks. The term TPLC is therefore applied as the nationally valid equivalent of IPLC.

In the Indian context, these legally recognized Tribal Peoples correspond to Indigenous Peoples as defined under international frameworks, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The term TPLC therefore upholds national terminology and alignment with domestic legislation, while remaining fully consistent with GBFF's principle of recognizing and supporting self-identified Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

TPCLs are the primary rights-holders and long-term custodians of biodiversity across the CONSERVE project landscapes. They form the social, cultural, and ecological backbone of the project, relying on and managing forests, wetlands, agroforestry mosaics, and mountain ecosystems located largely outside the formal protected-area network.

In line with the GBFF definition, all activities counted as "Actions by TPLCs" under this project are those that are **designed or co-designed with TPLCs according to their self-determined priorities,** and developed through **customary, traditional, or community-recognized decision-making structures** (such as Gram Sabhas, Village Councils, Tribal Councils, Van Panchayats, JFMCs, and BMCs). These activities are not merely "implemented by" communities but emerge from governance processes that reflect their cultural institutions, rights, and collective stewardship systems.

In the three project states—Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand—TPLCs comprise Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and other forest-dependent rural households, representing about 88 % of Nagaland's population, 31 % in Tripura, and 18 % in Uttarakhand. Many live within Sixth-Schedule Autonomous District Council areas or under Van Panchayats and Gram Sabhas, where they exercise customary control over land and natural resources. These systems, recognized under Schedules V & VI of the Constitution and the Biological Diversity Act (2002), ensure collective decision-making and equitable benefit-sharing, aligning closely with the project's participatory governance approach for OECM identification, biodiversity planning, and livelihood enhancement.

Livelihoods are deeply interwoven with local ecosystems, through shifting and terrace cultivation, NTFP collection, small livestock, fisheries, and eco-tourism, with NTFPs providing up to 30–50 % of household cash income in many tribal areas. Women are central to these systems, performing more than 60 % of agricultural and forest-related work in Uttarakhand and serving as key collectors of fuelwood, fodder, and wild foods in all states. However, degradation of forests, sacred groves, and water sources has reduced household nutrition, increased women's daily workloads by 2–3 hours, and heightened social vulnerability.

Ecosystem pressures such as shortened jhum cycles in Nagaland, invasive species in Tripura, and forest fires and glacier retreat in Uttarakhand, compound livelihood insecurity and migration risks. Weak land tenure documentation, limited access to formal schemes, and under-representation in Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) or Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) further restrict the ability of marginalized groups and women to participate in decision-making.

The project will strengthen these traditional institutions through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, capacity-building, and gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms. TPLCs will co-lead biodiversity mapping, restoration, and management of OECMs; prepare People's Biodiversity Registers; and participate in community-based monitoring via the national biodiversity MIS. This approach ensures that biodiversity conservation and livelihood security are pursued together, anchored in the rights, knowledge, and stewardship roles of local communities.

Self-Identification and Coverage: All communities supported under this project self-identify as Tribal and are recognized as such under the *Constitution of India*. The project operates across Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand—states with significant Scheduled Tribe populations and established tribal governance systems.

- In Nagaland, over 88% of the population is Tribal (Naga tribes) with autonomous village councils exercising traditional resource management rights.
- In Tripura, Tribal groups (Tripuri, Reang, Halam, Chakma, etc.) constitute 31% of the population, concentrated in the Autonomous District Council areas.
- In Uttarakhand, tribal communities (e.g., Bhotia, Tharu, Raji) represent 18% of the total population, but form the majority in the project's selected forested and Van Panchayat landscapes.

Empowerment and Leadership of TPLCs: The project's design ensures that TPLCs are not passive recipients of GBFF support but active decision-makers, co-managers, and beneficiaries in biodiversity conservation and governance. The empowerment pathways are embedded in multiple components:

1. Inclusive Governance and Decision-Making:
   TPLCs will constitute at least 50% representation in local biodiversity governance bodies (BMCs, VEMCs, and OECM management platforms). These bodies will oversee spatial planning, restoration prioritization, and monitoring of biodiversity outcomes at the landscape level.
2. Strengthened Tenure and Stewardship:
   Under Output 2.1.1, community-endorsed OECM management plans will formally recognize customary tenure and local stewardship arrangements, integrating *Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)* processes and ensuring transparent benefit-sharing.
3. Capacity and Knowledge Empowerment:
   The project will train over 25,000 community members (50% women) in biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem valuation, and governance tools. It will operationalize MIS-linked community dashboards to enable TPLCs to track biodiversity and financial data themselves.
4. Financial Empowerment through Biodiversity Finance Instruments:
   Under Output 2.2.1, the project will pilot biodiversity credit, and Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) mechanisms, directly channeling revenues to TPLCs through transparent, community-managed financial structures. At least 40% of ABS beneficiaries will be women or women-led groups.
5. Legal and Policy Recognition:
   Community-driven OECMs will be formally notified under state or national systems and reported to the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), strengthening legal recognition and long-term sustainability of TPLC stewardship models.

Alignment with GBFF and National Priorities: The focus on TPLCs aligns fully with:

- GBFF Programming Directions (2023-2027) emphasizing Indigenous leadership in biodiversity governance;
- India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and *National Biodiversity Authority* guidelines on OECMs; and
- UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and Gender Equality Strategy (2022–2025) ensuring inclusion, equity, and benefit-sharing.

All documentation, mapping, and dissemination of Tribal and local knowledge, including traditional ecological, agricultural, and cultural practices, will be undertaken only after obtaining the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the knowledge holders and their representative institutions. FPIC will be applied not only to physical activities but also to any form of knowledge generation, data sharing, or publication derived from TPLC sources, consistent with India's Biological Diversity Act (2002), Nagoya Protocol, UNDP SES Standard 6 and World Bank ESS 7 requirements.

Through these integrated measures, the project empowers TPLCs as custodians and co-implementers of biodiversity outcomes, strengthens their governance capacity, enhances financial self-reliance, and institutionalizes Tribal and Local knowledge systems within national biodiversity frameworks.

As primary rights-holders and stewards of biodiversity outside protected areas, TPLCs are at the core of the project's strategy. Their traditional knowledge, customary governance systems, and cultural practices sustain biodiversity-rich landscapes. By formally recognizing and incentivizing their stewardship through OECMs and biodiversity enterprises, the project ensures equitable benefit-sharing, stronger livelihoods, and durable global biodiversity benefits (GBBs).

Private Sector and Financial Actors:

The project will engage private enterprises and cooperatives in biodiversity-friendly value chains such as non-timber forest products (NTFPs), eco-labeled honey, and ecotourism thereby creating new markets and livelihood opportunities. Financial institutions and investors, both public and private, will be key partners in piloting innovative instruments such as biodiversity offsets, and green

credit systems. Their involvement ensures the mobilization of financing at scale, beyond the life of the project. These initiatives will be designed in line with NBT 9, ensuring sustainable harvesting protocols, value chain transparency, and equitable benefit-sharing, thereby linking biodiversity conservation directly with livelihood security.

Civil Society and Academic Partners:

NGOs and civil society organizations will act as facilitators and capacity-builders, bringing expertise in rights-based conservation, inclusive engagement, and accountability mechanisms. Academic and research institutions including universities and think tanks will provide cutting-edge research, biodiversity monitoring methodologies, and policy analysis. Their contribution will be central to building the biodiversity information system, conducting ecosystem service valuation, and strengthening adaptive management.

Development Partners:

The project will leverage and complement existing initiatives supported by the GEF, UNDP, and the World Bank (e.g., ELEMENT, SECURE Himalaya, BIOFIN). By building synergies and sharing knowledge, the project will avoid duplication and ensure successful models are scaled across states.

Project Target Areas

Selection of States

A national multi-criteria screening was undertaken across **28 Indian states** to identify those offering the highest potential for biodiversity conservation, restoration, and community-led management consistent with **GBFF Targets 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 14, 19, and 22**. The criteria combined ecological, socio-economic, and institutional parameters:

1. **Ecological Importance (Targets 1 & 2):** Evaluated ecosystem diversity, endemic species richness, and presence of globally significant habitats outside protected areas. Nagaland (Indo-Burma hotspot) and Uttarakhand (Western Himalaya) exhibit exceptional species endemism and ecological connectivity, while Tripura's wetlands and moist deciduous forests provide critical habitat continuity between Indo-Burma and the Gangetic plains.

2. **Restoration Need and Climate Vulnerability (Targets 2 & 14):** States were ranked by ecosystem degradation and exposure to climate risks. Nagaland's shortened jhum cycles, Tripura's invasive-species–infested forests, and Uttarakhand's fire- and glacier-affected landscapes present urgent restoration opportunities with measurable GEB potential.

3. **Socio-economic Dependence on Biodiversity (Targets 9 & 10):** High dependence of tribal and smallholder households on forest and NTFP resources was a key determinant. In Nagaland, 88 % of the population is tribal; in Tripura, 31 %; and in Uttarakhand, 18 %. Biodiversity resources contribute 30–50 % of household income in many of these communities, underscoring strong local incentives for conservation.

4. **Community Institutions and Governance (Targets 19 & 22):** Weightage was given to states with robust local biodiversity governance systems—Village Councils and Tribal Autonomous District Councils in Nagaland and Tripura, and *Van Panchayats* in Uttarakhand—that enable direct devolution of conservation authority and ensure scalability of OECM recognition.

5. **Institutional Readiness and Policy Alignment (Targets 19 & 22):** Institutional strength, data readiness, and experience with prior UNDP/GEF/World Bank programs were key indicators. Uttarakhand benefits from SECURE Himalaya and BIOFIN groundwork, Nagaland from ELEMENT (World Bank) convergence, and Tripura from participatory planning and state biodiversity budgeting.

6. **Additionality and Synergy (Cross-cutting):** The selection ensures the **CONSERVE** project builds directly on ongoing investments under ELEMENT, SECURE Himalaya, and BIOFIN, maximizing resource efficiency, co-financing, and policy uptake.

7. **Geographic Representativeness and Connectivity (Targets 2 & 3):** The three states collectively represent India's **Eastern Himalaya, Indo-Burma, and Western Himalaya** biogeographic regions—together covering high biodiversity gradients and critical ecosystem corridors.

Criteria Category	Linked GBFF Target(s)	Description / Indicator	Nagaland	Tripura	Uttarakhand	Other States (Indicative Range across 25 States)
1. Ecological Importance	1, 2	Species richness, endemicity, ecosystem diversity outside PAs	Very High – Part of Indo-Burma hotspot; >80% forested; mosaic of primary, secondary & jhum fallows	High – Moist deciduous & wetland ecosystems; Indo-Burma transition zone	Very High – Western Himalayan hotspot; alpine, sub-tropical, temperate & grassland mosaics	Moderate to Low – Most central & western states have lower endemicity
2. Restoration Need / Degradation Level	2, 14	Extent of degraded forests, invasive species, fire, or land use pressures	High – Shortened jhum cycles (<5 yrs), timber extraction, slope erosion	High – Invasive *Mikania micrantha*, bamboo depletion, wetland siltation	High – Frequent fires, glacier retreat, erosion-prone slopes	Moderate – Degradation localized, lower restoration urgency
3. Socio-economic Dependence on Biodiversity	9, 10	% rural/tribal households reliant on forest & NTFPs; share of biodiversity-linked income	Very High – 88 % tribal population; >40 % HH income from NTFPs	High – 31 % tribal; 30–40 % HH income from forests & bamboo	Moderate–High – 18 % tribal; strong dependence in hill villages	Low–Moderate – Less direct livelihood dependence on biodiversity
4. Community Institutions & Customary Governance	19, 22	Strength of local institutions (Village Councils, ADCs, Van Panchayats, BMCs)	Very High – Strong customary tenure & Village Councils	High – Functioning ADCs; active BMCs & cooperatives	Very High – 12 000+ Van Panchayats managing 0.5 M ha	Moderate – Formal institutions, limited devolution
5. Policy & Institutional Readiness	19, 22	Presence of biodiversity boards, SBSAPs, policy alignment, data readiness	High – NBA & SBB convergence via ELEMENT	High – State biodiversity budgeting & MIS readiness	Very High – SECURE Himalaya & BIOFIN experience	Moderate – Limited prior GEF/UNDP exposure
6. Additionality & Synergy Potential	Cross-cutting	Scope to build on existing WB/UNDP/GEF projects (ELEMENT, SECURE, BIOFIN)	Very High – Direct synergy with ELEMENT (WB)	High – Building on Tripura Landscape & Biofin initiatives	Very High – Successor to SECURE Himalaya & BIOFIN	Low – Limited overlap with ongoing GEF/UNDP operations
7. Geographic Representativeness & Connectivity	2, 3	Coverage of key biogeographic zones, corridor value, landscape complementarity	Eastern Himalaya / Indo-Burma – High corridor & transboundary potential	Indo-Burma Transition Zone – Wetland & riparian corridors	Western Himalaya – Alpine & forest corridors to Nepal	Limited – Mostly Indo-Gangetic or Deccan biomes
8. Gender & Inclusion Opportunities	10, 22	Women's role in NRM, potential for gender-responsive benefit sharing	High – Women manage 50 % of NTFP trade	High – Women central to SHGs & weaving clusters	Very High – 60 % of forest/agriculture labour force	Moderate – Less defined gendered forest roles
9. Climate Resilience & Risk Mitigation Potential	14	Vulnerability of ecosystems and potential for climate-adaptive interventions	High – Drought & fire-prone hill forests	High – Erratic rainfall, invasive species stress	Very High – Glacier retreat, fire, slope instability	Moderate – Lower exposure to compound climate risks
10. Overall Composite Ranking	–	Weighted aggregation across all criteria	1st	2nd	3rd	4th–28th

Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand consistently ranked highest on the composite ecological–institutional index among all 28 states, demonstrating the strongest combination of biodiversity significance, restoration urgency, and institutional feasibility for rapid scale-up.

- **Nagaland**: Highest composite score due to exceptional biodiversity, strong customary governance, and high restoration additionality under *ELEMENT* synergy.

- **Tripura**: High on restoration potential and institutional readiness; ideal for testing biodiversity–livelihood linkages and cross-border wetland management.

- **Uttarakhand**: High ecological and institutional maturity; builds on *SECURE Himalaya* and *BIOFIN* for scaling up biodiversity finance and OECMs.

- Other states, though ecologically important (e.g., Assam, Meghalaya, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh), scored lower on readiness, additionality, or manageable scale for GBFF demonstration.

While all three states share **international borders**, this is **coincidental** and not a determining factor. Border adjacency, however, provides **positive ecological externalities**—transboundary habitat continuity for migratory species, shared watershed systems, and opportunities for regional cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Hence, the three selected states maximize both **biodiversity additionality** and **institutional readiness**, ensuring that GBFF investments catalyze measurable, durable global biodiversity benefits through community-led, inclusive landscape management.

Selection of Sites in Each State

1. Nagaland

The Khonoma-Peren landscape, Kohima-Peren district: Khonoma offers a proven model of community-led conservation integrated with traditional agroforestry, making it ideal for spatial planning that aligns with cultural landscapes. Its strong local institutions and biodiversity richness support real-time biodiversity monitoring and enable nature-based livelihoods, aligning with sustainable finance strategies. Peren landscape exemplifies community-led conservation through its mosaic of jhum fields, forests, and sacred groves managed by strong tribal institutions. Its ecological diversity and cultural coherence support real-time biodiversity monitoring and nature-based livelihoods. These features position Peren as a promising site for integrated spatial planning and sustainable finance initiatives.

Sendenyu Landscape (Tseminyu district): Sendenyu exemplifies integrated landscape management with community reserves, forest-agriculture mosaics, and high species diversity. Its active conservation practices and traditional ecological knowledge create an enabling environment for piloting biodiversity monitoring systems and co-financing through government schemes.

Longleng–Tuensang Landscape (Longleng & Tuensang districts): This landscape contributes to ecological connectivity between two global biodiversity hotspots and features strong community institutions managing OECM-type areas. It provides opportunities for integrated spatial planning, biodiversity-based ecotourism, and building inclusive monitoring frameworks in tribal contexts.

2. Tripura

Dambur–Chabimura Landscape (Gomati district): A critical wetland-forest mosaic, this landscape demonstrates ecosystem service provisioning, climate resilience, and cultural protection systems like sacred groves. These characteristics support spatial planning across ecosystem types, community-based biodiversity tracking, and conservation-linked sustainable tourism financing.

Rudrasagar Landscape (Sipahijala district): As a Ramsar site with ongoing wetland restoration initiatives, Rudrasagar serves as a model for integrated wetland management under NBSAP. It enables the development of monitoring protocols for waterbird and fish biodiversity and offers potential for co-financing through state wetland schemes and community enterprises.

Khowai Landscape (Khowai district): Khowai integrates forest biodiversity, riparian systems, and tribal livelihoods, supporting spatial planning across forest-agriculture interfaces. Active JFMCs and SHGs present a strong base for monitoring and nature-based enterprise models, contributing to financial sustainability and local community engagement.

3. Uttarakhand

Lansdowne–Kotdwar Landscape (Pauri Garhwal district): As a critical corridor in the Terai Arc Landscape, this site enhances spatial connectivity and supports habitat continuity for tigers and elephants. It offers scope for landscape-level planning and monitoring of wide-ranging species and can attract green finance through corridor restoration and eco-sensitive development.

Binsar Landscape (Almora district, and potentially Nainital District (to be re-assessed during the project implementation): Binsar supports diverse montane ecosystems and RET species, with strong Van Panchayat institutions managing forest and watershed services. This enables integration of spatial conservation with ecosystem service mapping and participatory monitoring, while supporting sustainable finance through NTFPs and ecotourism.

---

[1] MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change), India's 6th National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity, GoI, Delhi (2018).

[2] FAO, The State of India's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2013).

[3] Ibid.

[4] United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision

[5] MoEFCC (2020). Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Government of India.

[6] FAO (2021). State of Food and Agriculture: Making agri-food systems more resilient.

[7] IEA (2021). India Energy Outlook. International Energy Agency.

[8] Pandit, M.K., & Grumbine, R.E. (2012). Potential effects of ongoing and proposed hydropower development on terrestrial biological diversity in the Indian Himalaya. *Conservation Biology*, 26(6), 1061–1071.

[9] IPCC (2022). Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

[10] Agarwal, A., & Narain, S. (2019). Community-based natural resource management in India: Lessons and challenges. *Centre for Science and Environment*.

[11] Pandey, B., et al. (2022). Urban expansion patterns in India. Land Use Policy.

[12] Spawn, S.A., et al. (2020). Global agricultural land use change. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

[13] IUCN (2021). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2021-3

[14] MoEFCC (2018). India's Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

[15] IPCC (2022). Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report. Cambridge University Press

[16] MoEFCC (2020). National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Implementation Report. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

[17] UNEP-WCMC (2019). Coverage and Management Effectiveness of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures.

[18] Agarwal, A., & Redford, K. (2009). Conservation and Displacement: An Overview. Conservation and Society, 7(1).

[19] Chitale, V.S., et al. (2018). Biodiversity Monitoring in India: Challenges and Opportunities. Current Science, 115(3).

[20] TEEB India Initiative (2015). The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: India Interim Report. MoEFCC & GIZ.

C. 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 E). This section should be a cohesive narrative and not separate responses to the guiding questions in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

Project objective:
The project's objective is to improve biodiversity management, monitoring, sustainable financing and co-benefits from enhanced implementation of NBSAP.

Theory of Change:
The Theory of Change (ToC) for this GBFF project illustrates how India can transition from fragmented and under-resourced biodiversity governance toward systemic, durable solutions that generate Global Biodiversity Benefits (GBBs). It translates the

project rationale, rooted in India's development challenges, biodiversity threats, and baseline gaps, into a logical chain that links barriers to targeted interventions, outcomes, and long-term impacts.

The ToC demonstrates how addressing five systemic barriers, fragmented biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, inadequate monitoring systems, insufficient recognition of non-protected areas (NPAs), weak community engagement, and chronic underfinancing, can activate levers such as policy frameworks, biodiversity information systems, community co-management, gender-responsive governance and innovative financing mechanisms.

In doing so, the project will:

- Integrate biodiversity into state and national spatial planning systems (Component 1).
- Develop and implement innovative management models based on the spatial planning (Component1)
- Establish a national biodiversity MIS and state-linked dashboards for monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management (Component 1).
- Recognize and empower community-led OECMs to extend conservation beyond formal Protected Areas (Component 2).
- Mobilize biodiversity finance instruments, expenditure tagging, biodiversity-friendly enterprises—to secure long-term sustainability (Component 2).
- Enhance innovative financial instruments for supporting implementation of NBSAP (Component 3)

The ToC thus acts as the logic bridge between the diagnostic problem analysis and the operational design of components, ensuring project interventions not only address India's local challenges but also align with commitments under the CBD, Kunming-Montreal GBF, and India's NBSAP including NBT 23, which ensures that all interventions are gender-responsive and contribute to equitable outcomes.

Causal Pathways: The ToC is organized around following mutually reinforcing pathways. Each pathway begins with barriers, applies project-supported levers, and culminates in outputs and outcomes that directly contribute to durable GBBs.

Table 3: Causal pathways of the GBFF project

Pathway	Barrier	Levers	Outputs	Outcomes / Components	GBB & GBF Core Indicator Contribution
1. Governance & Spatial Planning	Fragmented biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning; inadequate integration of biodiversity into land-use policies.	Strengthening policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms for integrated spatial planning.	Output 1.1.1: Key biodiversity areas and terrestrial ecosystems mapped and mainstreamed into national / state conservation plans.Output 1.1.2: Innovative management models and strategies implemented for conservation of high-value biodiversity.	Outcome 1.1 (Component 1): Biodiversity management integrated into national and state spatial planning frameworks to accelerate GBF implementation.	GBB: 195 000 ha of landscapes outside PAs under improved management.GBF Indicators: 4 (landscapes under improved management), 11 (resilient terrestrial ecosystems).
2. Knowledge & Monitoring Systems	Inadequate biodiversity monitoring systems; fragmented data and institutional silos.	Knowledge management and robust digital ecosystems for learning, monitoring, and decision-support.	Output 1.2.1: National biodiversity MIS portal established and operational.Output 1.2.2: Knowledge products (policy briefs, case studies) disseminated.Output 1.2.3: Capacity building for ≥150 key staff from national / state / local agencies.	Outcome 1.2 (Component 1): Capacities for monitoring NBSAP implementation strengthened through an integrated MIS and data portal.	GBB: Improved national monitoring and data driven planning.GBF Indicators: 4 & 11 (landscapes under improved management; ecosystem services sustained).
3. Community-Led	Limited community engagement in conservation;	Deepening rights-based, culturally grounded	Output 2.1.1: Management plans for OECMs developed.Output 2.1.2: Knowledge products and	Outcomes 2.1 & 2.2 (Component 2): Enhanced biodiversity	GBB: 5 000 ha of OECMs recognized and managed with TPLC participation; 30 000 beneficiaries (50

Conservation (OECMs)	insufficient management of non-protected areas.	governance co-created with local communities.	lessons disseminated.Output 2.2.1: Additional financing instruments mobilized for community OECMs.	protection and monitoring through community co-management; innovative financing mobilized for OECMs.	% women).GBF Indicators: 4 (landscape management), 11 (resilience), Targets 3, 22 & 23 (equity and participation).
4. Biodiversity Finance & Incentives	Insufficient and inefficient biodiversity financing; weak private-sector engagement.	Enhancing biodiversity financing systems and innovations in ecosystem-based livelihoods (green value chains).	Output 3.1.1: National and state biodiversity finance plans developed and adopted to improve resource allocation for NBSAP/SBSAP implementation.	Outcome 3.1 (Component 3): Financial resources mobilized and efficiently allocated through updated biodiversity finance plans.	GBB: Sustainable biodiversity finance embedded in public budgets and private partnerships; mobilization of ≥ USD 2 million for community OECMs.GBF Indicators: 4 (improved management), 6 (GHG benefits), 14 (funding flows).
5. Monitoring, Evaluation & Adaptive Management	Weak feedback loops and limited accountability mechanisms in project governance.	Efficient project management with best practices in M&E, gender, and safeguards integration.	Output 4.1.1: Project implementation coordinated and monitored through steering committees, annual M&E (PIRs), MTR and TE including safeguards.	Outcome 4.1 (Component 4): Effective management and adaptive monitoring responsive to gender, youth, and community actions.	GBB: Institutional learning and accountability systems strengthened for long-term biodiversity governance. GBF Indicators: 19 & 22 (monitoring and inclusive governance).

Integration across pathways: Spatial planning and knowledge systems (Pathways 1 and 2) identify, map, and monitor ecological priorities that guide landscape-level action. Community-led conservation (Pathway 3) builds on these spatial priorities to establish and manage OECMs through participatory governance, while biodiversity financing (Pathway 4) sustains both governance reforms and community stewardship through improved budgeting, expenditure tracking, and innovative instruments. Together, these four pathways create a systemic shift that embeds biodiversity into national and state planning, livelihoods, and finance systems, supported by continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management.

Core components as causal pathways: The Theory of Change is operationalized through four mutually reinforcing components that address systemic barriers and translate them into measurable outcomes and Global Biodiversity Benefits (GBBs).

- Component 1 – Governance, Spatial Planning, and Knowledge Systems: This component strengthens biodiversity governance by embedding ecological priorities into spatial and development planning at both national and state levels, while building an integrated monitoring and information architecture. Through biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans, participatory mapping of Key Biodiversity Areas, and the establishment of a national Management Information System (MIS) interoperable with state dashboards, the project institutionalizes biodiversity in decision-making. These measures reduce fragmentation, enhance transparency, and enable data-driven management of ecosystems. This component contributes directly to GBF Targets 1, 14, and 19.
- Component 2 – Community-led Biodiversity Protection (OECMs): Recognizing that biodiversity-rich landscapes outside formal Protected Areas remain vulnerable, this component empowers Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs) as stewards of biodiversity through the recognition, co-management, and monitoring of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). By formalizing community stewardship, establishing co-management frameworks with Village Councils and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), and producing replication toolkits, the project strengthens local governance and incentivizes conservation-compatible livelihoods. This approach expands conservation coverage beyond Protected Areas and mobilizes innovative financial instruments for community-level OECM management, directly contributing to GBF Target 3 (30×30) and ensuring inclusive, equitable participation in line with Targets 22 and 23.
- Component 3 – Biodiversity Finance and Incentives: This component addresses the chronic underfinancing of biodiversity conservation under the NBSAP and SBSAPs by embedding biodiversity priorities into public finance systems and mobilizing complementary private investment. Tools such as biodiversity expenditure tagging, state-level finance reviews, and biodiversity-friendly enterprises establish durable financing streams. By securing budgetary allocations and engaging private and community-based financing mechanisms, this component ensures the financial sustainability of conservation efforts, contributing to GBF Targets 14, 18, and 19.

- Component 4 – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management: This component ensures systematic monitoring, evidence-based learning, and adaptive management across all pathways. It strengthens governance and accountability through joint National and State Project Steering Committees, safeguards monitoring, and an integrated M&E system aligned with UNDP and GEF standards. The component supports the preparation of annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), Mid-Term Review (MTR), and Terminal Evaluation (TE), ensuring continuous learning, transparency, and course correction. By institutionalizing adaptive management and stakeholder feedback mechanisms (including a Grievance Redress Mechanism [GRM]), this component enhances sustainability and contributes to GBF Targets 19 and 22 on monitoring, accountability, and inclusive governance.

Together, these components form a coherent package that ensures biodiversity is systematically integrated into governance, anchored in local stewardship, and sustained by long-term financing.

Cross-cutting Levers and Enabler: The effectiveness of the four components is reinforced by a set of cross-cutting levers and enablers that ensure project outcomes are durable, scalable, and resilient to future pressures:

- Strengthened policy frameworks provide the legal and institutional foundation for mainstreaming biodiversity into spatial planning, OECMs, and fiscal systems, ensuring reforms are embedded in national and state agendas.
- Digital monitoring and MIS systems make biodiversity data transparent, interoperable, and participatory, supporting adaptive management by governments and communities alike.
- Rights-based governance with TPLCs guarantees that conservation is grounded in Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), equitable benefit-sharing, and culturally aligned stewardship, enhancing legitimacy and social sustainability.
- Integration of biodiversity into finance systems through tagging, action plans, and biodiversity enterprises secures long-term financial flows and diversifies funding sources.

Together, these enablers act as the "glue" that binds project outputs into systemic and enduring outcomes, preventing fragmentation and ensuring biodiversity gains persist beyond the project's life.

Contribution to Global and National Commitments: The Theory of Change is explicitly aligned with global frameworks, GBFF priorities, and India's national commitments:

- Kunming–Montreal GBF Targets: The project contributes to nine critical targets, including spatial planning (Target 1), ecosystem restoration (Target 2), expansion of conservation areas (Target 3), biodiversity integration in governance (Target 14), business accountability (Target 15), positive incentive reform (Target 18), finance mobilization (Target 19), knowledge access (Target 21), participation and equity (Target 22), and gender equality (Target 23).
- GBFF Action Areas: It directly advances Action Area 1 (conservation, restoration, and spatial planning), Action Area 2 (support to IPLC/TPCL stewardship and governance), and Action Area 4 (resource mobilization).
- GBFF Goals: It strengthens Goal A (ecological integrity and resilience), Goal B (ecosystem services for people), and Goal D (financial and institutional sustainability).
- India's National Commitments: It operationalizes the Biological Diversity Act (2002), NBSAP, National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing, and BIOFIN initiative, ensuring strong national ownership and providing lessons for global replication.
- The project also creates synergies across UNCCD, UNFCCC, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2, 5, 10, 13, 15), positioning it as a cross-convention model for integrated ecosystem management.

This alignment ensures that project outcomes are both nationally grounded and globally relevant, representing a measurable contribution to implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Key assumptions, risks, and mitigation measures

The Theory of Change for this GBFF project is grounded in several key assumptions that define the enabling environment required for project success. While the project directly addresses systemic barriers, its transformative potential depends on factors outside its immediate control. Recognizing these dependencies, the project also identifies risks associated with each assumption and outlines mitigation measures to enhance resilience and sustainability.

1. Strong coordination among institutions

Assumption: Effective collaboration will be maintained among MoEFCC, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Forest and Planning Departments, and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) for integrated biodiversity planning and implementation.
Risk: Institutional silos or competing priorities could weaken coordination, leading to fragmented planning and reduced effectiveness of spatial plans and MIS systems.
Mitigation:

- Establish a national-level Project Steering Committee chaired by MoEFCC with representation from SBBs and state departments to ensure joint decision-making.
- Institutionalize cross-sectoral working groups at state level to align planning processes.
- Provide targeted capacity-building and incentives for interdepartmental collaboration, including joint monitoring missions.

2. Retention and application of institutional capacities

Assumption: Capacities built within SBBs, BMCs, and state institutions will be retained and applied beyond the project's duration.
Risk: High staff turnover or limited institutional memory may lead to loss of skills and reduced use of new tools such as biodiversity MIS, expenditure tagging, or OECM management frameworks.
Mitigation:

- Anchor training within institutional structures rather than individual staff; adopt "training-of-trainers" models.
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs), toolkits, and digital platforms that institutionalize new practices.
- Secure formal state government orders mandating use of biodiversity-inclusive planning and monitoring tools.

3. Sustained engagement of local communities

Assumption: Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs) will remain committed to OECM co-management, monitoring, and biodiversity stewardship when recognized and incentivized.
Risk: Competing livelihood priorities, lack of adequate incentives, or external pressures (e.g., land-use change, market demand for natural resources) could reduce community engagement over time.

Mitigation:

- Apply Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes to ensure legitimacy and buy-in.
- Strengthen incentives through biodiversity enterprises, and revenue-sharing models.
- Embed co-management agreements within state policies to secure long-term recognition of community roles.
- Ensure gender-responsive participation and benefits to broaden community ownership.

4. Continued political commitment to biodiversity mainstreaming

Assumption: The Government of India will maintain strong political commitment to biodiversity mainstreaming, aligned with CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, and GBF targets.
Risk: Shifts in political priorities or fiscal constraints could undermine momentum for biodiversity-inclusive planning, finance, and community stewardship.
Mitigation:

- Align project interventions with flagship national missions (e.g., National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing) to secure visibility and policy relevance.

- Demonstrate co-benefits such as climate resilience, livelihood security, and disaster risk reduction to appeal to broader development agendas.

- Engage parliamentarians, policymakers, and state leadership through policy dialogues and evidence from pilots.

5. Enabling regulatory frameworks

Assumption: Regulatory frameworks at national and state levels will evolve to enable adoption of OECMs, biodiversity expenditure tagging, and innovative finance mechanisms within planning and budgeting systems.
Risk: Legal or regulatory delays may limit the institutionalization of pilots, restricting scalability and replication.

Mitigation:

- Work closely with MoEFCC to align OECM recognition guidelines and biodiversity finance policies with national policy and legislation.

- Support drafting of state-level policies and regulations to institutionalize biodiversity finance tools.

- Document pilot experiences to provide an evidence base for regulatory reforms.

In sum, these assumptions reflect the broader enabling conditions that lie beyond the project's direct control but are essential for achieving durable outcomes and global biodiversity benefits (GBBs). By proactively identifying associated risks and embedding mitigation measures within project design, the ToC provides a realistic and robust pathway for systemic transformation. The

project's emphasis on institutionalization, rights-based governance, and financial sustainability ensures that even if external risks materialize, outcomes remain resilient and scalable.

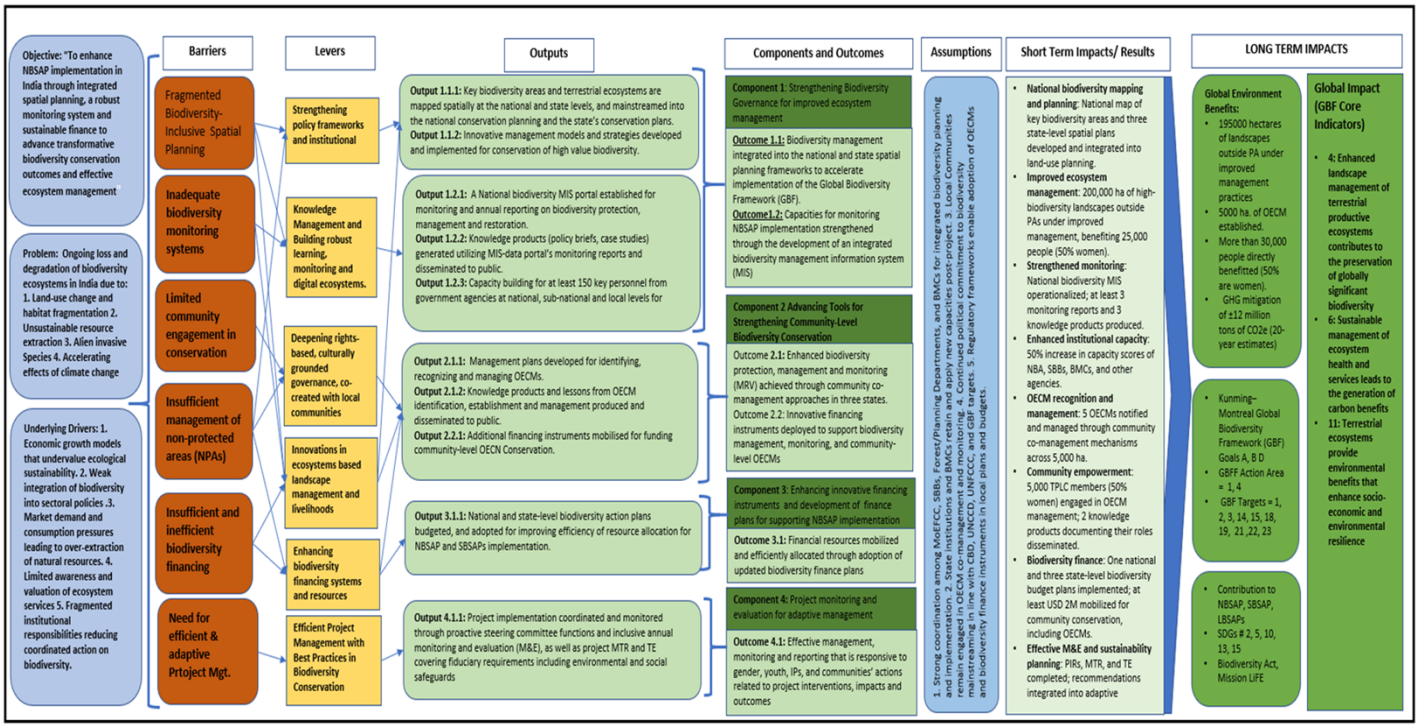


Figure 1: theory of change

Incremental cost reasoning:

Baseline scenario: India is one of the most biodiverse countries globally, yet faces significant pressures from land-use change, fragmentation, infrastructure expansion, and weak institutional coordination. Biodiversity is often treated as a sectoral concern rather than a cross-cutting development issue. Baseline investments by government focus on protected areas, with limited recognition of biodiversity outside these zones, and little systemic engagement with OECMs or biodiversity-inclusive planning. Data and monitoring systems remain fragmented across ministries and states, limiting adaptive governance. Communities, particularly in biodiversity-rich Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand, receive limited incentives to manage biodiversity in production landscapes, resulting in continued habitat loss, degradation, and reduced ecosystem resilience to climate impacts. The selection of Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand also reflects alignment with State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs), ensuring that project interventions are embedded within State-specific biodiversity priorities and strategies.

GEF alternative: With GBFF support, the project will remove systemic barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity into governance, planning, and finance. It will develop interoperable biodiversity monitoring systems, integrate OECMs into national planning frameworks, and institutionalize biodiversity-inclusive land-use planning across three diverse ecological and socio-political contexts. By piloting sustainable financing mechanisms (Payments for Ecosystem Services, biodiversity tagging in public budgets, biodiversity-friendly enterprises), the project will create new incentives for communities and states to value biodiversity as an asset for resilience and development. Lessons and knowledge will be scaled nationally, positioning India to meet its commitments under the Kunming-Montreal GBF and SDGs

Incremental reasoning: The incremental investment through GBFF enables India to:

- Move beyond business-as-usual conservation confined to protected areas, toward a systemic approach integrating biodiversity across land-use, finance, and governance.
- Develop scalable models for OECM recognition and management in three states, with potential replication nationally. These processes will be guided by NBSAP's voluntary declaration framework and supported by participatory governance through BMCs
- Establish national digital systems for monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services that would not be financed under baseline conditions.

- Create financial and livelihood incentives that directly address equity and sustainability, ensuring biodiversity conservation delivers socio-economic benefits.

The Incremental reasoning for the project design is summarized in the table below. The Theory of Change narrative above further elaborates on the incremental reasoning.

Component	Baseline Practices (Without Project)	GBFF Incremental Reasoning / Alternative Strategy (With Project)	Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and Project Impacts
Component 1: Strengthening Biodiversity Governance for improved ecosystem management	Biodiversity data remain fragmented across agencies and rarely inform statutory planning. State spatial plans seldom integrate biodiversity, while national datasets (e.g., BSI, FSI) are static and lack interoperability. Monitoring of NBSAP implementation is ad hoc, with weak institutional capacities and no unified MRV framework.	GBFF financing enables integration and scale-up of biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning by developing a national geospatial biodiversity map, integrating it into three state spatial plans, and linking with decision-support dashboards. It operationalizes a national biodiversity MIS, enabling standardized data sharing, monitoring, and reporting under GBF. These investments build directly on national datasets but transform them into a living, dynamic planning and monitoring system accessible to decision-makers.	Incremental Benefits: Up to 195,000 ha outside PAs under improved management; biodiversity formally embedded in land-use planning; continuous monitoring and adaptive management institutionalized. GEBs: Reduced habitat fragmentation, improved ecological connectivity and resilience; enhanced capacity of NBA, SBBs, and BMCs; measurable progress toward GBF Targets 1, 14, and 19.
Component 2: Advancing Tools for Strengthening Community-Level Biodiversity Conservation	Community-managed landscapes outside PAs remain under-recognized and under-resourced. OECM guidelines exist nationally but lack operational pilots. Lessons from local initiatives (e.g., SECURE Himalaya) remain isolated, without financial or institutional mechanisms for replication.	GBFF financing enables demonstration and formal recognition of five OECMs (~5,000 ha) through FPIC-based community engagement, co-management plans, and biodiversity-friendly livelihood pilots. It finances technical support for OECM management planning, creation of replication toolkits, and development of innovative financing models (green credits,ABS-based mechanisms). It builds on existing community institutions and state initiatives but adds the policy-to-practice bridge needed for scaling and mainstreaming OECMs nationally.	Incremental Benefits: Expansion of conservation coverage beyond PAs through recognition of community-led OECMs; at least 5,000 TPLC members (50% women) benefit from improved livelihoods and governance participation. GEBs: 5,000 ha added to area-based conservation (Target 3); increased local stewardship, equity, and social legitimacy; enhanced monitoring and reporting through NBA systems.
Component 3: Enhancing innovative financing instruments for supporting NBSAP implementation	Biodiversity budgets and expenditures are fragmented, untagged, and weakly linked to results. Financial flows for biodiversity conservation are unpredictable, and private-sector engagement remains minimal. Existing BIOFIN and state finance reviews have not yet translated into concrete budget reforms.	GBFF financing supports the formulation of one national and three state biodiversity finance plans, integrating expenditure tagging and results-based budgeting. It pilots biodiversity-friendly enterprises to establish self-sustaining revenue streams for OECM communities. The incremental value lies in bridging policy analysis (BIOFIN) to implementation, converting biodiversity finance frameworks into operational instruments for public–private investment.	Incremental Benefits: Predictable public outlays aligned to biodiversity priorities; ≥ USD 2 million mobilized through ABS, and market-based instruments; adaptive budgeting using data from the MIS. GEBs: Sustainable biodiversity financing institutionalized; community enterprises linked to restoration and OECM management; contributions to GBF Targets 14, 18, and 19.

Component	Baseline Practices (Without Project)	GBFF Incremental Reasoning / Alternative Strategy (With Project)	Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and Project Impacts
Component 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management	Fragmented monitoring systems exist across agencies; reporting to the CBD relies on outdated data; safeguards and gender measures are inconsistently applied. There is limited coordination between state and national levels for evaluation and learning.	GBFF financing establishes an integrated M&E system with harmonized reporting across NBA, SBBs, and implementing partners; ensures annual PIRs, MTR, and TE are linked to adaptive management; operationalizes grievance and safeguards monitoring mechanisms; and strengthens institutional learning through steering committees and gender-responsive feedback loops. It adds the accountability and evidence base necessary for sustainability and transparency of results.	Incremental Benefits: Coordinated, evidence-based decision-making; stronger institutional accountability and safeguards compliance; systematic integration of gender and IPLC perspectives. GEBs: Enhanced institutional learning and governance contributing to GBF Targets 19 and 22 on transparency and inclusive monitoring.

Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs):

Environmental Benefits: Over 200,000 hectares outside PAs of biodiversity-rich landscapes prioritized (including 5000 ha. under OECMs) for integrated spatial planning, conservation, and restoration; establishment of formally recognized Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) to expand area-based conservation beyond Protected Areas. Cumulatively, these interventions will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions of at least 3.48 million metric tonnes of CO2e over a 20-year period. Moreover, they are expected to benefit at least 30,000 people (50% are women) through implementation of inclusive and innovative ecosystem management models in high-biodiversity zones that are not currently under any legal protection.

Socio-economic benefits: While delivering GEBs, the project is equally anchored in driving tangible socio-economic co-benefits for local communities, with particular emphasis on TPLC, women, and other marginalized groups who directly depend on ecosystem services.

- At least 30,000 individuals (50% women) living in and around project sites will directly benefit through interventions. These opportunities may include sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, ecotourism, nature-based tourism, and fisheries-related activities, supported by improved ecosystem services.

- The implementation of co-management strategies and the integration of sustainable resource use practices will improve conservation outcomes while reducing human–resource conflicts and strengthening community livelihoods. Capacity enhancement will explicitly include Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), ensuring stronger local governance and sustained biodiversity stewardship. The project will directly address this by embedding gender-responsive design into the formation and capacity-building of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), supporting women-led producer groups, and ensuring that MIS platforms track gender-disaggregated indicators.

- The project will advance gender equality and social inclusion by enabling active participation of women, marginalized, and vulnerable groups in decision-making, benefit-sharing, conservation activities, and enterprise development. This will foster more equitable leadership and economic opportunities.

- The project will recognize and promote traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and local governance systems of tribal and local communities that support biodiversity conservation. Valuing and incorporating these systems into national and global conservation efforts will incentivize communities to sustain these practices long-term.

- The project will mobilize innovative financing mechanisms, including public-private-community partnerships, to diversify livelihood opportunities and support the long-term sustainability of conservation investments.

Component-wise description of interventions:

The project will deliver a coordinated set of results designed to accelerate the sub-national implementation of India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and contribute directly to the achievement of selected targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The project's strategic architecture is organized around five interdependent outcomes and their associated outputs, which address systemic gaps in spatial planning, biodiversity monitoring, community-led conservation, budgetary integration, and biodiversity finance innovation. The planned interventions (activities) discussed under each output will deliver the expected results under respective outcome through key and supplementary deliverables.

The Project Objective is "*To improve biodiversity management, monitoring, sustainable financing and co-benefits from enhanced implementation of NBSAP*"

Component 1: Strengthening Biodiversity Governance for improved ecosystem management

(Total Cost: USD 5,356,233; GBFF project grant requested: USD 5,356,233; Co-financing: USD 0)

Component 1 of the project focuses on fundamentally strengthening biodiversity governance in India by embedding biodiversity priorities into national and sub-national planning systems, institutionalizing robust monitoring frameworks, and piloting inclusive, landscape-level management approaches. This component responds directly to the need for harmonized spatial and institutional frameworks that secure critical ecosystems and advance India's commitments under its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP – 2024-2030) and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

At the heart of this component is the ambition to ensure that biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management are no longer treated as stand-alone or peripheral initiatives, but are structurally integrated into how land is planned, managed, and financed across diverse governance levels. The component is built around two mutually reinforcing outcomes:

Outcome 1.1 seeks to integrate the protection and management of terrestrial biodiversity and habitats into national and state spatial planning frameworks. This will be achieved by developing a comprehensive, updated national biodiversity map that delineates Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), ecological corridors, degraded zones, and sites of high ecosystem service value. This national map will serve as the scientific and policy foundation for the preparation of three detailed state-level spatial plans in Uttarakhand, Nagaland, and Tripura. These plans will be prepared in close consultation with the NBA to ensure compatibility with the national biodiversity database and alignment with each State's SBSAP. These state plans will embed biodiversity priorities into official land use strategies, sectoral policies, and development decision-making processes. Each state plan will be directly operationalized through on-ground management interventions in priority biodiversity landscapes identified through participatory mapping and ecological assessments. These field-level pilots will include activities such as ecosystem restoration, invasive species control, rehabilitation of degraded forests and wetlands, and promotion of sustainable livelihood practices aligned with biodiversity-friendly land use. These physical interventions, implemented through state line departments, SBBs, and community institutions, will together cover approximately 195,000 hectares outside formal protected areas.

Beyond these three target states, the national biodiversity map will serve as a reference tool for other states across India to mainstream biodiversity into their own spatial planning frameworks, which thereby ensuring coherent policy foundation for the spatial planning nationwide. Thus, the spatial planning and mapping processes under Outcome 1.1 are not limited to analytical or capacity-building exercises—they directly enable and guide field-level action on habitat restoration, sustainable use, and landscape-level management consistent with SES and FPIC protocols.

On the ground, this work will translate into at **least 195,000 hectares** of high biodiversity and critical ecosystems outside formal PAs brought under improved management to benefit biodiversity, directly benefiting at least 25,000 people (half of whom will be women) through innovative community-centred management models. These models will be co-designed with local institutions and communities, supported by FPIC-compliant processes, and tailored to local socio-ecological contexts. They will operationalize integrated conservation, restoration, and sustainable use strategies that simultaneously uphold ecological integrity and strengthen local livelihoods. All together, these interventions will mitigate at least 3.48 million metric tons of CO2e over a 20-year period.

Outcome 1.2 under this component focuses on equipping India with the institutional and digital infrastructure required for rigorous, transparent monitoring of NBSAP and GBF implementation. This includes the establishment of a national biodiversity Management Information System (MIS) and data portal, developed with national technical agencies and configured to support real-time tracking of biodiversity protection, restoration, and sustainable use outcomes. The system will be piloted and refined in the three target states, offering role-based access for national, state, and field-level stakeholders, and will be formally integrated into national reporting and planning systems. The MIS will also capture field-verified data from the 195,000 ha management interventions under Outcome 1.1, ensuring strong feedback loops between on-ground results and national-level reporting.

Complementing this, the project will institutionalize the generation of annual biodiversity monitoring reports, create a suite of accessible knowledge products—including policy briefs and case studies—and establish a public digital repository to drive learning, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making. This directly contributes to NBT 21 by ensuring biodiversity data and knowledge products are openly accessible to all stakeholders. If required, while uploading or posting data, State Biodiversity Boards shall also support updation and digitisation of People's Biodiversity Register A robust capacity development program will ensure that at least 150 key officials across the MoEFCC, NBA, SBBs, BMCs and sectoral departments are trained to effectively use the MIS for planning and reporting, with certified modules embedded into national training platforms to secure long-term sustainability.

In summary, Component 1 combines strategic planning with tangible field implementation. The spatial plans serve as the operational gateway for piloting and scaling biodiversity-positive management across 195,000 ha, demonstrating how improved governance frameworks can deliver measurable on-ground ecosystem and livelihood outcomes. Through these integrated interventions, Component 1 will deliver far-reaching impacts. It will institutionalize biodiversity-inclusive planning across critical states, enable data-driven governance through a national MIS, and demonstrate scalable models of ecosystem stewardship that enhance climate resilience, secure ecosystem services, and promote gender-equitable benefits. In doing so, the component positions India to make measurable advances toward its biodiversity targets, while laying a robust, replicable foundation for landscape-level conservation that can inform efforts across other states and contribute to global biodiversity goals.

All activities under Component 1 that trigger Environmental and Social Safeguards (SES) will be managed through development and implementation of SES instruments. All activities in this component will be effectively and efficiently monitored through M&E plan detailed in Output 6.2.

Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity management integrated into the national and state spatial planning frameworks to accelerate implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Outcome 1.1 indicators

- An updated national map of key terrestrial biodiversity areas and ecosystems developed with three spatial plans for biodiversity and critical ecosystems mainstreamed into state's land use plans with 50% women participation in local spatial planning consultation.
- 195,000 hectares of high biodiversity / critical ecosystems outside PAs in Nagaland, Tripura & Uttarakhand brought under improved management through implementation of innovative management models, which will benefit 25,000 people (with 50% women).

Output 1.1.1: Key Biodiversity areas and terrestrial ecosystems are mapped spatially at the national and state levels and mainstreamed into the national conservation planning and the state's conservation plans.

This output supports the formulation of a national-level (spatial-based), comprehensive map of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which will be adopted into national conservation planning. The focus of this output is to identify and mainstream areas of high biodiversity and ecosystem value across India into the conservation planning of the country. This KBAs mapping provides the scientific foundation for downstream planning in the target states, and implementation of conservation and sustainable use models under Output 1.1.2. The output contributes directly to national-level biodiversity planning by enabling the identification of zones for protection, restoration, and sustainable use. Additionally, the endorsed outputs will also be published and integrated into the project's MIS and national data portals to support decision-making by MoEFCC, NBA, and other sectoral agencies.

Activity 1.1.1.1: Comprehensive assessment and delineation of existing biodiversity Spatial Datasets and studies in India: This activity will systematically compile, assess, and analyse the current landscape of biodiversity-related spatial datasets and mapping initiatives in India, identifying gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for integration and innovation in national biodiversity spatial planning. To ensure a scientifically robust and participatory approach, the KBAs will be identified using internationally recognized criteria (e.g., IUCN criteria). These criteria typically assess ecological significance based on factors such as the presence of threatened or restricted-range species, unique habitat types, and critical ecological processes. Following an initial assessment using secondary data and insights gathered through public consultations, preliminary boundaries of potential KBAs will be delineated. These proposed sites will be validated through field-based assessments and spot-check verifications to confirm their ecological importance and refine their spatial limits.

Activity 1.1.1.2: Development of National Geo-Referenced Map of KBAs and Ecological Corridors: Using the results under 1.1.1.1, this activity will develop a harmonized, geo-referenced national map of KBAs and ecological corridors using validated datasets and expert-led consultations, ensuring scientific robustness, institutional ownership, and policy relevance.

Activity 1.1.1.3: Adoption of Updated Biodiversity Map in Selected National Conservation Plans**:** This activity will demonstrate the practical integration and policy relevance of the harmonized national biodiversity map by embedding its spatial layers into selected national and sub-national conservation planning instruments.

Activity 1.1.1.4: Development of demonstration prototypes for map Integration in Spatial Planning: This activity will develop and test practical, user-friendly prototypes that demonstrate how biodiversity spatial data can be integrated into regulatory and development planning processes, thereby enabling institutional uptake and replication.

Activity 1.1.1.5: Identification and Demarcation of KBAs and Critical Ecosystems in the Target States using the National Biodiversity Map: This activity will localize and contextualize the national biodiversity map by identifying and demarcating critical biodiversity-rich areas within the project states (Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand), forming the baseline for spatial conservation planning at the state level.

Activity 1.1.1.6: Development of State-Level Spatial Conservation Plans**:** Considering the results of SESA, this activity will develop technically robust, state-specific spatial conservation plans that translate identified biodiversity priorities into actionable planning instruments and integrate them into official state GIS platforms and planning frameworks.

Activity 1.1.1.7: Institutional Mainstreaming and Adoption of Biodiversity-Informed Spatial Plans: This activity will ensure the effective integration of biodiversity priorities into state planning and investment frameworks through a two-pronged approach. First, it will provide selected sectoral departments (e.g., Agriculture, Water Resources, Tourism, Industry) with tailored technical assistance, spatial data products, and linkages to financing mechanisms to mainstream biodiversity into their operational plans. Second, it will secure the formal validation, political endorsement, and legal adoption of the state-level spatial conservation plans, embedding them into official planning systems to guarantee institutional accountability, continuity, and long-term implementation beyond the project lifecycle.

Activity 1.1.1.8: Capacity Building, Toolkit Dissemination, Knowledge-Sharing Workshop and Roadmap for Mainstreaming: The project will ensure the long-term institutional uptake and application of biodiversity-spatial planning tools at all governance levels. It combines targeted capacity building with strategic knowledge sharing to create a self-sustaining ecosystem of informed practitioners. The activity will develop and disseminate user-friendly toolkits and monitoring indicators to empower national, state and local officials to interpret and apply spatial data in sectoral decision-making. Furthermore, it will culminate in a national knowledge-sharing workshop to formally present the finalized national biodiversity map, state-level maps, update mechanisms, and spatial integration prototypes. This workshop will consolidate lessons learned, validate a clear roadmap for nationwide mainstreaming, and secure commitment from a broad audience of key decision-makers for long-term institutionalization.

Key Deliverables (directly linked to outcome indicators and essential to the output):

1) One National-level and three state level spatial biodiversity map developed, integrating Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), ecologically sensitive zones, degraded ecosystems, and areas of high ecosystem service value.

2) Spatial prioritization framework established with scoring criteria, weighting logic, and decision rules for national-scale ecological planning.

3) Validated spatial layers and zonation maps published and made accessible to national and state agencies, including overlays aligned with GBF Targets and GEF-8 results areas.

4) Official endorsement of the national biodiversity spatial map[1][25] and framework by MoEFCC and NBA for use in national conservation and land-use planning.

5) National spatial data integrated into the project MIS and cross-linked to the biodiversity monitoring portal (Output 1.2.1) to support decision-making and mainstreaming.

Output 1.1.2: Innovative management models and strategies developed and implemented for conservation of high value biodiversity.

This output focuses on the design, implementation, and institutionalization of innovative biodiversity management models tailored to the socio-ecological conditions of selected landscapes in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. Building on the spatial planning outputs under Output 1.1.1, these models will re-assess the existing spatial plan of the three districts and overlay the plan with the identified KBAs. This result will inform the areas to designated for sustainable use, restoration, and conservation mechanisms (e.g., community conservation regimes, OECMs and so on) to facilitate enhanced ecosystem management across approximately 195,000

hectares. This designation will ensure alignment with both ecological priorities and local socio-economic needs. Under this output, the project will benefit at least 25,000 beneficiaries (50% women) from enhanced ecosystem management models.

The models will be co-developed through inclusive participatory processes and supported by FPIC-compliant protocols to safeguard the rights of Tribal Peoples and local communities, particularly women and marginalized groups who are disproportionately dependent on natural resources. Implementation will be phased to allow piloting, adaptive management, and validation through field-level monitoring and participatory socio-environmental impact assessments. Capacity building will target local institutions, communities, and technical agencies, in order to strengthen their governance capabilities and ensuring long-term sustainability. Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) will be systematically documented and integrated with scientific approaches to enhance resilience and adaptive management. The documentation of TK will be carried out through participatory methods in collaboration with Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and local communities, ensuring that community-driven conservation practices are systematically recorded, validated, and mainstreamed into biodiversity governance and monitoring systems

For instance, in Nagaland, leveraging investments in landscape restoration under the ELEMENT project, CONSERVE will build on the states' extensive network of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) with a participatory approach involving and building capacity of local communities. In Tripura, Key interventions will include ecosystem service assessments to guide planning, capacity building for forest and line departments, and development of guidelines that prioritize ecosystem functions within plantation landscapes that enhance local biodiversity. Additionally, wetland restoration will also be taken with a focus on community engagement through promoting of ecotourism. In Uttarakhand, restoration interventions will leverage the state's rich agroecological traditions and community stewardship with a focus on spring-shed development aiming at linking water security for climate-resilient livelihoods. Building on JICA-supported plantations, the program will ensure synergy between forest restoration and livelihood generation with Gram Sabha-involvement.

Activity 1.1.2.1: Identification of Landscapes for Management Model Testing: This activity will identify and confirm pilot landscapes in each project state where innovative conservation and sustainable livelihood management models can be implemented, based on ecological value, socio-institutional readiness, and alignment with spatial conservation priorities identified under Output 1.1.1.

Activity 1.1.2.2: Review of Existing Conservation Models and Approaches in Selected Landscapes: This activity will conduct a comprehensive scoping study that identifies, documents, and analyzes proven and promising conservation and livelihood integration models—both domestic and international—to inform the design of landscape-specific, inclusive, and climate-adaptive management interventions.

Activity 1.1.2.3: Design and Customization of Innovative Management Models: Considering the results of SESA, as well as the Indigenous People Planning Framework (IPPF), this activity will design and customize landscape-specific management models that effectively integrate biodiversity conservation, ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive governance, building on proven approaches and tailored to local ecological and socio-cultural conditions.

Activity 1.1.2.4: Capacity Building and Institutional Support for Implementation: This activity will build the technical, managerial, and coordination capacities of local institutions and sector departments involved in implementing the innovative biodiversity-livelihood management models, ensuring readiness for effective, inclusive, and multi-sectoral delivery.

Activity 1.1.2.5: Piloting and Adaptive Management of Innovative Conservation and Livelihood Models in Target Landscapes: This activity will implement, monitor, and refine customized conservation-livelihood models in selected high-biodiversity landscapes across Uttarakhand, Nagaland, and Tripura, using participatory and FPIC protocols, gender-responsive, and adaptive management approaches that build long-term community ownership and resilience.

Activity 1.1.2.6: Experiential Learning Visits for Peer Exchange on Good Practices: This activity will promote cross-learning, innovation, and institutional ownership through structured experiential visits and thematic dialogues that expose state-level planners, community leaders, and technical staff to successful models of inclusive landscape management, nature-based solutions (NBS), and OECM governance.

Activity 1.1.2.7: Documentation of Model Implementation and Learnings: This activity will systematically document the implementation experience, outcomes, and lessons from pilot landscape models, with a strong focus on gender equity and TPLC engagement through continuous FPIC, and to translate these into accessible knowledge products that inform replication, institutionalization, and scale-up.

Activity 1.1.2.8: State-Level Workshops and Finalization of Replication Roadmaps: This activity will convene high-level state workshops to validate results from pilot landscape interventions, engage decision-makers on mainstreaming successful models, and finalize actionable scale-up roadmaps aligned with sectoral programs, biodiversity financing, and state development priorities.

Activity 1.1.2.9: Completion of Strategic Social and Environment Assessment (SESA): the project will undertake a scoped SESA for spatial planning upstream. The SESA will have a strong focus on the issues pertaining to land/economic displacement, rights of Scheduled Tribes and vulnerable population, climate related aspects, conservation-development trade-offs, incentivization of biodiversity conservation and restoration outside PAs and avoidance of economic losses for rural communities. The assessment will be undertaken in Year 1 of the implementation phase.

Key Deliverables (directly linked to outcome indicators and essential to the output):

1) Validated and implemented innovative management models for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, across at least 6 priority landscapes 195,000 ha), with integrated restoration, governance, and benefit-sharing mechanisms.
2) Signed community protocols (e.g., conservation agreements) and FPIC agreements confirming adoption and implementation of the models in project landscapes, with documented institutional support from local and state authorities.
3) Co-designed and operational field implementation plans for each pilot model, including participatory zoning, safeguards integration, and monitoring arrangements.
4) Evidence of model impact through documented improvements in biodiversity condition, landscape governance, and livelihood co-benefits, quantified through MIS-linked M&E indicators and pilot site reporting.
5) Endorsed scale-up and replication roadmap, including costed-plans, policy alignment, and institutional ownership by State Biodiversity Boards, Forest Departments, and rural development agencies.

Outcome 1.2: Capacities for monitoring NBSAP implementation strengthened through the development of an integrated biodiversity management information system (MIS).

Outcome 1.2 indicators

- A national biodiversity MIS and data portal is developed, operationalized, and used to generate and disseminate at least three biodiversity monitoring reports and three knowledge products by end of project.
- At least 50% increase in institutional capacity (score) of NBA, SBBs, BMCs and other relevant agencies from baseline (measured through capacity assessment scorecard) with 50% of women trained in using MIS for biodiversity monitoring.

Output 1.2.1: A National biodiversity MIS portal established for monitoring and annual reporting on biodiversity protection, management and restoration.

This output supports the development and institutionalization of a national biodiversity MIS and data portal designed with active involvement of NBA and aligned with CBD reporting obligations and ensure interoperability with national biodiversity information systems. It will enable consistent monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management across scales. The MIS will provide a centralized digital platform for tracking progress on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable use, aligned with India's NBSAP, GBF Targets, and GEF Core Indicators. The system will be developed in partnership with national technical agencies (e.g., NIC) and configured to host indicator dashboards, spatial datasets, safeguards reporting, and field-level monitoring inputs. It will be piloted in the three project states and refined based on user feedback.

The MIS will serve both national and state agencies by offering role-based access, reporting templates, and visualization tools. Public-facing elements of the portal will facilitate data transparency and inform wider policy and planning efforts. Integration with project-level monitoring will ensure real-time reporting and contribute to national and global biodiversity reporting commitments including seamless integration with the NBA's national monitoring framework for biodiversity reporting

This output institutionalizes a system for generating annual biodiversity monitoring reports through the national MIS platform. These reports will track progress on protection, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity, aligned with indicators under India's NBSAP, GBF targets, and the NBA's national monitoring framework for biodiversity reporting. Standardized reporting templates, indicator dashboards, and protocols will be developed and embedded within the MIS system to enable national and state-level agencies to submit, verify, and compile data. Annual reports will synthesize validated data from multiple institutions and visualize spatial and thematic trends to inform policy and planning.

The reporting system will be piloted in the three project states and gradually scaled through stakeholder training, inter-agency coordination, and feedback-driven improvements. The output will also support the formal adoption of annual reporting mechanisms through state-level directives and institutional agreements.

Activity 1.2.1.1: Functional Scoping and System Requirements Analysis for Biodiversity MIS: This activity will define the technical, institutional, and governance foundations for the National Biodiversity Monitoring and Information System (MIS) through structured stakeholder consultations, systems analysis, and the development of a functional prototype.

Activity 1.2.1.2: System Design and Development of MIS and Mobile-Enabled Data Platform: This activity will develop, deploy, and pilot-test the core modules of the national biodiversity MIS and online portal, ensuring functionality, inclusiveness, and usability across multiple themes and stakeholders, with real-time testing in the project's three partner states.

Activity 1.2.1.3: Deployment of the Portal through NIC and National System Integration: This activity will formally deploy the fully operational biodiversity MIS on NIC's national infrastructure, ensure its integration with national digital ecosystems, and establish robust security, maintenance, and user management protocols to enable sustained data use, policy application, and decentralized access.

Activity 1.2.1.4: Training and Capacity Development for MIS Use: This activity will equip national, state, and district-level stakeholders with the knowledge and technical skills required to effectively use the biodiversity MIS for data entry, analysis, planning, and reporting, through a structured training curriculum and scalable institutional mechanisms.

Activity 1.2.1.5: Periodic and Regular Updates to the MIS and Mobile Applications: This activity will institutionalize a continuous improvement mechanism for the biodiversity MIS and associated mobile applications, ensuring the system remains technically up-to-date, reflects emerging policy needs, and expands to incorporate new datasets and user groups over time.

Activity 1.2.1.6: Institutionalization of MIS Reporting within National Biodiversity Planning: This activity will embed the outputs of the biodiversity MIS into India's national biodiversity planning, reporting, and budgeting systems, thereby strengthening data-driven governance, enhancing transparency, and supporting domestic and international commitments.

Activity 1.2.1.7: System Maintenance, User Support, and Sustainability Strategy: This activity will establish a robust framework for the long-term maintenance, user support, and institutional sustainability of the biodiversity MIS and mobile applications, ensuring seamless functionality, stakeholder confidence, and financial viability beyond the project period.

Activity 1.2.1.8: Development of standardized, tiered reporting formats and protocols: This activity will design standardized, tiered reporting formats and protocols for the biodiversity MIS that align with national and international frameworks, ensure data credibility, and enable seamless reporting from landscape to national levels.

Activity 1.2.1.9: Generation and Publication of Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Reports: This activity will generate and publish comprehensive, data-driven annual biodiversity monitoring reports at national, state, and landscape levels, using real-time data extracted from the MIS and mobile platforms. These reports will inform policy, track progress, and support adaptive management.

Activity 1.2.1.10: Capacity Building for State-Level Biodiversity Reporting: build the technical and institutional capacity of state agencies and grassroots monitoring mechanisms to use the MIS for sub-national biodiversity reporting, thereby enabling decentralized, inclusive, and policy-aligned reporting aligned with SBSAPs and state development frameworks.

Key Deliverables (directly contributing to output indicators and outcome monitoring):

1) National biodiversity MIS and online data portal designed, developed, and hosted with role-based access for national, state, and field-level actors.

2) MIS architecture and reporting dashboard aligned with NBSAP, SBSAP, and GBF indicators, enabling standardized reporting on protection, management, and restoration outcomes.

3) Fully operational MIS linked to mobile-enabled data collection interfaces and integrated with project-level monitoring systems.

4) MIS deployed and technically maintained by NIC or equivalent national technical agency, with institutional responsibility assigned to NBA and MoEFCC.

5) System update protocols, user manuals, and data-sharing agreements established for long-term operationalization and sustainability.

6) Standardized national reporting templates and protocols for biodiversity protection, restoration, and sustainable use finalized and integrated into the MIS system.

7) Annual biodiversity monitoring reports generated through the MIS portal and published at national and state levels, including disaggregated indicator performance and dashboard visualizations.

8) Landscape-level baseline and trend data captured, validated, and used to populate reports aligned with GBF and NBSAP indicators.

9) Institutional roles and responsibilities for data input, verification, and reporting formalized through MoEFCC-NBA directives and state-level notifications.

10) Official submissions of annual biodiversity monitoring reports to relevant national platforms and international conventions (e.g., CBD, GBF tracking).

Output 1.2.2: Knowledge products (policy briefs, case studies) generated utilizing MIS-data portal's monitoring reports and disseminated to public.

This output ensures that biodiversity monitoring data collected through the MIS and analysed in annual reports (Output 1.2.1) is translated into high-quality, accessible knowledge products for use by policymakers, technical agencies, Local Communities, and the general public. The output strengthens the project's contribution to evidence-based decision-making, awareness building, and long-term learning. A strategic framework will guide the development and dissemination of knowledge products, including policy briefs, case studies, synthesis papers, and visual summaries. These will be derived from validated project data and co-authored with technical partners to ensure scientific credibility and institutional ownership. Outputs will be published through a public-facing knowledge repository integrated with the MIS and hosted on NBA and partner platforms with open-access protocols to promote wide stakeholder use, consistent with NBT 21.

Dissemination will be supported through webinars, targeted outreach campaigns, and stakeholder engagement events. Monitoring will focus on the number and quality of knowledge products produced, the extent of institutional co-authorship, the usage of the repository, and references to these products in national and state planning documents. Supporting documentation and version control mechanisms are detailed in the annexed implementation plan.

Activity 1.2.2.1: Generation of Knowledge Products: This activity will synthesize biodiversity monitoring data and field learnings into targeted, policy-relevant, and accessible knowledge products that support national reporting, stakeholder learning, and international advocacy.

Activity 1.2.2.2: Webinars and Outreach Campaigns for Stakeholder Engagement: This activity will design and execute a multi-platform outreach and engagement strategy that enhances the visibility, uptake, and co-learning around MIS-generated biodiversity knowledge, tools, and practices among policymakers, practitioners, tribal and Local Communities, youth, and media.

Activity 1.2.2.3: Capacity Building for State-Level Biodiversity Reporting: build the technical and institutional capacity of state agencies and grassroots monitoring mechanisms to use the MIS for sub-national biodiversity reporting, thereby enabling decentralized, inclusive, and policy-aligned reporting aligned with SBSAPs and state development frameworks.

Activity 1.2.2.4: Evaluation and Institutionalization of the Annual Reporting System: evaluate the performance, policy utility, and institutional relevance of the MIS-enabled biodiversity monitoring system, and to formalize its adoption as a recurring national reporting mechanism for GBF, NBSAP, and SDG targets.

Key Deliverables (directly contributing to output indicators and outcome-level uptake and learning)

1) Thematic knowledge product strategy and roadmap developed and validated, identifying priority content areas, target audiences, and appropriate dissemination formats.

2) At least 6–8 peer-reviewed knowledge products (e.g., policy briefs, synthesis reports, technical papers) generated using MIS-derived data and field insights.

3) Publicly accessible digital repository of knowledge products developed and linked to the MIS platform, enabling open access to validated case studies, briefs, and reports.

4) Summary infographics, executive briefs, and translation-ready content produced for diverse audiences including policymakers, Local Communities, and the general public.

5) Monitoring and feedback system established to track usage, reach, and impact of published knowledge products across platforms and user groups.

6) Open-access policies adopted for all MIS-linked knowledge products to operationalize NBT 21 commitments

Output 1.2.3: Capacity building for at least 150 key personnel from government agencies at national, sub-national and local levels for operationalizing the MIS portal.

This output ensures that key personnel across government agencies are equipped with the technical and operational skills required to effectively use the MIS and data portal developed under Output 1.2.1. Capacity-building interventions will be structured around role-based competencies, enabling the seamless integration of biodiversity monitoring into institutional planning and reporting processes.

A national capacity needs assessment will inform the development of a competency framework and training curriculum. At least 150 officials from MoEFCC, NBA, State Biodiversity Boards, forest departments, and planning institutions will be trained on data collection, indicator reporting, and MIS functionalities. Training-of-Trainers (ToT) programs will create a pool of certified master trainers to support decentralized delivery at district and state levels. Training content will be aligned with the MIS rollout timeline, with milestone-linked sessions delivered in coordination with the system's implementation. A certified training module will be prepared for inclusion in national platforms such as iGOT and institutional training academies to ensure sustainability. Pre- and post-training assessments will track capacity enhancement, while institutional agreements will support long-term adoption and replication.

Activity 1.2.3.1: Capacity Needs Assessment and Development of a Competency Framework: This activity will assess biodiversity monitoring-related capacity gaps across national, state, and local institutions and to develop a modular, role-based competency framework and training toolkit tailored to MIS functionality, data use, and biodiversity governance requirements.

Activity 1.2.3.2: Training of trainers to develop master trainers in project state for use of MIS, quality data input and reporting: This activity will establish a scalable and state-supported ToT-based training delivery model that enables continuous, context-sensitive, and institutionally embedded capacity building for biodiversity data monitoring and use at national, state, and local levels.

Activity 1.2.3.3: Milestone-Linked Training and Capacity Development: This activity will institutionalize training across the project cycle by linking sessions to critical implementation milestones, while ensuring iterative improvements based on user feedback and sustained capacity at state and national levels.

Activity 1.2.3.4: Evaluation, Certification, and Institutionalization of Capacity Systems: This activity will evaluate the effectiveness of project-supported biodiversity monitoring capacity-building efforts, certify trained personnel through national systems, and ensure long-term institutionalization through integration with government training structures and mandates.

Key Deliverables (directly contributing to output indicators and capacity outcomes)

1) National and state-level capacity needs assessment completed and used to develop a competency framework tailored to MIS-related roles across implementing institutions.

2) Modular training curriculum and toolkit (print and digital) developed and deployed for national and sub-national staff across departments (MoEFCC, NBA, SBBs, Forest, Planning, IT).

3) At least 150 key personnel (30% are women) trained on the use, interpretation, and update of the MIS, reporting templates, and data visualization tools, with pre- and post-training assessments.

4) iGOT-compatible certified training modules prepared, and institutional partnerships established for long-term integration into official training systems.

5) Endline capacity assessment conducted and used to document learning outcomes and identify sustainability and replication opportunities.

Component 2: Advancing Tools for Strengthening Community-Level Biodiversity Conservation

(Total Cost: USD 31,644,668; GBFF project grant requested: USD 5,770,965; Co-financing: USD 25,873,703)

Component 2 is dedicated to advancing innovative tools and mechanisms that empower community-led biodiversity conservation across high-biodiversity landscapes in Nagaland, Tripura, and potentially Uttarakhand (to be re-assessed during the project implementation). This component recognizes that meaningful and lasting conservation outcomes in India's diverse ecological settings require elevating the roles of Tribal Peoples and Local Communities, integrating their traditional knowledge systems, and equipping them with governance structures and financial incentives to sustainably steward ecosystems beyond formal protected areas.

At its core, Component 2 aims to institutionalize community-centered co-management of biodiversity through the formal establishment of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). Under Outcome 2.1, the project will develop participatory frameworks that directly result in the recognition and improved management of at least five OECM sites **across 5,000 hectares**, underpinned by inclusive governance arrangements. Recognition of OECM will adhere to the voluntary declaration guidelines under India's NBSAP, and will actively involve local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the process to ensure legitimacy and community ownership.

Building on the Gender Action Plan, Component 2 explicitly addresses gender inequalities that limit women's access to financial resources, technical knowledge, and decision-making power in biodiversity governance. The project will implement gender-responsive actions to ensure that women—particularly from Tribals and local communities—are not only participants but leaders in community-based conservation and biodiversity-linked enterprises. Dedicated training modules on financial literacy, resource valuation, and enterprise management will be delivered to women's groups and self-help collectives, enabling them to engage effectively in OECM governance and to access new biodiversity finance mechanisms such as ABS, and ecotourism revenue-sharing schemes. At least 40 percent of all direct financial beneficiaries under these schemes will be women or women-led groups, with progress tracked through gender-disaggregated indicators in the MIS.

This initiative will actively engage more than **5,000 local community** members (50% women) through FPIC protocols in the identification, management, and monitoring of these critical ecosystems, thereby directly enhancing their agency and livelihood opportunities.

Through Output 2.1.1, the project will establish a nationally endorsed methodology for identifying and managing OECMs, tailored to India's socio-ecological context yet aligned with global standards. The identification and notification of these OECMs will strictly follow NBA's national OECM guidelines to ensure compliance and legitimacy. Participatory biodiversity surveys, valuation tools, and community-driven management plans will serve as the operational backbone for OECM governance. These plans will integrate zoning, safeguards, benefit-sharing, and monitoring frameworks, formally recognizing selected sites under state or national systems.

Gender inclusion will be a cross-cutting requirement for OECM management plans. Each plan will incorporate gender-specific sections that identify barriers faced by women in resource governance and outline corrective actions, such as equitable representation in OECM committees, dedicated livelihood micro-plans for women's groups, and mechanisms for gender-sensitive monitoring and feedback. Capacity-building activities will ensure at least 50 percent participation by women in OECM planning, mapping, and training processes, while technical assistance will target women-led producer groups to participate in biodiversity value-chain activities linked to OECMs.

By linking these sites to the national biodiversity Management Information System (MIS) developed under Component 1, the project ensures that conservation impacts are transparently tracked and contribute to India's reporting under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and NBSAP. Building on these field demonstrations, the project will produce a replication toolkit and policy guidance, enabling broader uptake of OECM models across other states through integration into State Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SBSAPs) and national frameworks. This is expected to catalyze a structural shift in how India expands area-based conservation beyond traditional protected areas.

In parallel, Output 2.1.2 focuses on capturing, packaging, and disseminating the rich lessons, innovations, and community experiences emerging from the OECM pilots. Locally tailored knowledge products, such as community storyboards, multilingual brochures, and short documentaries, will celebrate and share the contributions of local communities to biodiversity stewardship. These products will be disseminated through digital platforms, interpretation centers, and targeted public outreach campaigns, fostering broader societal recognition of community roles in conservation. A digital repository of OECM good practices, linked to the national MIS, will ensure that these insights remain accessible for planners, policymakers, and other communities seeking to replicate similar approaches. A national synthesis report will distil these learnings into actionable recommendations for scaling OECM frameworks, further embedding them within India's biodiversity governance and financing systems. By coupling robust local participation with state and national policy integration, Component 2 directly addresses the barriers that have historically limited biodiversity management outside protected areas.

Under Output 2.1.2, the project will conduct a biodiversity finance landscape and feasibility assessment in 3 state, identifying legal and institutional opportunities to deploy mechanisms such as ecosystem service payments, biodiversity or carbon credits, ecotourism revenue-sharing models, and Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) schemes. The lessons learned from these diagnostics will support development of at least two innovative finance instruments designed and piloted in community-managed OECM landscapes across the three target states. These pilots will demonstrate financial viability of community-led OECM conservation and will establish transparent revenue-sharing agreements and operational protocols that ensure local communities receive fair economic returns for sustaining ecosystem services.

To address gender disparities in financial access and decision-making, the design and piloting of innovative financing instruments will deliberately include measures that empower women and women-led collectives. These include simplified eligibility criteria for women's groups to participate in ABS schemes, targeted awareness sessions on legal and financial rights, and inclusion of gender-responsive clauses in benefit-sharing agreements. The project will establish mentorship networks and peer-learning exchanges linking experienced women entrepreneurs in biodiversity enterprises with emerging women leaders in project landscapes, thereby strengthening women's financial literacy, confidence, and long-term participation in biodiversity markets.

Through rigorous monitoring, the project will track the financial, ecological, and social impacts of these pilots. Results will feed into the development of a replication toolkit and policy brief to guide broader uptake through SBSAPs and national green financing platforms. By doing so, the project aims to mobilize at least USD 2 million in additional funds for community-led biodiversity conservation, creating a scalable model that integrates biodiversity stewardship into India's emerging landscape of blended finance and private sector engagement.

Ultimately, this component positions communities not just as beneficiaries, but as essential co-managers of India's biodiversity heritage. It enhances ecosystem governance, secures habitat integrity across multiple landscapes, and elevates the voices of women

and marginalized groups in shaping conservation outcomes. In doing so, it delivers critical contributions to the GBF targets on area-based conservation, equitable benefit sharing, and community rights, while building resilient socio-ecological systems that underpin sustainable development.

Taken together, these measures ensure that gender equality is not treated as a peripheral issue but as a structural pillar of community-led biodiversity governance and financing. By improving women's access to knowledge, financial instruments, and decision-making platforms, the component contributes directly to GBF Target 23 and India's National Policy for Women (2016), while reinforcing inclusive and equitable biodiversity conservation outcomes.

All OECMs identified and managed under the project will be formally reported to the NBA for inclusion in national biodiversity tracking systems and in India's CBD reports.

All activities under Component 2 that trigger Environmental and Social Safeguards (SES) will be managed through development and implementation of SES instruments. All activities in this component will be effectively and efficiently monitored through M&E plan detailed in Outcome 4.1.

Outcome 2.1: Enhanced biodiversity protection, management and monitoring (MRV) achieved through community co-management approaches in Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

Outcome 2.1 Indicators

- Five OECMs notified and brought under improved biodiversity and habitat management through community co-management mechanisms across 5,000 hectares.
- At least 5,000 TPLC members (50% women) engaged in OECM identification and management, with at least 2 knowledge products documenting their roles disseminated.

Output 2.1.1: Management plans developed for identifying, recognizing and managing OECMs.

This output facilitates the establishment of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the three project states by applying India's national OECM framework and guidelines (developed under MoEFCC/NBA), identifying eligible sites, and preparing inclusive management plans. It operationalizes the spatial conservation priorities defined under Output 1.1.1 and links with the MIS-based monitoring framework developed under Output 1.2.1.

The output begins with the application and piloting of the national OECM framework for identification and management, ensuring consistency with global standards and validated by an expert group under MoEFCC and NBA. Participatory and FPIC processes will be used to identify candidate OECM sites and develop community-endorsed management plans/prescriptions that integrate safeguards, zoning, benefit-sharing, and biodiversity monitoring protocols. Formal recognition of at least five OECM sites will be pursued through state or national notifications. Each site will be supported by a functional governance structure and linked to the national MIS for tracking progress and effectiveness. A replication toolkit and policy guidance will be produced to facilitate wider uptake across other states and integration into SBSAPs and national biodiversity strategies.

Activity 2.1.1.1: Development of National Guidance and Methodology for OECM Identification: This activity will develop a standardized national framework for identifying, assessing, and recognizing OECMs in India, drawing from global best practices, national conservation governance systems, traditional knowledge of TPLCs and enabling systematic mainstreaming of OECMs into India's biodiversity strategy.

Activity 3.1.2: Development and Piloting of Biodiversity Survey and Valuation Tools: This activity will design, test, and refine participatory tools for biodiversity and ecosystem service assessment, tailored to OECM identification and management planning needs, and ensure their integration into national MIS systems for long-term monitoring and reporting.

Activity 2.1.1.3: Stakeholder Consultations and Identification of OECM Sites: This activity will identify and validate a list of potential OECM sites across the three project states through inclusive stakeholder consultations, FPIC community endorsement, and spatial documentation, enabling their entry into the national registry and future recognition process.

Activity 2.1.1.4: Community-Based OECM Management Plans Developed and Endorsed: This activity will prepare, validate, and officially endorse inclusive, participatory and consented management plans for community-based OECM sites, incorporating zoning, institutional roles, benefit-sharing, and biodiversity monitoring frameworks in line with national guidance and MIS integration requirements. The design of the management plans will take into account the results of the ES screening.

Activity 2.1.1.5: Formal Recognition of OECMs through National and State Systems: This activity will formally recognize eligible OECM sites through state and national systems, ensure their inclusion in India's official OECM registry, and document the recognition process for policy transparency, MIS integration, and CBD/GBF reporting.

Activity 2.1.1.6: Strengthening Implementation and Governance of OECMs: This activity will strengthen the institutional and community-level governance of recognized OECM sites through targeted capacity-building, operationalization of stakeholder platforms, and implementation of adaptive management using real-time monitoring data and participatory feedback

Activity 2.1.1.7: Institutionalization and Replication of OECM Systems: This activity will document, institutionalize, and promote the replication of effective OECM management models and governance systems by integrating lessons learned into national biodiversity frameworks and facilitating knowledge exchange for broader uptake.

Activity 2.1.1.8: Completion of the Environment and Social screening of the identified OECMs based on the guidance and tools mentioned in the ESMF. Mitigation Measures based on the risks identified are to be integrated to the OECM Management Plans.

Key Deliverables (directly contributing to output indicators and outcome targets)

1) National-level guidance and methodology for OECM identification, validation, and management developed and endorsed by MoEFCC and NBA, aligned with global best practices.

2) OECM candidate sites identified in Tripura, Nagaland, and Uttarakhand through participatory processes, with geo-referenced maps and nomination dossiers.

3) Community-endorsed OECM management plans prepared for each selected site, integrating zoning, benefit-sharing, safeguards, and participatory monitoring mechanisms.

4) Official recognition of the five OECM sites secured through formal notifications by state or national authorities.

5) Functional governance platforms and adaptive management systems established at OECM sites, linked to MIS-based performance tracking (Output 1.2.1).

6) OECM replication toolkit and policy guidance document finalized, enabling scale-up through SBSAPs and national conservation frameworks.

Output 2.1.2: Knowledge products and lessons from OECM identification, recognition and management plans produced and disseminated to public.

This output ensures that the experiences, tools, and lessons from piloting OECMs under Output 2.1.1 are systematically captured, translated into user-friendly formats, and disseminated to both policy audiences and the general public. It contributes to replication, public awareness, and institutional learning around area-based conservation outside formal protected areas.

The output will support the development of a knowledge documentation strategy and a series of multilingual, locally tailored products including community storyboards, brochures, and documentaries. These will be co-produced with communities, technical partners, and state agencies to ensure accuracy and inclusivity. Knowledge products will be disseminated through digital platforms, webinars, and interpretation centres in project states.

A digital repository of OECM good practices will be established and integrated into the MIS (linked to Output 2.1), supporting data access and long-term institutional memory. A national synthesis report will distill insights for policy recommendations and inform biodiversity planning under the NBSAP and SBSAPs.

Activity 2.1.2.1: Development and Dissemination of Locally Tailored Knowledge Products: This activity will develop, translate, and disseminate context-specific, culturally appropriate OECM knowledge products in formats accessible to local communities, and to integrate local feedback into adaptive knowledge generation and conservation planning processes.
Activity 2.1.2.2: Documentation of Good Practices across different regions: and: This activity will systematically document, validate, and disseminate high-impact community-led OECM practices and innovations, and embed them within a dynamic, MIS-linked digital knowledge repository accessible to planners, practitioners, and Local Communities
Activity 2.1.2.3: National Synthesis, Institutional Learning, and Knowledge Mainstreaming for OECMs This activity will synthesize national learnings from OECM pilots, foster institutional knowledge exchange and cross-state replication, and mainstream lessons into national policy, digital platforms, and biodiversity action plans

Key Deliverables (directly contributing to output indicators and knowledge dissemination outcomes)

1) Knowledge documentation strategy and thematic roadmap developed to guide the synthesis, packaging, and dissemination of OECM-related experiences and tools.

2) Locally tailored knowledge products (e.g., community storyboards, multilingual brochures, video documentaries) developed to share site-level lessons and promote public awareness.

3) MIS-linked digital repository of OECM good practices and lessons established and accessible via the national biodiversity portal.

4) National synthesis report prepared on OECM implementation experiences, including policy and practice recommendations for institutional uptake and scale-up.

Outcome 2.2: Innovative financing instruments deployed to support biodiversity management, monitoring, and community-level OECMs

Outcome 2.2 Indicator

- At least $2 Million additional funds mobilized for community level biodiversity conservation activities including for OECMs from market-based instruments (carbon/biodiversity/ green credits etc.) and/or from ABS mechanism with more than 40% of the ABS beneficiaries and biodiversity enterprise participants as women.

Output 2.2.1: Additional financing instruments mobilised for funding community-level OECM conservation

This output strengthens the long-term financial sustainability of community-led OECM conservation by developing, piloting, and institutionalizing innovative biodiversity-linked financing mechanisms that complement Outputs 2.1.1 (OECM management) and 3.1.1 (public finance integration). The focus is on mobilizing non-traditional revenue streams that incentivize sustained stewardship by Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs), while ensuring full compliance with FPIC, gender equality, and UNDP SES standards.

The output follows a phased, safeguards-aligned approach. Activities begin with a national and state-level biodiversity finance landscape and feasibility assessment to identify viable instruments such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), ABS-based revenue flows, biodiversity/green credits, and ecotourism revenue-sharing schemes. A long-list of feasible mechanisms was identified during the PPG stage; however, final selection of 1–2 mechanisms per state will occur during project inception, once legal vetting, FPIC-compliant community consultations, and institutional readiness assessments have been completed. This sequencing is intentional and ensures financial instruments are socially legitimate, gender-responsive, and legally compliant before piloting.

Following selection, the project will co-design the mechanisms with SBBs, VEMCs, JFMCs, BMCs, and local women's groups, with detailed operational protocols, revenue-sharing arrangements, institutional roles, safeguards compliance procedures, and MIS-linked monitoring frameworks. Piloting will take place in selected OECM landscapes, accompanied by the development of transparent fund-flow systems, financial governance training for community institutions, and execution of benefit-sharing agreements.

During the implementation phase, the project will generate and track revenue flows from the selected instruments, contributing to the target of mobilizing at least USD 2 million in additional community-level biodiversity finance, with at least 40% of beneficiaries being women or women-led groups. This USD 2 million target reflects realistic and responsible expectations for a proof-of-concept phase that must operate within regulatory constraints and robust safeguard requirements. Rather than maximizing short-term finance volumes, the objective is to establish credible, replicable mechanisms that can anchor long-term biodiversity financing across states.

Outputs will include a monitoring and evaluation system assessing financial, ecological, and social impacts; community-validated reporting; and iterative improvement of mechanisms. The project will produce a replication toolkit, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and policy briefs to support institutional uptake and scale-up through State Biodiversity Boards, State Biodiversity Funds, BIOFIN processes, green-finance platforms, and the SBSAP/NBSAP implementation framework.

This output is strategically positioned within the overall Theory of Change: community-level financing pilots (micro/meso level) are embedded within Component 2—where TPLC governance systems, FPIC safeguards, and OECM structures are already in place—while macro-level public finance reforms and biodiversity budget integration are addressed separately under Component 3. This ensures conceptual clarity, avoids duplication, and creates a coherent pathway from local piloting to institutionalization and long-term budgetary mainstreaming.

Activity 2.2.1.1: Biodiversity Finance Landscape and Feasibility Analysis: This activity will assess the existing biodiversity finance landscape in India and the three target states (Nagaland, Tripura and potentially Uttarakhand – if at least of the five OECMs is created in Uttarakhand). This assessment will identify legal and institutional enablers including TPLC governance mechanism and barriers, and design state-specific, actionable financing models to support community-based biodiversity conservation including OECM implementation.

Activity 2.2.1.2: Design of Biodiversity-Linked Financing Instruments for OECMs: This activity will co-design, validate, and operationalize innovative, scalable financing instruments that can support long-term management and incentive flows for OECM areas, ensuring regulatory compliance, measurable biodiversity outcomes, and community benefit-sharing.

Activity 2.2.1.3: Implementation of Innovative Finance Instruments in Selected OECMs: This activity will operationalize and evaluate selected biodiversity finance instruments in pilot OECM sites across project states, ensuring transparent revenue-sharing, impact tracking, and strategic planning for future scale-up and replication.

Activity 2.2.1.4: Institutionalization and Replication of Biodiversity Finance Models: This activity will institutionalize the piloted biodiversity finance instruments and enable their strategic replication across states and nationally through targeted capacity-building, policy integration, and the development of standardized operational tools and knowledge products.

Key Deliverables (directly contributing to output indicators and financing outcomes)

1) Biodiversity finance landscape and feasibility analysis completed at national and state levels, assessing viable financing instruments for community-based OECM sites.

2) At least two biodiversity-linked finance instruments (e.g., ecosystem service payment models, biodiversity credits, ecotourism revenue-sharing schemes) designed in consultation with government and community partners including TPLC leaders.

3) Pilot implementation of selected finance instruments initiated in OECM landscapes, with agreements signed and initial disbursements made.

4) Monitoring and evaluation reports produced, assessing the financial, ecological, and social performance of pilot mechanisms at community level.

5) The project will also explore opportunities to channel ABS-related revenues generated under India's Biological Diversity Act into local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), thereby supplementing community-led conservation efforts in line with NBT 13

6) Replication toolkit and policy brief prepared to guide the scaling of successful models through SBSAPs, green finance platforms, or blended finance mechanisms.

Component 3: Enhancing innovative financing instruments and development of finance plans for supporting NBSAP implementation

(Total Cost: USD 414,731; GBFF project grant requested: USD 414,731; Co-financing: USD 0)

Component 3 is strategically designed to transform how biodiversity conservation is financed in India. It directly addresses the chronic underfunding and fragmented financial systems that have historically constrained the implementation of India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SBSAPs). By institutionalizing biodiversity into national and state financial frameworks, while simultaneously piloting innovative market-based mechanisms, this component lays a durable foundation for scaling up biodiversity investments and securing long-term sustainability of conservation actions.

Through Outcome 3.1 (Strengthening national and state biodiversity finance architecture), the project will embed biodiversity priorities into India's public financial systems by developing and operationalizing one national and three state-level biodiversity finance frameworks, fully costed and aligned with NBSAP and SBSAP targets. This effort draws on global BIOFIN methodologies to ensure a rigorous, evidence-based approach that identifies funding gaps, clarifies priorities, and proposes practical investment pathways.

At the national level, Outcome 3.1 will catalyse a systemic shift in how biodiversity is financed by embedding biodiversity expenditure reviews, tagging tools, and costed action plans into state and national budgeting processes, thereby transforming biodiversity from a marginal consideration into a mainstream fiscal priority. Integration of biodiversity finance into state budgetary processes will follow a structured pathway beginning with biodiversity expenditure reviews and tagging, followed by the inclusion of biodiversity-linked budget lines and performance indicators within annual State Plans. This transition ensures that biodiversity actions evolve from short-term, project-based interventions to recurrent budget allocations. Through technical assistance and adoption of BIOFIN methodologies, State Finance and Planning Departments will be equipped to earmark, monitor, and progressively increase allocations for biodiversity-relevant sectors such as forestry, agriculture, rural development, and tourism. These institutional reforms elevate biodiversity from a discretionary expense to a mainstream fiscal priority, resulting in predictable, sustained financing and improved accountability.

By institutionalizing these mechanisms, state governments will be able to quantify and justify biodiversity allocations, sustain them across budget cycles, and scale them to other states, while interoperability with the national MIS ensures transparency and accountability in tracking both allocations and outcomes. This approach also fosters an evidence-based feedback loop between biodiversity results and fiscal decisions, thereby strengthening performance-linked budgeting and long-term sustainability.

This clarity and credibility in domestic spending and lessons learned under outcome 2.2 (innovative financing of OECMs) create a strong foundation for mobilizing complementary resources from market linked, community based and private sector financing instruments—such as biodiversity-friendly enterprises—as well as international finance. Taken together, these measures are expected to leverage and sustain at least additional USD 5 million annually in biodiversity finance, directly advancing GBF Target 19 and ensuring that resources for NBSAP implementation are predictable, durable, and aligned with India's global commitments.

Under Output 3.1.1, comprehensive biodiversity expenditure reviews (BERs) will be conducted to map existing flows and pinpoint inefficiencies. Tailored budget and finance tagging tools will be introduced, enabling governments to systematically track and prioritize biodiversity expenditures within national and state budgets. This process will be consultative and highly participatory, engaging finance, planning, environment, and sectoral agencies through technical working groups and validation workshops. Support will also be provided to three State Biodiversity Boards and Finance Departments to apply biodiversity budget tagging and expenditure review tools, prepare updated biodiversity finance action plans, and institutionalize biodiversity-linked budget codes within their annual plans. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), templates, and training modules will be developed to guide integration and replication in other states. The process will culminate in the formal adoption of biodiversity budget lines and performance indicators within State Plans, ensuring that biodiversity priorities are embedded in public finance systems and monitored through annual reporting.

Formal adoption will be pursued through structured policy dialogues, leading to official endorsement of the budget tagging protocols and costed biodiversity plans by the MoEFCC, Ministry of Finance, NITI Aayog, and State Biodiversity Boards. This ensures that biodiversity priorities are no longer peripheral but explicitly integrated into India's fiscal architecture—supported by standard operating procedures, updates to the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), and ongoing institutional capacity building. The output also positions states to leverage domestic and global green financing streams by demonstrating credible, results-linked biodiversity financing frameworks.

Together, these outcomes represent a step-change in India's approach to financing biodiversity: from isolated, project-based funding to systemic integration within public finance and the creation of enduring incentives for community-level conservation. Component 3 ensures that biodiversity is not just an environmental priority, but a fiscal one, embedded in how budgets are structured, how investments are justified, and how outcomes are measured. By coupling institutional reforms with innovative pilots,

it establishes a two-track strategy that secures biodiversity gains both through strengthened government accountability and new market-driven flows.

Outcome 3.1: Financial resources mobilized and efficiently allocated through adoption of updated biodiversity finance plans and the deployment of innovative financing instruments to support biodiversity management, monitoring and community-level OECMs.

Outcome 3.1 Indicator:

- One national and three state-level biodiversity budget (finance) plans for implementation of the NBSAP, and SBSAPs (Nagaland, Tripura & Uttarakhand).

Output 3.1.1: National and state-level biodiversity action plans budgeted and adopted for improving efficiency of resource allocation for NBSAP and SBSAPs implementation.

This output strengthens biodiversity financing by supporting the development of costed biodiversity action plans and budget tagging frameworks at national and state levels contributing directly to the implementation of India's NBSAP and the respective SBSAPs of Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. It adopts BIOFIN methodology as outlined in NBSAP (2024–2030) including biodiversity expenditure reviews and budget tagging, to improve alignment between conservation priorities and public expenditure thereby enhancing funding efficiency and directly contributing to the implementation of India's NBSAP and SBSAPs.

Activities under this output include biodiversity expenditure reviews (BERs), the design of tailored budget tagging tools, and the preparation of fully costed national and state biodiversity strategies in direct accordance with BIOFIN guidance integrated into India's NBSAP finance framework. These plans will identify funding gaps, align with GBF and SBSAP targets, and propose clear investment pathways.

The process will be consultative, engaging finance, planning, and sectoral agencies through technical working groups, validation workshops, and training sessions. Adoption of the budget tagging framework and integration of costed plans into official planning and budget documents will be pursued through formal endorsement by MoEFCC, State Biodiversity Boards, and finance departments.

Activity 3.1.1.1: Assessment of Existing Biodiversity Budgeting Practices at National and State Levels: This activity will conduct a comprehensive assessment of biodiversity-related schemes and programmes and related biodiversity expenditures and financial planning practices at the national and state levels, identify integration gaps, and generate recommendations to improve alignment with biodiversity outcomes and GBF implementation.

Activity 3.1.1.2: Development of Biodiversity Budget Tagging Framework and Costed NBSAP/SBSAPs: This activity will develop customized biodiversity budget tagging tools for national and state systems and prepare fully costed biodiversity action plans (NBSAP and SBSAPs) aligned with various government development plans and institutional budgeting frameworks.

Activity 3.1.1.3: Policy Dialogue and Endorsement of Budgeted Biodiversity Plans: This activity will convene structured policy dialogues at national and state levels that result in formal adoption of costed biodiversity action plans and integration of biodiversity targets into financial planning, budget monitoring, and accountability systems.

Activity 3.1.1.4: Preparation and Operationalization of National and State-level Biodiversity Finance Plans (BFPs): This activity will prepare dedicated biodiversity finance plans at both national and state levels, identifying financing gaps, exploring viable biodiversity finance instruments, and providing a strategic roadmap to mobilize additional resources and integrate biodiversity priorities into mainstream public and private finance and development programmes.

Activity 3.1.1.5: Institutionalization and Integration of Biodiversity Budgeting into Finance Systems: This activity will embed biodiversity budgeting frameworks into national and state-level financial systems through standardized procedures, sustained institutional capacity-building, and inter-state knowledge exchange, ensuring long-term adoption and adaptive management of biodiversity finance

Key Deliverables (Directly contributing to output indicators and policy adoption outcomes)

1) Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER) reports developed for national and state levels using BIOFIN methodology, identifying current biodiversity financing levels and gaps.

2) Customized biodiversity budget tagging tools and protocols adopted and piloted within MoEFCC, NBA, and three state governments (Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand).

3) Costed NBSAP and SBSAPs (national and three states) finalized and aligned with biodiversity targets using Finance Needs Assessment (FNA) methodology.

4) National and State Biodiversity Finance Plans (BFPs) developed, validated, and endorsed, identifying viable biodiversity finance instruments (e.g. offsets, biocredits) and aligning them with state/national fiscal architecture.

5) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for biodiversity budgeting developed and institutionalized for periodic finance reviews and tracking by Planning and Finance Departments.

6) Biodiversity budgeting integrated into national and state-level budgetary systems, including tagging codes in PFMS, budget circulars, and scheme performance frameworks.

7) Adoption and formal endorsement of costed biodiversity action plans and biodiversity budgeting protocols by MoEFCC, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance, and State Governments.

Component 4: Project monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management.

(Total Cost: USD 497,500; GBFF project grant requested: USD 247,500; Co-financing: USD 250,000)

Outcome 4.1: Effective management, monitoring and reporting that is responsive to gender, youth, IPs and communities' actions related to project interventions, impacts, and outcome.

Outcome 4.1 will establish an inclusive and accountable management and monitoring framework that goes beyond compliance reporting. The project's M&E system will integrate gender, youth, tribal Peoples, and community perspectives, ensuring that their

actions and contributions are visible in the tracking of interventions, impacts, and outcomes. By embedding gender-disaggregated indicators and participatory monitoring approaches, the system will create space for local voices and traditional knowledge to inform biodiversity management and national reporting processes.

At the same time, project oversight structures such as the Steering Committee will ensure that monitoring results feed directly into adaptive management and decision-making. Lessons emerging from the M&E cycle will guide mid-course corrections, strengthen safeguards, and ensure equitable benefit-sharing. In this way, Outcome 5 positions monitoring and reporting as a platform for inclusive accountability and continuous improvement, reinforcing the project's contribution to the GBF and the long-term sustainability of results.

Indicators for M&E

- Project monitoring and evaluation (annual PIRs, MTR and TE) facilitated and delivered, and recommendations taken on board to improve project management and for the development of the project sustainability plan.

Output 4.1.1: Project implementation coordinated and monitored through proactive steering committee functions and inclusive annual monitoring and evaluation (M&E), as well as project MTR and TE.

The project will establish its core governance and monitoring mechanisms, ensuring coordinated implementation, evidence-based decision-making, and adaptive management throughout the project lifecycle. It supports compliance with UNDP, GEF, and World Bank oversight requirements and facilitates inclusive stakeholder engagement at national and state levels.

At the apex level the formation and regular functioning of the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) and State Steering Committees (SSCs) will provide strategic guidance, review implementation progress, and validate annual work plans. The functioning of the governance system will be supported by a Results Framework and M&E Plan, fully integrated into the MIS, enabling real-time tracking of project indicators.

Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports and work plans will be informed by field-level data, safeguard results, and stakeholder feedback. A Mid-Term Review (MTR) will assess progress, risks, and learning needs, while an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) and Project Completion Report will document final outcomes, lessons, and sustainability pathways.

Activity 4.1.1.1: Establishment of Project Governance Bodies and Oversight Protocols: This activity will formally constitute and operationalize project governance bodies at national and state levels—including the NPSC, SSCs, and PMUs—through inclusive membership, transparent oversight protocols, and accountability mechanisms aligned with the Approved PPG request, UNDP's NIM policies, and GEF/WB good governance standards.

Activity 4.1.1.2: Strengthening and implementation of Grievance Redress Mechanisms and Documentation of Inclusion Outcomes: This activity will operationalize inclusive, transparent, and accessible grievance redress systems at all levels of project implementation; document social inclusion results—including participation of women, youth, and Local Communities; and generate policy learnings aligned with UNDP SES, World Bank ESF, and GEF safeguard requirements.

Activity 4.1.1.3: Development of Project-Level M&E Plan: This activity will design, validate, and operationalize a comprehensive project-level Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework with clearly defined SMART indicators, standardized reporting protocols, enabling transparent, timely, and adaptive decision-making in line with UNDP-GEF and World Bank requirements.

Activity 4.1.1.4: Annual Monitoring, Reporting, and Implementation Reviews: This activity will produce high-quality, evidence-based annual monitoring and implementation reports, informed by MIS data and field verification, to support adaptive management, risk response, and accountability to the GEF, UNDP, World Bank, and national governance bodies. The project will also monitor the implementation of SES across different project components, as specified in the ESMF.

Activity 4.1.1.5: Mid-Term Review (MTR) This activity will conduct a comprehensive, participatory Mid-Term Review (MTR) led by an independent team in accordance with UNDP-GEF and partner guidelines, to assess implementation progress, safeguard performance, stakeholder satisfaction, and strategic alignment—informing course corrections for the remainder of the project.

Activity 4.1.1.6: Terminal Evaluation (TE) and Project Closure Reporting: This activity will conduct an independent, evidence-based Terminal Evaluation in accordance with UNDP, GEF, and (if applicable) World Bank guidelines, and to finalize project closure through comprehensive reporting, stakeholder validation, and strategic dissemination of lessons, results, and policy-relevant recommendations.

Key Deliverables

1) National and State Project Steering Committees (NPSC and SPSCs) established and operationalized, with approved Terms of Reference, gender-balanced membership, and documented meeting records.

2) Project-level Results Framework and M&E Plan finalized and integrated into the MIS (Output 2.1), with indicators aligned to project outcomes, GBF targets, and donor reporting formats.

3) Annual Work Plans (AWPs), budgets, and Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports prepared and submitted, incorporating data from MIS and field-level verification.

4) Mid-Term Review (MTR) conducted with stakeholder validation, safeguard and gender assessment, and revised project strategy endorsed.

5) Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) and Project Completion Report finalized and submitted, including final project results, sustainability analysis, and policy recommendations.

Stakeholder role and contribution: The GBFF project adopts a multi-tiered institutional architecture that ensures coordinated implementation, strong national and state ownership, and inclusive participation from local communities. The project is jointly implemented by UNDP and the World Bank, with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) designated as the Project Implementing Partner (PIP) for the UNDP-executed component. The World Bank's share of the project will be implemented through the existing governance mechanisms of the ELEMENT project in Tripura and Nagaland. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) plays a central role in providing strategic policy direction and facilitating national-level coordination. Table below provides a snapshot, and details of roles and responsibility of stakeholders are provided in Annex 10 of the project document.

Stakeholder / Entity	Role	Key Contributions
MoEFCC	Policy leadership and oversight	Strategic guidance, national coordination, GBF alignment, inter-ministerial engagement
UNDP	Co-Implementing Agency	Supports implementation of Component 1 (with NBA), fiduciary oversight, technical backstopping, safeguards, M&E
World Bank	Co-Implementing Agency	Implements Component 2 through ELEMENT project systems in Tripura and Nagaland
NBA	Project Implementing Partner (Component 1)	Leads MIS development, safeguards, gender, biodiversity finance, capacity building, national knowledge platforms
SBBs	State-level coordination	Integrate biodiversity into plans and budgets, guide BMCs/VEMCs, support capacity building and finance tools

Stakeholder / Entity	Role	Key Contributions
Line Departments	Sectoral implementation	Align forestry, rural dev., land, and planning programs with biodiversity goals; execute restoration activities
TPLCs, BMCs, VEMCs	Local stewardship and governance	Community-led mapping, conservation, MIS participation, PBR updating, biodiversity enterprise development
ELEMENT Institutions (SPMU, VEMCs, JFMCs)	State-level implementation (WB Component)	Landscape planning, co-management, safeguards, field-level monitoring
CSOs	Community outreach	Capacity building, enterprise support, safeguards monitoring, outreach in remote and tribal areas
Research and Academic Institutions	Technical support	Biodiversity mapping, valuation, remote sensing, knowledge products
Private Sector / Buyers	Market linkages & financing	Develop market biodiversity-friendly products, support certification and value chain development

Social Inclusion, Gender Equality, and women empowerment: The GBFF project mainstreams gender equality, social inclusion, and youth engagement across all components, consistent with UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy and ESSF. It ensures representation of women, youth, and Scheduled Tribes in BMCs and VEMCs, with specific targets for women's participation in mapping, planning, and enterprise development. Women-led groups will be supported in biodiversity-based value chains, while FPIC protocols safeguard ST rights in OECM management. Tailored capacity-building will strengthen technical and financial literacy of women, youth, and tribal leaders. A Gender Action Plan, aligned with the ESMF, will track leadership, benefit-sharing, and intersectional support for marginalized groups. This directly supports the NBSAP (2024–2030) call for strengthening BMCs as inclusive governance platforms that ensure equitable participation in biodiversity stewardship

The GBFF-CONSERVE project goes beyond a "do-no-harm" approach to actively promote gender equality and women's empowerment in biodiversity governance, planning, and financing. Building on the detailed Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan (Annex 11), the project adopts a gender-transformative approach consistent with UNDP's Gender Equality Strategy (2022–2025), the GBFF Programming Directions, and India's *National Policy for Women (2016)*.

Women—particularly those from tribal and forest-dependent communities—are central to biodiversity stewardship yet face structural barriers in resource access, decision-making, and benefit sharing. To address these, the project integrates specific gender-responsive activities and indicators across all components, ensuring women are empowered as agents of change rather than passive beneficiaries.

- *Under Component 1*, women will be directly engaged in participatory spatial planning and ecosystem-mapping exercises, and trained in biodiversity monitoring through the MIS. Capacity-building modules will include gender-responsive planning tools, ensuring that women extension officers, BMC members, and SBB focal points are equipped for leadership roles.

- *Under Component 2*, at least 50 percent representation of women is mandated in Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Village Ecosystem Management Committees (VEMCs) participating in OECM identification and management. Co-management plans will include gender-specific livelihood strategies, such as women-led restoration, NTFP processing, apiculture, and ecotourism. Moreover, the project commits that at least 40 percent of ABS and biodiversity-enterprise beneficiaries will be women or women-led groups.

- Under Component 3, gender-responsive budgeting and tagging mechanisms will be institutionalized to ensure dedicated biodiversity-finance streams for women-led conservation enterprises and cooperatives. The national and state biodiversity finance plans will include performance indicators tracking women's access to finance and enterprise development support.

- Under Component 4, the M&E system will disaggregate all socio-economic data by gender and social group, enabling adaptive management and targeted corrective actions. Gender-responsive results will be tracked through the MIS, Gender Action Plan, and project scorecards.

By embedding these measures, the project ensures gender parity in decision-making, enhanced economic participation, and access to ecosystem-based livelihoods for women. These interventions directly contribute to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and GBF Targets 22 and 23, ensuring inclusive, rights-based, and equitable biodiversity governance.

Knowledge Generation, Learning, and Dissemination: Knowledge management is a cross-cutting pillar of the project, designed to support adaptive implementation, foster innovation, and strengthen biodiversity governance in line with the NBSAP, State Biodiversity Action Plans, and the GBF. Central to this is a national biodiversity Management Information System (MIS), which will integrate spatial, ecological, financial, and socio-economic data into real-time, interoperable dashboards. Built on open-source platforms and linked to existing systems like ELEMENT, the MIS will serve as a repository for geospatial datasets, technical tools, and training resources, accessible through the India Biodiversity Portal, NBA's repository, and other platforms. Knowledge will be systematically captured from field documentation, participatory reviews, and community contributions, and disseminated through tailored products such as policy briefs, toolkits, case studies, reports, and outreach materials in English and regional languages. Special emphasis will be placed on digital and mobile tools to reach remote and tribal areas. Dissemination will occur via national events, digital platforms, peer exchanges, and cross-state missions, with strong collaboration among MoEFCC, NBA, SBBs, BIOFIN India, research institutions, and civil society. A comprehensive communications strategy developed during the PPG phase will ensure visibility, promote community-led conservation narratives, and encourage stakeholder engagement and replication of best practices.

Policy Coherence and Support to National and Subnational Strategies: The CONSERVE project functions as a strategic enabler to enhance biodiversity policy coherence with policy advocacy channeled through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to ensure coherence at the national level and strengthen India's unified biodiversity governance voice. It will strengthen delivery of both national and subnational strategies through improved planning, budgeting, and regulation. It directly supports the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2024-30) and State Biodiversity Action Plans (SBSAPs), while reinforcing complementary initiatives such as BIOFIN India, and aligning with NBSAP (2024–2030) finance strategies to ensure efficient mobilization and allocation of biodiversity funding, the National Wildlife Action Plan (2017–2031), and emerging frameworks for green budgeting and ecosystem service valuation.

At the national level, the project will generate spatial conservation priorities, biodiversity finance diagnostics, and community-based management models that inform the ongoing revision of the NBSAP and align with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). These contributions ensure that field-tested models from Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand translate into updated national targets, indicators, and institutional strategies. At the state level, biodiversity will be mainstreamed into land use and sectoral development plans through state conservation plans, embedding OECMs, ecosystem service overlays, and biodiversity priorities into budgetary and policy systems, thereby strengthening SBSAP implementation and interdepartmental coordination.

The project will also institutionalize biodiversity-sensitive budgeting and expenditure tracking with BIOFIN India-methodologies, consistent with NBSAP (2024–2030) finance strategies, to enhance efficiency and transparency of biodiversity finance, strengthen regulatory frameworks (EIA guidelines, OECM protocols, and FPIC), and foster cross-sectoral coordination through multi-level governance platforms with NBA serving as the lead national advocacy platform to consolidate lessons and drive coherence across

ministries and state governments. In doing so, CONSERVE not only advances GBF targets on area-based conservation (3), restoration (2), finance (18/19), and equity (22/23) but also reinforces India's commitments under the CBD, Paris Agreement, SDGs, and the G20 nature agenda, positioning India as a leader in integrated and inclusive biodiversity governance.

Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening: The project adopts a systemic and embedded approach to capacity development, treating it as a cross-cutting pillar critical for implementation, adaptive management, and long-term sustainability. It will strengthen technical, institutional, and human resource capacities at national, state, and community levels to ensure biodiversity governance is effective across all tiers. At the national and state levels, the initiative will reinforce the roles of MoEFCC, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) by aligning biodiversity goals with finance and planning systems, institutionalizing SOPs for spatial planning and biodiversity budgeting, and enhancing coordination through technical working groups and steering committees.

Targeted technical assistance will address key gaps identified during project preparation, including training on spatial mapping, biodiversity finance, digital monitoring, safeguards, and gender-responsive governance. Government staff will be equipped to apply geospatial tools, operate biodiversity MIS dashboards, and track biodiversity-linked expenditures. In Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand, embedded support to SBBs and Forest Departments will enable operationalization of spatial plans, monitoring systems, and OECM recognition, while planning and finance departments will integrate biodiversity indicators into routine decision-making.

At the community level, Village BMCs, VEMCs, and JFMCs will be trained on participatory governance, monitoring, and restoration, supported by digital tools and delivered in local languages. Emphasis will be placed on empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups to ensure inclusive leadership and equitable benefit-sharing. To guarantee sustainability, training modules will be institutionalized through partnerships with IIFM, IGNFA, and state training institutes, with repositories linked to the MIS and aligned to national skilling missions, embedding capacity building into long-term governance frameworks. By embedding this training within the NBSAP (2024–2030) framework, the project ensures that BMCs emerge as strong custodians of biodiversity governance and community-led conservation

Innovation and Transformational Potential: The CONSERVE project is designed as a catalyst for systemic transformation in India's biodiversity governance, shifting from fragmented, project-based efforts to an integrated, institutionalized, and community-led model. By blending global best practices with locally grounded innovations, the project provides scalable pathways for replication both nationally and across states. Central to this transformation is the formal recognition and operationalization of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), developed through participatory and rights-based processes, including Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). These governance models will complement Protected Areas, advance India's contribution to GBF Target 3 ("30x30"), and provide a tested reference for adoption by other states, while grassroots models piloted in project landscapes can be adapted to additional landscapes within the same state.

In parallel, the project introduces institutional innovations that mainstream biodiversity into fiscal and planning systems. This includes biodiversity budget tagging, linked to expenditure reviews and costed action plans, allowing Finance and Planning Departments to align public allocations with ecological priorities. These tools, piloted at both national and state levels, can be replicated by other states to institutionalize biodiversity-linked fiscal tracking. A further innovation is the creation of a national Biodiversity Management Information System (MIS), integrating spatial data, biodiversity indicators, financial tracking, and community monitoring. The MIS will be open-source and interoperable, designed for both national-level reporting on GBF progress and adaptation by other states and landscapes to strengthen monitoring and adaptive management.

Together, these innovations deliver transformation at three levels. At the planning level, biodiversity overlays will be embedded into land-use decisions across 200,000 hectares, with methodologies adaptable to varied ecosystems. At the institutional level, the project strengthens the mandates and capacities of NBA, SBBs, and state agencies to integrate biodiversity into planning and finance. At the governance level, community institutions such as BMCs, JFMCs, and VEMCs will lead conservation through participatory governance, safeguards, and gender-responsive approaches. These innovations are supported by digital and participatory tools—tablet-based MRV systems, dashboards, e-learning platforms, and participatory mapping—ensuring scalability within India and global relevance. Documented methodologies, policy briefs, and South-South exchanges will enable dissemination, positioning CONSERVE as a model for biodiversity governance in GBF-eligible countries worldwide.

[1] The term “spatial mapping” has been used in the CEO ER to denote geospatial mapping—the process of GIS based mapping of biodiversity features, ecosystems, and land uses using spatial data layers (e.g., satellite imagery, GIS-based land cover, elevation, and climate data) to produce location-referenced outputs that can be integrated into planning systems.

While “mapping” may refer to any descriptive inventory or thematic depiction, “spatial mapping” specifically involves **geo-**referenced, multi-layered analyses that enable overlaying of ecological, socio-economic, and climate-vulnerability data for decision-making.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The GBFF CONSERVE Project will be jointly implemented by UNDP and the World Bank under a National Implementation Modality (NIM). The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is designated as the Implementing Partner for national-level outcomes, while the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) of Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand will act as Responsible Agencies for state-level execution. For field-level investments in Nagaland and Tripura, the project will build on and utilize the institutional and fiduciary systems established under World Bank’s ELEMENT project, ensuring efficiency, continuity, and reduced transaction costs.

Strategic oversight will be provided by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), in its role as the national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). MoEFCC will chair the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) (also referred to as the Project Board), headed by the Additional Secretary, Biodiversity. The NPSC will include MoEFCC, NBA, SBBs, sectoral ministries, UNDP, the World Bank, representatives of Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs), and other stakeholders. It will meet annually (or more frequently as required) to review progress, approve work plans and budgets, provide policy direction, and ensure alignment with India’s obligations under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and other MEAs.

The joint implementation by the World Bank and UNDP is a strategic choice to maximize complementarity and sustainability. The World Bank anchors the project in its ongoing ELEMENT operation, ensuring large-scale co-financing and integration into state planning and finance systems, while UNDP brings technical depth, safeguards expertise, and strong operational networks at the community level. Together, they provide seamless coverage from policy to practice—linking macro-level fiscal and institutional reforms with micro-level implementation, capacity building, and monitoring. This coordinated structure minimizes overlap, enhances leverage, and guarantees that GBFF resources catalyze durable systemic impacts rather than isolated interventions.

At the operational level, a National Project Management Unit (NPMU) will be established within NBA, headed by a National Project Director and supported by a Project Manager, Finance and Procurement Specialist, Safeguards Officer, Gender and Social Inclusion Officer, and M&E Specialist. State Project Management Units (SPMUs) will be established within each SBB, led by State Project Coordinators with technical and fiduciary support staff. These units will liaise with sectoral departments such as Agriculture, Water Resources, Tourism, and Industry, and ensure effective engagement of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and IPLCs in implementation.

To ensure coordination between the two GEF Agencies and NBA, a Joint Implementation Working Group (JIWG) will be established, comprising representatives from UNDP, the World Bank, and NBA. The JIWG will provide a platform for joint planning, harmonized supervision, and risk management, and NBA will also participate in its deliberations. UNDP and the World Bank will jointly oversee project execution by NBA and Responsible Agencies to ensure compliance with GEF policies, fiduciary standards, and the provisions of the Delegation of Authority (DOA). The UNDP–GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with the World Bank and NBA, retains the authority to revoke the DOA or suspend the project if implementation deviates from

agreed standards. Both Agencies will jointly fulfill the Project Assurance function, reporting to the NPSC and attending its meetings as non-voting members.

National–State Linkages and Replication Roadmap

The project's design ensures seamless articulation between national and state levels, enabling coherence between policy, planning, monitoring, and financing functions. At the national level, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) provide policy direction, technical oversight, and alignment with India's NBSAP and GBF commitments. State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand lead field-level implementation through integration of biodiversity priorities into spatial plans, community conservation models, and budgetary systems. The two levels are linked through shared digital systems, standardized finance frameworks, and coordinated governance structures (NPSC, SPSCs, and technical working groups), ensuring a continuous feedback loop from field implementation to national policy and reporting.

Under Component 1, the national biodiversity map and MIS provide the scientific and data backbone connecting national and sub-national planning. The national MIS will host state dashboards and consolidate data on biodiversity status, finance, and community participation, ensuring that state-level progress directly informs national reporting on the NBSAP and GBF targets. Similarly, Component 3 creates fiscal alignment between levels by embedding biodiversity tagging and costed planning frameworks jointly developed by MoEFCC, NBA, and State Finance and Planning Departments. This vertical integration ensures that biodiversity priorities are reflected in both national budget guidance and state expenditure tracking, transforming biodiversity from an ad-hoc project domain into a core fiscal and policy mandate.

Replication and scale-up are embedded across all components through a structured roadmap that combines policy integration, knowledge products, digital *systems, and capacity development:*

1. *National Policy and Digital Platforms (Components 1 & 3): Spatial planning templates, biodiversity maps, and budget tagging tools will be standardized through MoEFCC/NBA circulars and integrated into the national biodiversity MIS. These digital and policy products will serve as the national "gateway" for other states to adopt project approaches without external support.*

2. *Community-Level Models (Component 2): FPIC-based OECM management frameworks, co-management agreements, and innovative financing pilots developed with State Boards and Local Communities will be codified into a* **Replication Toolkit***—a modular compendium of tested methodologies, SOPs, training materials, and case studies. The toolkit will be accessible via the MIS and form part of the training curriculum on the Government's iGOT e-learning platform.*

3. *Finance and Budget Systems (Component 3): Biodiversity expenditure tagging and finance plans will be institutionalized within State Finance and Planning Departments and endorsed through MoEFCC and NITI Aayog for adoption by additional states. Integration of biodiversity budget codes into the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) ensures long-term replication across India's fiscal architecture.*

4. *Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Development (Components 1–3): Cross-state peer learning missions, national policy dialogues, and annual knowledge fairs will showcase tested models and lessons. Master trainers from the three pilot states will mentor additional states using standardized curricula hosted on the national MIS and iGOT platform.*

5. *Partnership-Based Scaling (All Components): UNDP and the World Bank will sustain post-project technical support through their broader environment portfolios, leveraging regional platforms and future Country Partnership Framework operations to replicate biodiversity budgeting, OECM governance, and spatial integration tools.*

Through these mechanisms, the project ensures that innovations demonstrated in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand are systematically captured, institutionalized, and replicated across other states. The combination of national policy anchoring, interoperable digital infrastructure, and standardized replication toolkits creates a self-sustaining pathway for scale-up well beyond the project's duration.

Project governance and management structure

Implementing Partner/Executing Agency: The Implementing Partner for this project is the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The Project Board (Project Steering Committee - PSC) will provide oversight and monitoring to the project and will be chaired by the **Additional Secretary (Biodiversity)** of the MoEFCC. The **Chairperson of NBA** will act as the co-chair of the PSC as well as the National Project Director. The Secretary of NBA will act as the Member Convenor for the PSC.

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

For the project implementation, the Implementing Partner's specific tasks comprise of project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.

- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.
- The procurement of goods and services to be done by NBA will be routed through the Government e-Marketplace public procurement portal. On the request of the IP, UNDP may make direct payments for goods and services delivered, if required.

Responsible Parties: For GBFF resources managed under the NBA (the IP/EA), the arrangement for responsible party will be executed between the IP/EA and the states following the established government procedures. For the resources under direct payment to the states of Tripura and Nagaland, the responsible party agreements have been signed between the World Bank and the two states under the ELEMENT project, and the GBFF CONSERVE project will follow that procedure.

For all activities implemented through the World Bank, the Executing Entities are the **State Project Management Units (SPMUs) of the ongoing World Bank–supported ELEMENT Project**, which are legally constituted implementation units under their respective State Governments. These SPMUs have been established through formal Government Orders (GOs) and operate as legally recognized administrative and financial units under the state departments responsible for planning, forests, and environment.

In **Nagaland**, the Executing Entity is the **ELEMENT State Project Management Unit under the Department of Planning & Coordination**.

In **Tripura**, the Executing Entity is the **ELEMENT State Project Management Unit under the Department of Forests and Wildlife / Environment**.

These SPMUs:

- are authorized by their respective State Governments to receive, manage, and disburse external financing;
- maintain state-authorized bank accounts with full fiduciary oversight;
- implement procurement, contract management, safeguards, and financial reporting in accordance with World Bank and state financial rules; and
- already manage substantial resources under the ELEMENT operation, providing an established institutional platform for the CONSERVE project.

By channelling GEF funds through these legally sanctioned SPMUs, the project ensures:

- full alignment with state implementation systems;
- fiduciary integrity and auditability;
- continuity and convergence with the ELEMENT program; and

seamless delivery of activities across OECM identification, community governance strengthening, and implementation of biodiversity finance pilots.

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

World Bank: In addition to UNDP's implementation role, the World Bank serves as a co-implementing agency for this project. Building on its previous and ongoing engagements in Nagaland and Tripura through the ELEMENT project, the World Bank will manage its share of the GBFF funded grant and undertake all the functions as mentioned above for UNDP in Nagaland and Tripura following its own procurement and fiduciary procedures besides complying with the GEF requirements. World Bank will provide technical supervision, support safeguard compliance, and contribute to learning, evaluation, and coordination activities.

The use of both UNDP and the World Bank as Implementing Agencies is a deliberate design choice grounded in the project's multi-level Theory of Change and the need for institutional anchoring at both national/state policy levels and community/OECM landscape levels. A single agency could not provide this combination of policy leverage, safeguards depth, and field-level delivery. UNDP leads Components 1 and 3, focusing on national and state biodiversity governance, spatial planning systems, safeguards, and integration of biodiversity finance into fiscal frameworks. The World Bank leads Component 2, leveraging its ongoing ELEMENT operation and established state-level institutional arrangements in Nagaland and Tripura to support OECM identification, co-management, and piloting of financing instruments.

Component 4 on monitoring, evaluation, learning, and adaptive management is jointly implemented to ensure harmonized standards, coherent reporting, and unified oversight. This division of labour minimizes transaction costs, avoids duplication, and ensures vertical integration—linking macro-level budgetary and policy reforms (World Bank) with robust, FPIC-compliant implementation and community governance strengthening (UNDP). Importantly, the joint modality allows GBFF resources to operate as catalytic capital embedded within the World Bank's broader investment pipeline while grounded in UNDP's community-level operational systems, thereby achieving scale, safeguards compliance, and sustainability beyond what a single agency could deliver.

Coordination Between UNDP and the World Bank: A formal **Co-Implementation Protocol** will be developed during inception to guide roles, communication, deliverables, and interface points across UNDP and the World Bank. UNDP and the World Bank will set up a coordination mechanism (Joint Implementation Working Group) and convene meeting quarterly, as per requirement, to align implementation progress and track results and co-financing synergies, risk management, harmonize safeguards and knowledge platforms, review joint evaluation inputs and MIS performance etc. The NBA will also be invited to the Joint Implementation Working Group. This collaborative implementation model ensures a whole-of-system approach to delivering on GBF targets and reflects GEF's vision for multi-agency delivery of transformational biodiversity outcomes.

The **Project Assurance** function of UNDP should be carried out in close consultation with the World Bank to ensure its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Program and Operations Policies and Procedures

(POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office (Team Leader of Climate and Environment) will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member. From World Bank, the Senior Natural Resource Management Specialist and Senior Environmental Specialist of the Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice unit will assume the assurance role.

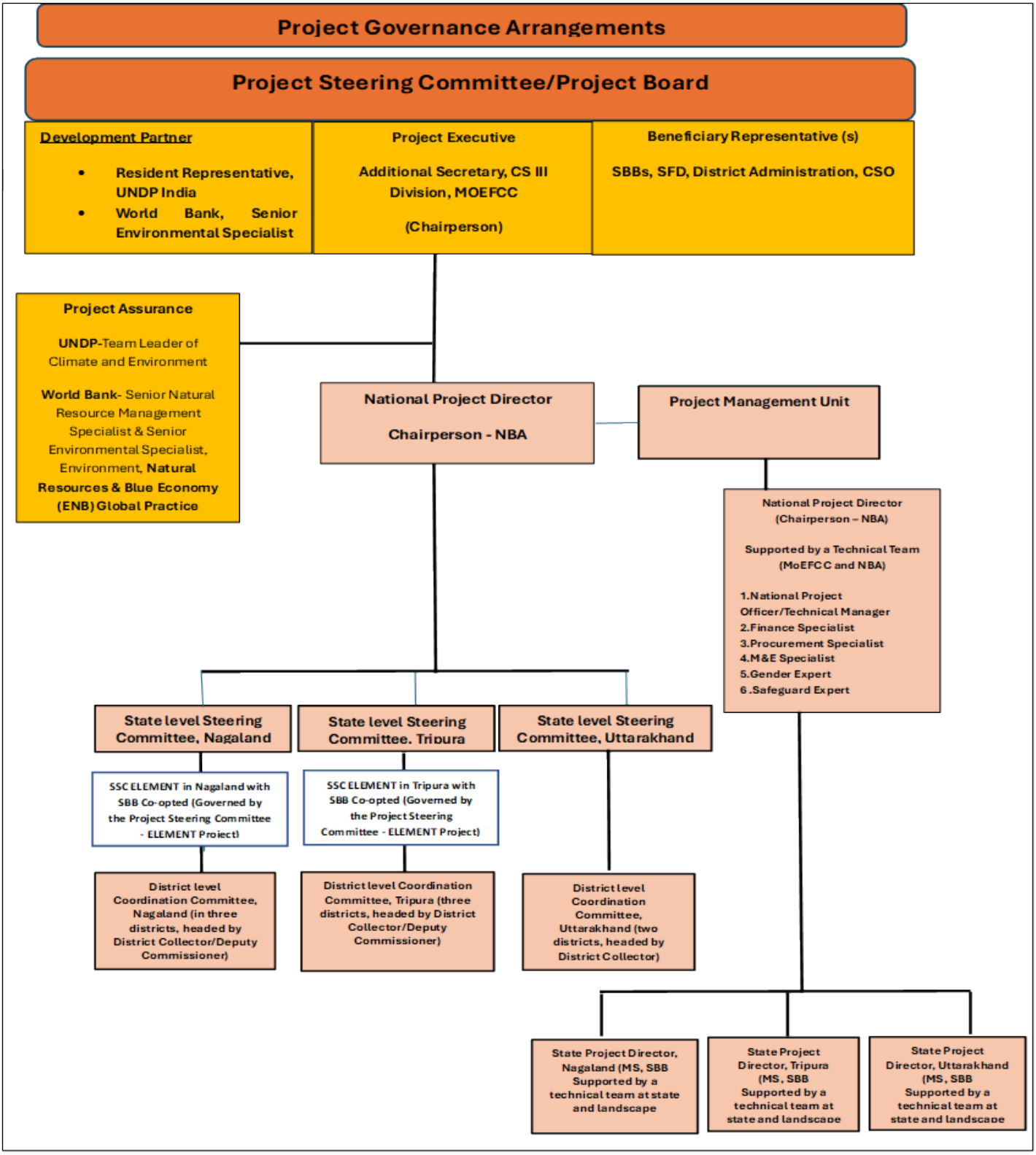
UNDP as Lead Implementing Agency will undertake following functions:

- Providing oversight on procurement, financial reporting, and safeguards;
- Management of M&E processes, evaluations, and reporting to the GEF Secretariat;
- Coordinating overall project implementation in partnership with NBA, the Implementation Partner, under the National Implementation Modality (NIM);
- Managing the GEF-funded grant and overseeing budget execution, procurement, and financial reporting in accordance with UNDP's rules and procedures;
- Providing technical and operational guidance to the national-level Implementing Partners and State-level Responsible Parties;
- Leading the design, roll-out, and quality assurance of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, including MIS integration and GEF reporting;
- Commissioning and supervising the Inception Report, Midterm Review, and Terminal Evaluation.
- Ensuring that social and environmental safeguards comply with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and the GEF minimum requirements;
- Supporting knowledge management, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive learning.

The World Bank as co-implementing Agency will provide technical supervision, support safeguard compliance, and contribute to learning, evaluation, and coordination activities. Key functions of the World Bank will also include:

- Contributing to the strategic design and quality assurance of technical components, especially those related to OECMs, ABS instruments, and biodiversity finance systems;
- Providing input and supervision for environmental and social safeguards, particularly where the project aligns with or interfaces with ELEMENT-supported landscapes or platforms;
- Supporting results reporting and oversight of GBF and SDG contributions at the global portfolio level;
- Coordinating with UNDP and NBA on cross-project synergies, co-financing tracking, and institutional learning;
- Participating in PSC meetings and providing technical inputs during annual reviews, PIRs, MTR, and TE processes;
- Facilitating regional and global learning through World Bank knowledge platforms and dialogue with other GBFF projects and GEF partners.

Project governance structure



Second line of defense: The project will follow the following second line of defense:

- Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office Compliance at portfolio level.
- BPPSRTA oversees technical quality assurance and GEF compliance. BPPS Environment PTA oversees RTA function.

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

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

In case of World Bank, Senior Natural Resource Management Specialist and Senior Environmental Specialist (Natural Resources & Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice) will perform the role of implementation oversight.

Fund Flow Mechanism: The distribution of the GBFF resource under CONSERVE project will be divided between the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the SPMUs/State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) of Nagaland and Tripura, as well as Uttarakhand (through NBA).

For UNDP, the funds will flow through UNDP to the Implementing Partner/Executing Agency (NBA, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change). The project executing agencies shall initially spend or incur expenditure and subsequently claim the amount from the Funding Agency through the office of the Controller, Aid Accounts & Audit. The remittances shall be accounted as External Grant receipt in the Consolidated Fund of India. GFR Rules with reference to Direct Payment shall apply.

The World Bank will route its funds through the SMUs of ELEMENT project in Nagaland and Tripura following additional financing modality under its Investment Project Financing guidelines. World Bank will use Investment Project Finance modality treating the GBFF as additional finance to the ELEMENT project. The implementation model ensures distributed leadership, subsidiarity, and state-level ownership while benefiting from UNDP's fiduciary and technical assurance systems.

The project's staffing plan ensures sufficient fiduciary, technical, and safeguards capacity at both national and state levels. The NPMU will employ at least five core staff, complemented by technical consultants for specialized activities (e.g., biodiversity MIS, OECM models). SPMUs will include a State Coordinator, Finance/Procurement Officer, and Technical Officer, supported by short-term experts.

This collaborative institutional arrangement ensures a whole-of-system approach, combining national policy leadership, state-level execution, and community engagement, with joint oversight by two GEF Agencies. It reflects GEF's vision for multi-agency delivery of transformational biodiversity outcomes, while embedding sustainability by strengthening India's national institutions, fiduciary systems, and biodiversity governance structures.

The distribution of funds is closely linked to the project's results framework and follows an output-based approach (refer to the fund allocation table below). Allocations are tied to specific outputs, milestones, and deliverables, with Annual Work Plans (AWPs) jointly prepared by the NBA and SBBs, reviewed by the Project Steering Committee, and approved for disbursement based on demonstrated progress. This results-oriented financing ensures transparency and accountability in the use of funds, supports adaptive management, and guarantees that financial resources are deployed efficiently to achieve both national and subnational targets.

The output-based fund distribution is anchored in a strong alignment with institutional mandates and roles of the NBA and the state governments. The NBA, as the implementing partner under UNDP's National Implementation Modality, is entrusted with providing national leadership, policy direction, and fiduciary oversight. Resources allocated to the NBA support a range of critical enabling functions, including the development of the national biodiversity Management Information System (MIS) and the integration of spatial and non-spatial datasets to inform national decision-making and international reporting. They also finance the formulation of policies, financing frameworks, and safeguards oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance with GBF targets and GEF Core Indicators, as well as national-level coordination, monitoring, and governance functions through the National Project Steering Committee (Project Board) and technical working groups.

Complementing this, the SBBs serve as the principal agencies responsible for on-ground implementation in high-biodiversity landscapes. Funds directed to the SBBs enable the preparation and operationalization of state biodiversity spatial plans and the

integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies and plans. They also support the identification, management, and monitoring of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), the implementation of community-based conservation models, and the facilitation of gender-responsive and socially inclusive actions in line with project safeguards. Through these activities, the SBBs generate the data, experience, and lessons that feed into national systems, ensuring that local realities inform national policy and planning.

Fund distribution between NBA (IP), SBBs-SPMUs and UNDP-WB

Particulars	Recipient/ Users of GBFF Funds			Grand Total
	UNDP/WB	NBA (IP)	FD/ELEMENT/SBB – Responsible Parties	
Output 1.1.1		1,512,000	228,886	1,740,886
Output 1.1.2		729,039	900,000[1]	1,629,039
Output 1.2.1		1,164,000	90,000	1,254,000
Output 1.2.2		397,308	N/A	397,308
Output 1.2.3		310,000	25,000	335,000
Output 2.1.1		547,039	3,135,000[2]	3,682,039
Output 2.1.2		320,511	N/A	320,511
Output 2.2.1		288,415	1,480,000[3]	1,768,415
Output 3.1.1		414,731	N/A	414,731
Output 4.1.1 (M&E)		142,500	N/A	142,500
Project Mgt		579,471	N/A	579,471
MTR and Final Review	105,000		N/A	105,000
Project Audit	10,000		N/A	10,000
Total	115,000	6,520,014	5,858,886	12,378,900

[1] Includes USD 900,000 for on-ground implementation of 6+ models covering restoration, livelihoods, community governance

[2] Includes Investment of USD 3,000,000 in OECM Plans

[3] Includes Investments in 3 pilot sites @ USD 450,000 each + USD 50,000 technical buffer for additional investment needs and financial control for implementation of innovative financial instruments under Activity 5.1.3 = USD 1,400,000

Please see notes on Annex G for details of these major expenditure

Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure:

National Governance Arrangement

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

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

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

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

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

- Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.

- Meet annually; at least once.

- Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.

- Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.

- Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

In order to ensure accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

The main responsibilities of the Project Board are as follows:

1) In making consensus decision, the Project Board shall:

- The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
- Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
- The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
- In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
- In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed

2) In Overseeing the project execution, the Project Board shall:

- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.

- Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.

- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance.
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

3) In undertaking the risk management, the Project Board shall:

- Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
- Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with with other project activities of respective State Governments taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
- Address project-level grievances.

4) In ensuring coordination, the Project Board shall:

- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

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

Beneficiary Representative(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board.

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

- Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- State Biodiversity Boards of Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand
- National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)
- Department of Forests, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, of Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand
- Northeast Council
- Civil society representative (national level)

Development Partner(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) are the UNDP and World Bank. In case of UNDP, Resident Representative for India and in case of World Bank, Senior Environmental Specialist (s), Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice, World Bank.

State Governance Arrangement

State Level Steering Committees: The ELEMENT Project Steering Committee, in Nagaland and Tripura, chaired by the State Chief Secretary will oversee the CONSERVE project, The Member-Secretary of the State Biodiversity Boards and other relevant stakeholders of these states will be co-opted in the state steering committee to ensure seamless coordination between the two projects. Uttarakhand will establish a State Steering Committee (SSC) to guide localized implementation, convergence, ensure alignment with state priorities, and oversee safeguards and community engagement. The SSCs will review and approve annual plans, ensure convergence, ensure alignment with state priorities and resource allocation to activities, coordinate with field level departments and agencies, ensure compliance to environmental and social safeguards and oversee monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements.

- State Biodiversity Boards
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests
- State Institute for Rural Development
- Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
- Forest Academy,
- District Collectors/ Deputy Commissioners,
- Autonomous District Councils
- Civil society forums
- Non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

Project Assurance: Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member. In case of CONSERVE project, UNDP and World Bank will performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and

environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

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

For World Bank the Senior Natural Resource Management Specialist & Senior Environmental Specialist, Environment, Natural Resources & Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice will assume the assurance role.

Project Management – Execution of the Project: The National Project Officer (NPO) is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, NBA, MoEFCC. This role includes the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers. The central project support will be provided under the leadership of the National Project Director (see Annex 9 "Terms of reference for Project Staff and Technical Consultancies" of the project document). Project support in the form of consultants, sub-contractors, service providers, etc. will also be provided to the project states. A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is the National Project Director (NPD).

District-level Implementation Arrangement: At the district level, there will be a coordination committee in each district chaired by the District Collector/ Deputy Commissioner to guide localized implementation, convergence, ensure alignment with state priorities, and oversee safeguards and community engagement. This committee will comprise of key stakeholders including line departments, CSO, representatives of local community groups, representation from autonomous district councils (ADCs), Biodiversity Management Committee.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

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 (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The CONSERVE project is designed to build upon and complement a wide range of ongoing national and state-level biodiversity and sustainable development initiatives, ensuring strong institutional convergence, operational synergies, and long-term sustainability. It avoids duplication and promotes mutual reinforcement through coordinated planning, implementation, and monitoring arrangements across both UNDP- and World Bank-supported components.

At the national level, the project aligns with India's evolving National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and draws on the technical and institutional foundations established under MoEFCC's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism under the Biological Diversity Act, and previous UNDP-led efforts to mainstream biodiversity into production sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and land use planning. These earlier experiences inform the design of biodiversity finance tools, budget tagging methodologies, and participatory governance systems across the project components.

The project also interfaces with existing digital platforms such as the National Natural Resource Management System (NNRMS) and India's broader Digital India initiative to ensure interoperability of the biodiversity Management Information System (MIS) with state-level data systems. State GIS agencies and national technical institutions such as the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) are engaged as partners to support spatial mapping, ecosystem assessment, and decision-support tool development.

At the state level, close coordination is ensured with programs such as the Green India Mission, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) activities, and State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs). These provide opportunities to co-finance restoration activities, align with climate resilience goals, and embed biodiversity objectives into broader land and resource management systems.

Importantly, the GBFF project benefits from strong operational linkages with the World Bank-supported ELEMENT project already active in Nagaland and Tripura. The ELEMENT project provides a ready institutional foundation—through functioning State Project Management Units (SPMUs), Village Ecosystem Management Committees (VEMCs), and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs)—that the GBFF project will leverage to avoid parallel structures and ensure coherence in participatory planning, local monitoring, and community-led conservation.

Shared technical teams and expert groups—such as those supporting safeguards, gender integration, MIS development, and biodiversity financing—will work across both UNDP- and World Bank-supported components. Monitoring and reporting frameworks will be harmonized to enable joint tracking of results against Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Where feasible, training modules, capacity-building sessions, and stakeholder engagement platforms will be designed for joint delivery, ensuring consistency and peer learning across landscapes and institutions.

This integrated and collaborative design ensures that the GBFF project contributes meaningfully to national biodiversity outcomes while setting replicable models for mainstreaming biodiversity in governance, finance, and livelihoods across India.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results under each relevant GBFF indicator following the methodologies described in the Guidelines on the implementation of the GBFF Results Framework. GBFF projects are requested to include targets on all GBFF indicators that are relevant to the project and required to do so on at least one. They are also requested to include a target on the relevant socio-economic co-benefit indicators of the GEF-9 RMF and at least under the GEF-9 indicator CB-PB-01 — People benefiting from GEF-financed investments. A justification should be provided if no target is included under the GEF-9 indicator CB-PB-01.

GBFF Indicator 4 Conservation areas created or under improved management

GBFF Indicator 4.1 Protected area newly created (Terrestrial/Marine)

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Terrestrial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Marine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

GBFF Indicator 4.1a of which terrestrial

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT Achieved at TE

GBFF Indicator 4.1b of which marine

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT Achieved at TE

GBFF Indicator 4.2 Protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Terrestrial/Marine)

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Terrestrial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Marine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

GBFF Indicator 4.2a of which terrestrial

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT Baseline score	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

GBFF Indicator 4.2b of which marine

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT Baseline score	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

GBFF Indicator 4.3 OECMs newly created (Terrestrial/Marine)

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Terrestrial	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Marine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00

GBFF Indicator 4.3a of which terrestrial

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	OECM TT Baseline score	OECM TT Achieved at MTR	OECM TT Achieved at TE
			5,000.00					

GBFF Indicator 4.3b of which marine

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	OECM TT Baseline score	OECM TT Achieved at MTR	OECM TT Achieved at TE

GBFF Indicator 4.4 OECMs under improved management effectiveness (Terrestrial/Marine)

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Terrestrial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Marine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

GBFF Indicator 4.4a of which terrestrial

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	OECM TT Baseline score	OECM TT Achieved at MTR	OECM TT Achieved at TE

GBFF Indicator 4.4b of which marine

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)	OECM TT Baseline score	OECM TT Achieved at MTR	OECM TT Achieved at TE

GBFF Indicator 8 Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated

	Metric Tons of CO2e (Expected at PPG Request)	Metric Tons of CO2e (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons of CO2e (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons of CO2e (Achieved at TE)
Total	0.00	3,482,427.00		

GBFF Indicator 11 Support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity

	US$ (Expected at PPG Request)	US$ (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	US$ (Achieved at MTR)	US$ (Achieved at TE)
Of which support for actions by Indigenous People	2,475,780.00	5,300,000.00		

GBFF Indicator 11.1 Strengthened security of tenure in lands and territories held or used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities

	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

GBFF Indicator 11.2 Indigenous and traditional territories supported

	Ha (Expected at PPG Request)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

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

Core Indicator 4: The project will bring 200,000 hectares of high biodiversity / critical ecosystems outside PAs (Protected Areas) in Nagaland, Tripura & Uttarakhand under improved practices:

- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity: 195,000 ha (Core Indicator 4.1)
- Terrestrial OECMs supported: 5,000 ha (Core Indicator 4.5)

The baseline information of the target landscapes is provided in Table 1 below.

Here, the project will focus on the design, implementation, and institutionalization of innovative biodiversity management models tailored to the socio-ecological conditions of selected landscapes in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. Building on the spatial planning outputs under Output 1.1, these models will re-assess the existing spatial plan of the three districts and overlay the plan with the identified KBAs. This result will inform the areas designated for sustainable use, restoration, and conservation mechanisms (e.g., community conservation regimes, OECMs and so on) to facilitate enhanced ecosystem management across approximately 200,000 hectares.

State-Specific Approaches:

1. Nagaland: strengthen Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) through:

- Degraded forest restoration using native species/alder regeneration, targeted soil stabilization, and capacity development of CCA committees.
- Formal OECM recognition
- Improving the traditional jhum (shifting cultivation) systems with longer cycles and agroforestry

2. Tripura: facilitate landscape restoration to safeguard water regulation, soil health, and biodiversity, though:

- Wetland/catchment management with participatory management plans, vegetative buffers, silt control, and hydrological restoration.
- Ecotourism-linked community stewardship
- Formal OECM recognition

3. Uttarakhand: facilitate spring-shed restoration, leveraging the state's rich agroecological traditions and community stewardship. Building on JICA-supported plantations, the project will ensure synergy between forest restoration and livelihood generation through Gram Sabha-led maintenance.

Core Indicator 6: Through site-level implementation of sustainable use, restoration, and conservation mechanisms (see "State-Specific Approaches" under core indicator 4's explanation above) across 58,000 ha of high biodiversity / critical ecosystems outside PAs, the project will contribute to mitigating an estimate of 3,482,427 CO_2e. (20-year estimates). The project's mitigation target was calculated using FAO's Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (Ex-ACT) v.9, with detailed assumptions provided in Table 2 below.

Core Indicator 11: The project's target beneficiaries are equal to 30,000 individuals, of whom 50% are females. This target tracks area coverage and population reached through implementation of inclusive and innovative ecosystem management models in high-biodiversity zones that are not currently under any legal protection. The specifics are as follows:

- Beneficiaries directly involved in and benefit from the project's interventions related to "improved management to benefit biodiversity" (covering 195,000 ha) = 25,000 (12,500 males; 12,500 females)

- Beneficiaries engaged in the OECM establishment (planning, restoration, and community co-management) (covering 5,000 ha) = 5,000 (2,500 males; 2,500 females)

SEE MORE DETAILS IN THE Annex 14 GEF Core Indicator Worksheet as the tables cannot be added in this box.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Risk: Increased climate variability (such as droughts, landslides, and forest fires) and disaster risks could undermine project implementation and impacts, especially ecological restoration, OECM functioning, or livelihoods dependent on stable ecosystems, especially in mountainous or vulnerable regions like Nagaland and Uttarakhand. Assessment: 'Climate and disaster risk' screening (annex 23) and the review of SAPCCs and IPCC AR6 regional projections, confirm that these landscapes face heightened risks from climate variability. The risk will continue to be assessed/monitored throughout implementation. Mitigation: The project explicitly incorporates climate resilience into its design by embedding climate vulnerability overlays in the national and state biodiversity spatial plans (Outputs 1.1 and 1.2), ensuring restoration and OECM interventions are prioritized in key ecologically zones. Restoration models will emphasize locally adapted species mixes, assisted natural regeneration, and micro-watershed treatments to enhance resilience. The MIS developed under Output 2.1 will facilitate real-time monitoring of climatic stress indicators, enabling adaptive management. Additionally, participatory community mechanisms, such as forest fire management will be strengthened and linked to national early warning network of the Forest Survey of India.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Risk: There is a moderate risk that project interventions—spanning biodiversity conservation, restoration, and community livelihood activities—may inadvertently cause adverse social and environmental impacts if safeguards are not consistently applied. Potential concerns include inadequate consultation or recognition of rights of Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs), unequal participation of women and marginalized groups (SC/ST/OBC), livelihood restrictions from conservation measures, erosion of traditional knowledge systems, or unintended ecological effects such as invasive species introduction, human–wildlife conflict, or localized pollution during implementation. Weak institutional capacities and limited awareness at local levels may further constrain the consistent application of human rights–based, gender-responsive, and biodiversity-safe approaches, affecting the legitimacy and sustainability of outcomes. Assessment: The project operates across ecologically sensitive and socially diverse landscapes where human–nature interactions are central to local livelihoods. Risks stem from structural

		barriers—limited capacity of executing agencies to operationalize UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES), gaps in tenure recognition, gender norms restricting women's participation, and weak coordination among biodiversity institutions. Without adequate safeguards, these factors could lead to exclusion of vulnerable groups, inequitable benefit-sharing, minor ecological degradation, or occupational hazards for workers engaged in restoration. Mitigation: A robust safeguards framework will ensure that all interventions are socially inclusive and environmentally sound. • The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will guide ecological screening, pollution prevention, and occupational safety measures, with SES screening for all subprojects in Year 1. • The Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols will safeguard the rights, tenure, and cultural values of Scheduled Tribes and local communities. • The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Gender Action Plan (GAP) will ensure inclusive, culturally appropriate participation—mandating at least 50 % women's representation in governance bodies (BMCs, VEMCs, OECMs). • Site-specific Human–Wildlife Conflict Reduction Plans and biodiversity-safe livelihood models will be applied under the ESMF. • A multilingual Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be established in Year 1 to ensure accessible, rights-compatible complaint handling. • Continuous capacity-building of MoEFCC, NBA, SBBs, and local committees will strengthen safeguard implementation and gender-social sensitivity. • Oversight will be provided by the PMU's SES and Gender Specialists, supported by UNDP technical supervision and annual compliance reviews. Overall, the project integrates environmental and social safeguards across all components to ensure that biodiversity conservation enhances—rather than compromises—local rights, gender equity, ecological integrity, and community resilience.
Political and Governance	Low	Risk: Shifts in political priorities at national or state levels may delay integration of biodiversity into spatial plans, biodiversity budgeting, MIS operationalization, or recognition of OECMs. Assessment: Stakeholder consultations during the PPG phase indicated that changes in leadership and dynamic development priorities could impede mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns, especially when short-term development objectives might take precedence over long-term ecological goals and due to specific geographic focus of the leadership. Mitigation: Project design places emphasis on both environmental and socioeconomic gains, which are community-centric and will likely continue under different political and administrative regimes. The project approach is anchored in key relevant strategies, namely the NBSAP and SBSAP, which will enable cross-administration continuity. Multi-tier governance arrangements, comprising of NPSC and SPSCs will ensure adequate oversight and sustained engagement of key ministries and state agencies to mitigate this risk

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Risk: There may be delays in formal recognition of OECMs and adoption of biodiversity budget tagging. Assessment: Despite growing political commitment for biodiversity. Delays in administrative procedures and legal headway impact timeliness of formal recognition/notification and slowdown institutional processes, such as integration of biodiversity codes into PFMS systems. Mitigation: The project's strategy to mitigate these institutional risks is multi-pronged and embedded across outputs. Firstly, by explicitly aligning OECMs, biodiversity budget tagging, with India's commitments under the NBSAP, SBSAPs, and international frameworks like the GBF, the project positions these initiatives within nationally endorsed policy imperatives, thereby securing higher-level backing. Outputs 2.1.1 and 3.1.1 are designed to build rigorous technical and procedural foundations: for instance, developing nationally validated OECM guidelines and biodiversity tagging frameworks through structured expert consultations, multi-sector working groups, and participatory validation. Additionally, the project directly supports institutional adoption by embedding approval milestones into the workplan, organizing targeted policy dialogues and endorsement workshops, and preparing legally vetted documentation (e.g., OECM nomination dossiers, biodiversity budget circulars) that streamline formalization. The NPSC will regularly monitor institutional roles and provide actionable guidance to resolve implementation bottlenecks.
Technological	Moderate	Risk: There are risks that the biodiversity MIS and mobile-linked data platforms could underperform due to data inconsistencies, low adoption by state and local agencies, or rapid technological obsolescence, ultimately reducing the quality of biodiversity monitoring. Assessment: State consultations revealed uneven capacities in state agencies and biodiversity boards to maintain high-quality, consistent data streams, particularly across decentralized BMCs and local registers. Risks were also noted around compatibility with existing state-level IT ecosystems and potential reluctance to shift from legacy systems. Mitigation: The project design embeds robust measures to mitigate these risks across technical, institutional, and sustainability dimensions. Under Output 1.2.1, the MIS architecture and mobile platforms are being developed in close partnership with NIC and will adhere to national e-governance standards, ensuring interoperability with existing IT systems and reducing risks of technological misalignment or obsolescence. To address data consistency and adoption, Output 1.2.3 will build capacity across relevant central and state agencies. The MIS design will also incorporate user-friendly data entry interfaces and automated validation protocols to minimize entry errors and ensure uniformity.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Risk: The project intends to pilot innovative biodiversity finance instruments (e.g. biodiversity credits, bonds). However, these mechanisms are relatively new in the project landscapes and may face some challenges such as limited private sector interest, lack of enabling conditions and market readiness. Assessment: This risk was identified through extensive consultations with state biodiversity boards, community representatives, and potential private sector

		stakeholders confirming uneven market development and varied levels of regulatory and institutional readiness. Mitigation: The project will engage with technically sound agencies with prior success record in mobilizing additional finance and by adopting a portfolio approach under Output 4.1.1—designing and piloting multiple biodiversity-linked financing instruments across diverse sites and communities. This reduces exposure to the failure of any single mechanism. In addition, policy dialogues under Output 3.1.1 and knowledge synthesis under Output 1.2.3 will help build broader institutional and market awareness, creating a more supportive environment for these instruments. Risk: Shortfalls in expected co-financing from government schemes or challenges in mobilizing private biodiversity finance could constrain scaling up OECMs, restoration pilots, or long-term MIS operations. Assessment: This risk is assessed through extensive dialogue with line departments, and during the financial flow mapping under the BIOFIN approach. Consultations also highlighted the evolving nature and challenges of private biodiversity finance instruments in India, which are still at pilot or exploratory stages. Mitigation: The project's design proactively mitigates this risk by embedding biodiversity financing reforms directly into national and state budgeting processes through Outputs 3.1.1. The development of biodiversity expenditure reviews, customized tagging frameworks, and fully costed NBSAP and SBSAPs ties biodiversity priorities to formal budget cycles, reducing dependence on stand-alone or short-lived project funds. By combining robust public finance integration with adaptive piloting of private biodiversity finance instruments, the project builds institutional and market pathways to sustain OECMs, restoration, and MIS functions beyond the project life. Both the NPSC and SPSCs will monitor this risk during implementation.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Risk: Complex fund flow mechanisms and bureaucratic delays may hinder the timely availability of funds to the lead executing agency (MoEFCC-NBA/SBB/ELEMENT PMU), affecting the smooth execution of project activities. The risk of timely contracting and contract-management could also impact project performance. Assessment: The Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) assessment of the MoEFCC-NBA (BD CS III Division) identifies MORECC as a government entity operating under robust governance structures, including compliance with GFR Rules, C&AG audit processes, and internal approval systems. The layered and centralized fund management and timeliness of budget releases may result in bureaucratic bottlenecks that delay disbursement and expenditure reporting, particularly in time-bound or field-level implementation contexts. Mitigation: The project will undertake (i) capacity strengthening through project design workshops for financial and administrative staff at MoEFCC and state counterparts on streamlined fund management, budgeting, and financial reporting requirements. Given that ELEMENT project is already under implementation with a functional budgeting-financial management-expenditure machinery as well as procurement strategy and manual, will help reduce this operational risk.

		Further, the project, in coordination with MoEFCC, will explore ways to simplify and expedite approvals and fund release processes, especially for priority activities requiring time-sensitive execution. The NPSC/SPSCs will regularly review implementation and disbursement performance, flag critical delays, and recommend course corrections to ensure project progress remains on track. Well established audit arrangements and regular procurement capacity building trainings will remain applicable for externally aided projects. Risk: Staff turnover within SPMUs, state nodal agencies, or Technical Support Agencies (TSAs) could disrupt project continuity, slow implementation, and erode institutional memory, affecting the quality and timeliness of outputs. Assessment: During the PPG consultations, it was noted that several state biodiversity boards, forest departments, and planning units frequently rotate staff due to administrative procedures or career progression, which can leave technical positions vacant or filled by personnel lacking specialised biodiversity or MIS experience. Similar risks were flagged in reviews of other multi-state projects, where frequent staff transfers affected the uptake of planning tools and monitoring systems. Mitigation: The project's design directly mitigates this risk through multiple strategies aimed at institutionalising capacity and reducing dependence on individual staff continuity. First, under Outputs 1.2.3, the project delivers modular, role-based training programs that build institutional rather than individual capacity. These programs target a broad pool of personnel across state biodiversity boards, forest departments, planning units, and financial agencies, complemented by the establishment of certified master trainers in each project state. This approach ensures that when staff changes occur, there remains an internal cadre capable of sustaining technical functions. Additionally, formal tools and protocols, such as SOPs for biodiversity tagging and MIS operations manuals under Outputs 1.2.1 and 3.1.1, serve to institutionalise practices, preserving knowledge even amidst personnel changes. Outputs 1.1.2 and 2.1.2 embed biodiversity spatial plans and OECM governance structures into official state GIS and regulatory systems, reducing reliance on informal continuity. Staff turnover will also be managed by ensuring market-based remuneration is made available to qualified staff for linger retention.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Risk: Weak financial management and procurement processes within the Implementing Partners (IPs) may cause (i) delays in fund disbursement and activity implementation, (ii) non-compliance with World Bank/UNDP/government financial regulations, and (ii) inefficient resource allocation, leading to cost overruns. Assessments: Past experiences indicate that there has been delays and gaps in effective implementation of fiduciary systems. Consultations during PPG phase revealed that departmental level leadership plays an important role in effective fiduciary oversight. Mitigation: The ELEMENT project PMU is already resourced with Financial Management Manual and relevant qualified finance specialists. The capacity of the SBBs will be strengthened for effective fiduciary oversight and regular monitoring and performance reports will include a section on the fiduciary performance of the project. Both World Bank and UNDP will also review fiduciary

		performances as part of their assurance function through periodic reviews during their six-monthly implementation support missions.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Risk: Without strong community participation and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, there is a risk that local communities, including women's groups, tribal and local communities, and marginalized households, may be less interested to participate in the establishment of OECMs, or engagement in biodiversity-linked enterprises. This will potentially delay the project implementation or challenge long-term stewardship. Assessment: The project's social assessment highlights this risk. In Nagaland and Tripura, traditional institutions emphasized the need for clear recognition of customary rights and tangible local benefits. Gender analyses highlighted potential barriers to women's participation, such as decision-making hierarchies and time constraints. Mitigation: The project is explicitly designed to embed community participation, rights recognition, and equitable benefit-sharing into its core activities. Under Outputs 2.1.1 and 4.1.1, FPIC-compliant protocols will govern OECM establishment, ensuring communities drive the identification, planning, and governance processes. With well-incorporated gender-responsive frameworks, formalized through community agreements and reinforced by capacity-building for local institutions. The Gender Action Plan ensures that women's involvement is structurally integrated—through leadership roles in BMCs, tailored skills programs, and market access support. The MIS (Output 1.2.1) will track disaggregated participation and benefits, while project governance bodies (NPSC, SPSCs) will regularly review social inclusion metrics, allowing adjustments to outreach or technical support to address any emerging gaps in participation or benefit flows.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Given the (i) fiduciary, gender, safeguards functions already reinforced through the ELEMENT project, (ii) additional measures incorporated in CONSERVE project design, (iii) multi-tiered governance arrangements with NPSC and SPSCs chaired by high-ranking government officials, (iv) a stakeholder engagement plan, (v) technology-based data collection, monitoring and MIS system integration, and (vi) various capacity building programs will be applicable, the overall risk is assessed as Moderate.

D. ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Identify the specific GBFF Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.

Please identify in the project tags which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how in this section.

For Multi-Trust Fund projects, please explain alignment with the 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. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The CONSERVE project has been designed to align closely with the **GBFF Programming Directions**, ensuring that investments contribute directly to global, national, and state biodiversity priorities while advancing India's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The project contributes to three of the four GBFF Action Areas.

Under **Action Area 1 (Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use, and spatial planning)**, the project mainstreams biodiversity into India's national and state-level spatial planning systems. By generating biodiversity-informed spatial data, developing state conservation plans, and embedding these into official land-use and investment frameworks, CONSERVE ensures that biodiversity becomes a core parameter in decision-making. This prevents further habitat loss, strengthens ecological connectivity, and secures ecosystem services critical for resilience and livelihoods.

Under **Action Area 2 (Support to IPLC stewardship and governance)**, the project empowers Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) by institutionalizing **Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)**. These measures will be identified, notified, and managed through participatory governance structures that adhere to **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**. This anchors biodiversity management in customary tenure and traditional knowledge, while supporting culturally appropriate livelihoods through biodiversity-friendly enterprises and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). By elevating IPLC stewardship, the project ensures that biodiversity conservation is socially legitimate, equitable, and sustainable.

Under **Action Area 4 (Resource mobilization)**, CONSERVE addresses financial barriers by embedding biodiversity finance within national and state budgetary processes. This includes biodiversity expenditure reviews, budget tagging, and the design of biodiversity finance plans in three states. In addition, the project will pilot innovative financial instruments—including PES, green credits, and public-private partnerships—that generate sustained revenue streams for OECM management and biodiversity monitoring. These measures ensure long-term financial sustainability beyond the project's lifetime and contribute directly to GBFF's goal of scaling biodiversity finance.

The project is strongly aligned with India's **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2024)** and the **National Biodiversity Finance Plan (NBFP)**. It operationalizes NBSAP commitments by mainstreaming biodiversity into development and spatial planning, recognizing and managing OECMs, and strengthening biodiversity monitoring systems. At the state level, CONSERVE directly supports State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs) in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand by developing spatial conservation plans, supporting community stewardship, and piloting financing instruments tailored to local priorities. The project also complements broader frameworks such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and flagship programs including the Green India Mission and CAMPA.

In relation to the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**, the project contributes to at least ten targets. It supports **Targets 1, 2, and 3** by integrating biodiversity into spatial planning and expanding effective area-based conservation through OECMs. It contributes to **Target 14** by safeguarding ecosystem services that underpin resilience and food and water security. Through biodiversity tagging, expenditure reviews, and innovative financing, it advances **Targets 18 and 19** on resource mobilization. By embedding FPIC, gender-disaggregated monitoring, and community-led enterprises, the project strengthens delivery on **Targets 20, 22, and 23** related to traditional knowledge, equitable participation, and gender equality. In doing so, CONSERVE ensures that biodiversity outcomes are not only environmentally sound but also socially inclusive.

No national policies have been identified that contradict the intended outcomes of the project. On the contrary, the project builds upon and reinforces India's existing legislative and policy frameworks, particularly the **Biological Diversity Act (2002)** and its Access and Benefit Sharing provisions. By aligning with national priorities and international commitments, CONSERVE provides a coherent, whole-of-system approach that positions biodiversity as a cornerstone of India's sustainable development and climate resilience agenda.

E. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Yes

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

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:

Amount ($) of GBFF project financing to support actions by IPLCs	PIF Stage	CEO endorsement stage
	2,475,780.00	5,300,000.00

If resources have been identified here, please provide a short justification for why they were included, with cross-reference to relevant project components and/or outputs:

USD 5,300,000 of project financing will be done to support actions by local community institutions such as Community-Based Organizations [CBOs], Village Ecosystem Management Committees [VEMCs], Joint Forest Management Committees [JFMCs], Bio-diversity Management Committees etc.

This includes:

- Output 1.1.2: Pilot testing of innovative conservation-livelihood models by local institutions: USD 900,000 in direct grants to pilot the implementation of integrated conservation-livelihood models in selected landscapes.
- Output 2.1.1: Implementation of OECM management plans through community participation: USD 3,000,000 allocated for field-level implementation of OECM plans in six pilot sites across Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. Implementation will be undertaken in collaboration with local community institutions and will cover investments to enhance long-term ecological and institutional sustainability.
- Output 2.2.1: Activation of biodiversity finance instruments at the community level: USD 1,400,000 to support the implementation of co-investment models through community-led institutions across three identified OECM landscapes. These funds will finance the design and testing of biodiversity finance instruments.

Across the three project states, populations identifying as Tribal constitute approximately 88 % in Nagaland, 31 % in Tripura, and 18 % in Uttarakhand — representing an estimated 45 % of total direct beneficiaries. On this basis, about 43 % of total GBFF grant (US$ 5.3 million) financing directly support actions by TPLCs/IPLCs through community institutions such as Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), Village Ecosystem Management Committees (VEMCs), Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), and other community-based organizations.

Local communities, through formalized institutions, will receive and manage project resources either directly (in the case of grants) or through participatory delivery channels supported by ELEMENT project, SBBs and NBA. This includes roles in planning, execution, and monitoring of conservation actions, biodiversity finance pilots, and sustainable resource management.

Weighted by state-level coverage of project activities, and adjusting for tribal dominance in project landscapes, an estimated 45% of the total direct beneficiaries are self-identified Tribal Peoples. Accordingly, approximately 43% of the Project Cost (Co-financing and GBFF grant financing of US$ 5.3 million) will directly supports activities implemented *by or through* TPLCs and their representative institutions. This is in line with the GBFF's aspirational target of 20% of project financing to support Tribal Peoples and Local Communities.

State	Share of project coverage	% Tribal population	Weighted contribution to total Tribal beneficiaries
Nagaland	33.33%	88%	29.33%
Tripura	33.33%	31%	10.33%
Uttarakhand	33.33%	18%	5.99%
Total (weighted)	100%	—	≈ 45.65% Tribal beneficiaries

Pro-Rated Financing of Actions by TPLCs: The financing in support of TPLCs is distributed across three major outputs:

Output	Description	GBFF Financing (USD)	% of total grant	Primary Implementers
1.1.2	Pilot testing of integrated conservation-livelihood models through local institutions (VEMCs, BMCs, JFMCs)	900,000	7.26%	Community institutions at landscape level
2.1.1	Implementation of OECM management plans through community participation in 3 states	3,000,000	24.23%	Biodiversity Management Committees, VEMCs, and traditional councils
2.2.1	Activation of biodiversity-finance instruments (ABS/credits) for community conservation	1,400,000	11.31%	Local cooperatives and community federations
Total	Direct TPLC implementation	5,300,000	≈ 42.8% of total GBFF grant for on-ground actions	—

The project confirms that all community groups classified as Tribal Peoples under the Constitution of India (Fifth and Sixth Schedules) and formally recognized by the respective State Governments meet the GBF/GBFF conceptual definition of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). In line with India's constitutional and legal framework, the nationally used term "Tribal Peoples and Local Communities (TPLCs)" is therefore applied throughout the CEO-ER as the appropriate legal equivalent of "IPLCs," while maintaining full consistency with GBFF reporting requirements.

For all activities counted as "Actions by IPLCs/TPLCs," the project ensures that these are designed or co-designed with TPLCs in accordance with their self-determined priorities, and are developed through traditional or customary governance structures recognized by these communities (e.g., Gram Sabhas, Village Councils, Tribal Councils, JFMCs, BMCs, and Sixth Schedule institutions).

During project inception, FPIC-compliant participatory mapping and baseline beneficiary assessments will validate community self-identification, confirm the use of customary decision-making structures, and refine the proportional attribution of costs to IPLC-related activities. These verified data will subsequently inform GBFF portfolio reporting and all Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs).

Are IPLCs to receive and manage resources for the execution of project components/activities?

Yes

Are IPLCs leading the design and management of some project activities but do not manage financial resources?

No

Does the project provide in-kind support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity?

Yes

Are IPLCs part of the project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body?

Yes

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

F. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project, these have been clearly described in the Project Description, and they will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

YES

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

Total GEF Financing Table

Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds. All GEF sources of funds should be included here.

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
UNDP	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	3,369,925.00	175,913.00	3,545,838.00
UNDP	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	414,731.00	238,500.00	653,231.00
UNDP	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	Grant	2,404,794.00	142,637.00	2,547,431.00
World Bank	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	3,682,039.00	175,913.00	3,857,952.00
World Bank	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	1,768,415.00	238,500.00	2,006,915.00
World Bank	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	Grant	738,996.00	142,637.00	881,633.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**12,378,900.00**	**1,114,100.00**	**13,493,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

300,000.00

PPG Agency Fee ($)

27,000.00

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	112,500.00	10,125.00	122,625.00
UNDP	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	37,500.00	3,375.00	40,875.00
World Bank	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	112,500.00	10,125.00	122,625.00

World Bank	GBFF	India	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	37,500.00	3,375.00	40,875.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**300,000.00**	**27,000.00**	**327,000.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for non-GBFF GEF resources (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Actual Focal Area Programming	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Action Area Elements (and Focal Area Elements for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	7,051,964.00	15,000,000.00
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	2,183,146.00	10,000,000.00
GBFF Action Area 4	GBFF	3,143,790.00	5,250,000.00
Total Project Cost		**12,378,900.00**	**30,250,000.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	World Bank-ELEMENT project	Loans	Investment mobilized	30,000,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
Total Co-financing				**30,250,000.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The World Bank's co-financing through the ELEMENT project, amounting to USD 30 million, provides the investment depth required to scale, supplement, and sustain these catalytic interventions. ELEMENT builds on a strong foundation of landscape-level planning and implementation in Nagaland and Tripura, enabling the broader application of GBFF-supported models. It supplements GBFF efforts by financing larger-scale implementation of restoration, livelihood diversification, and community-based governance across additional geographies.

UNDP's co-financing (USD 250,000) plays a complementary yet vital role in ensuring accountability, learning, and adaptive management across the project. Through targeted support for Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and knowledge management, UNDP will facilitate the development and maintenance of comprehensive monitoring systems at national, state, and community levels, ensuring that project outcomes are rigorously tracked, safeguards are upheld, knowledge is disseminated, and adaptive management is informed by real-time data.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification :

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
	9/10/2025	Tashi Dorji		nancy.bennet@undp.org
	9/10/2025	Tashi Dorji		tashi.dorji@undp.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Neelesh Kumar Sah	Joint Secretary and GEF OFP	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change	9/27/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also copy and paste the Project Results Framework from the project document below.

Project Results Framework can be found on pages 84 - 96 of the Project Document

Contribution to GBFF action area(s):

Action Area 1: Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use and spatial planning

Action Area 2: Support to IPLC stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters

Action Area 4: Resource mobilization
Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 1 (No Poverty), through equitable benefit-sharing and sustainable livelihoods; SDG 5 (Gender Equality), by removing barriers for women and marginalized groups in biodiversity governance; SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), by promoting sustainable value chains linked to biodiversity-based products and SDG 15 (Life on Land), by reversing forest degradation and conserving ecosystems

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country [or Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: By 2027, the Government of India, communities, private sector, and other actors can take informed action to address climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, and to maintain and restore ecological integrity, with the capacity to mainstream this action across sectoral programmes, plans, and policies, considering the most vulnerable populations.

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:

SP Output 1.1: The 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other inter-governmentally agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place, and budgets and progress assessed using data-driven solutions

SP Output 1.2: Evidence-based and inclusive policy, legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and public administration systems strengthen the delivery of the SDGs.

SP Output 2.1: Nature-based solutions expanded and integrated into development and climate strategies, including through enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services, and nature-based livelihoods.

SP Output 2.5: Inclusive, integrated solutions for sustainable, productive and resilient agriculture, food and commodity systems implemented at scale.

SP Output 3.1: Greater participation and representation of women, youth and marginalized groups in decision-making to advance inclusive governance, including through strengthened capacities and systems.

SP Output 4.1: Inclusive and sustainable economic transformation driven by productive capacities, diversification, job creation and improved livelihoods, especially for marginalized groups.

Project title and Quantum Project Number: Conservation of Biodiversity, its Sustainable Use, Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits in India (CONSERVE) (ID: 9953)

Objective and Outcome Indicators	Data Source	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Data Collection Methods	Risks/Assumptions
Project Objective:	To improve biodiversity management, monitoring, sustainable financing and co-benefits from enhanced implementation of NBSAP					
Indicator 1: Area (hectares) of India's terrestrial landscapes brought under legally designated and formally recognized OECMs, measured through official notifications and verified management plans. (relevant to GEF CI: 4.5)	• Protected Planet Database (World Database on OECM – WD-OECM, maintained by UNEP-WCMC & IUCN). • India's National Report to the CBD (MoEFCC). • MoEFCC Annual Report	OECM coverage: 0% formally recognized in India (as of latest WDPA/OECM database update – December 2024)[1].	5000 Ha. including 2000 ha.in the Project States	15,000 Ha. including 5000 ha in the Project States	• Annual data extraction from the WDPA and OECM registry for India • Cross-verification with MoEFCC's Protected Area notifications and Gazette	Assumptions: • Government of India continues to notify new PAs/OECMs in alignment with CBD GBF Target 3 commitments. • OECM guidelines are operationalized nationally during project lifetime Risks:

	(latest edition).				publications. • Spatial analysis using GIS to confirm boundaries and area coverage.	• Policy delays in OECM recognition. • Changes in land use or de-notification of PAs could offset gains.
Indicator 2: Proportion of state and national biodiversity decision-making processes (e.g. processes for policy formulation and approval, Planning and Programme Development, Budgeting and Financial Allocation, M&E and Reporting, Regulatory and Approval, Cross Sectoral Coordination and decision making etc.) that are informed by data from the National Biodiversity MIS and Data Portal	Official minutes and policy records of the NBA, (SBBs); records of ministries and departments incorporating MIS data in policies, conservation plans, and sectoral strategies: The process will inlcude: 1. Policy Formulation and Approval Processes: Drafting and adoption of biodiversity-related policies, strategies, and action plans, such as NBSAPs, SBSAPs, sectoral biodiversity strategies, and climate/biodiversity integration policies; Parliamentary/legislative processes or cabinet approvals where biodiversity considerations are integrated. 2. Planning and Program Development Processes: Preparation of national/state five-year plans, annual work plans, or departmental strategies where biodiversity and	0% (no formal MIS exists; biodiversity data use is ad-hoc and fragmented)	At least 50% of relevant policy processes in participating states and national agencies reference MIS outputs	At least 80% of relevant policy processes at state and national level reference MIS outputs	Review of government policy documents, plans, and meeting records; structured interviews with policymakers; annual MIS usage analytics reports	Assumes that MIS is developed and functional as planned; capacity-building activities effectively enable state and national agencies to use the portal; data updates are regular and relevant Risk: Risk of low adoption due to limited digital literacy, bureaucratic inertia, or competing political priorities; risk of MIS data being outdated if maintenance lapses

		ecosystem data are mainstreamed. 3. Budgeting and Financial Allocation Processes: Budget tagging and expenditure reviews (e.g., biodiversity finance plans, costed NBSAPs/SBSAPs). 4. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Processes: National and state-level biodiversity reports; Reporting under international conventions such as the CBD, GBF, SDGs, or UNFCCC, where MIS data feeds into progress reports. 5. Regulatory and Approval Processes: Environmental and biodiversity clearances for infrastructure, mining, or land-use change projects. 6. Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Decision-Making Processes: Inter-ministerial or inter-departmental committees (e.g., steering committees, biodiversity boards, sectoral working groups).					
Indicator 3: Volume of sustainable biodiversity finance mobilized	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) financial reports; State Biodiversity Board (SBB)	USD 5 million/year (current national-level biodiversity-related public	USD 7.5 million/year (including new project-linked state budget lines	USD 10 million/year (institutionalized budget allocations + scaled private	Annual financial tracking using the UNDP BIOFIN	Assumes Government commitment to mainstream biodiversity finance;

annually from public and private sources to support NBSAP implementation - aligned with GBF Target 19 (Mobilize financial resources for biodiversity) and International and domestic public funding and private funding raised, including ODA for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems)	budgets; Ministry of Finance biodiversity expenditure reviews; CBD Financial Reporting Framework	expenditure, 2024)	and private sector contributions)	sector mechanisms such as biodiversity credits, CSR)	methodology; verification through CBD financial reporting and independent audit of project-supported financial mechanisms	functioning national and state financial reporting systems; private sector engagement sustained through incentives Risks: Economic downturns reducing government or private sector willingness to invest; policy shifts affecting biodiversity budget allocations
Indicator 4: (GEF CI 6): Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO_2e)	KBAs improved management reports, and resource management reports	No Limited efforts and capacity to assess carbon values	Monitoring system and methodology established and validated for monitoring and staff trained	**3,482,427** tons of CO_2e over 20-year period mitigated through site-level implementation of sustainable use, restoration, and conservation mechanisms of 58,000 ha of KBAs and critical ecosystems, measured over a 20-year period	Assessment reports in terms of forest cover within the 'improved management' landscapes, etc. -FAO-EXACT tool	Assumes that KBA management, restoration, and sustainable conservation practices are successfully implemented across 200,000 ha, leading to measurable carbon benefits; that local communities actively participate in conserving forests, wetlands, and catchments; and that climatic conditions remain sufficiently stable to support biomass growth and carbon accumulation over time. <u>Risks:</u> Insufficient livelihood co-benefits or delays in economic incentives (such as from ABS or restoration-linked enterprises) may limit sustained community

							engagement in conservation, reducing the extent and quality of practices that deliver carbon benefits. Additionally, increased climate variability (droughts, fires, pest outbreaks) could undermine biomass gains, affecting expected CO_2 mitigation outcomes.
Project component 1	Component 1: Strengthening Biodiversity Governance for improved ecosystem management						
Project Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity management integrated into the national and state spatial planning frameworks to accelerate implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).						
Outcome 1.1 Indicators	Indicator 5: An Updated national map of key terrestrial biodiversity areas and ecosystems; Spatial plans for biodiversity and critical ecosystems developed and mainstreamed into state's conservation plans with % women participation in local spatial planning consultation	Validated spatial datasets from the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, and technical partner institutions; project-supported mapping outputs; and official records of state conservation planning documents integrating biodiversity spatial plans.	No consolidated national biodiversity spatial map; no state spatial biodiversity plans formally integrated	National biodiversity mapping underway; at least 1 draft state-level spatial biodiversity plan prepared and validated with at least 50% women participation in local spatial planning consultation	1 updated national map developed and adopted; 3 state spatial biodiversity plans developed and mainstreamed into Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Tripura's conservation plans with at least 50% women participation in local spatial planning consultation	GIS-based mapping and spatial data consolidation using national biodiversity datasets; methodological reviews by expert institutions; validation workshops with state planning and forest departments; and documentation of official mainstreaming through government-endorsed conservation plans.	Assumes that necessary biodiversity and spatial datasets are accessible and of sufficient quality; that technical partners (NBA, BSI, ZSI, NIC, state GIS agencies) actively collaborate to develop the national biodiversity map and state spatial plans; and that MoEFCC and state planning authorities maintain coordination and political support to validate, endorse, and formally integrate these plans into official conservation policies without significant delays. <u>Risk:</u> Technical or institutional delays in consolidating spatial data,

						validating KBA and ecosystem maps, or securing formal state-level endorsements may slow or compromise the mainstreaming of biodiversity priorities into conservation plans. Additionally, evolving political priorities or sectoral conflicts (e.g., infrastructure pressures) could reduce the integration of spatial plans into actual decision-making processes.
Indicator 6: Area of high biodiversity / critical ecosystems outside PAs in Nagaland, Tripura & Uttarakhand brought under improved management through implementation of innovative management models.	Spatial data and land management records from State Forest and Biodiversity Departments of Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand; GIS-based maps developed under the project; and gender-disaggregated beneficiary information from community-level implementation partners and PMU records. Reports submitted by the RP to NBA and NPSC	No land under project-supported innovative biodiversity management outside Pas; no targeted community reached	100,000 ha under improved management ; 10,000 people reached (min 50% women)	195,000 ha under improved management through piloted models; 25,000 people benefitted (50% women)	Remote sensing and GIS mapping to delineate managed hectares; field verification and participatory assessment involving local communities ; household-level surveys and community enumeration to document direct beneficiaries (with gender disaggregation); data consolidated and validated by PMU and implementing partners during MTR and TE.	Assumes active collaboration from state forest and biodiversity departments, as well as from local institutions such as BMCs and CCA committees; that innovative management models (including OECMs, ABS pilots, and restoration-livelihood integrations) are accepted by communities and do not face socio-political barriers or local disputes; and that enabling policies remain supportive to facilitate smooth piloting and scaling across targeted landscapes. <u>Risk:</u> Potential land tenure complexities, local institutional challenges, or hesitation to adopt new biodiversity-livelihood models

							could delay or reduce the effective area under improved management. Additionally, weak coordination among state agencies and village institutions may hamper the consistent rollout of these innovative models, thereby limiting achievement of coverage and direct beneficiary targets.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	Output 1.1.1: Key Biodiversity areas and terrestrial ecosystems are mapped spatially at the national and state levels and mainstreamed into the national conservation planning and the state's conservation plan. Output 1.1.2: Innovative management models and strategies developed and implemented for conservation of high value biodiversity.						
Project Outcome 1.2	Outcome 1.2: Capacities for monitoring NBSAP implementation strengthened through the development of an integrated biodiversity management information system (MIS)						
Outcome 1.2 Indicators	Indicator 7: Development and operationalisation of national biodiversity MIS and data portal and generation of biodiversity MIS monitoring reports and knowledge products	Technical specifications and deployment reports of the MIS and portal developed under the project; usage analytics and update logs from the hosting agency (e.g., NIC); records of published biodiversity monitoring reports and knowledge products maintained by the PMU and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).	No integrated biodiversity MIS/data portal exists; fragmented information across institutions; no standard monitoring reports	MIS design finalized; core modules and beta portal under testing; at least 1 monitoring report published	One MIS and data portal fully operational; at least 3 biodiversity monitoring reports and 3 knowledge products disseminated via public events and digital channels	Progress monitoring through development milestones and testing records; documentation of institutional handover and operational protocols; tracking of user engagement and portal analytics; and qualitative review of published outputs, validated through stakeholder consultation and expert peer review.	Assumes effective collaboration with NIC, NBA, MoEFCC, and other technical institutions for the design, deployment, and operational handover of the MIS; assumes timely data contributions from national and state agencies to populate and sustain the portal; and that there are no significant regulatory or cybersecurity bottlenecks affecting data hosting, integration, or public access. <u>Risk:</u> Risks include technical or institutional delays in finalizing the MIS architecture

						and hosting environment, hesitancy of key agencies to share or update biodiversity data, and low uptake of MIS functionalities by state departments or local bodies, which could weaken real-time monitoring, reporting under the GBF, and the overall utility of knowledge products.
Indicator 8: Increase in institutional capacity (score) of NBA, SBBs, BMCs and other relevant agencies from baseline (measured through capacity assessment scorecard) with % of women trained in using MIS for biodiversity monitoring	Baseline and follow-up capacity assessment scorecards completed for NBA, SBBs, BMCs, and other target institutions, maintained by the PMU and validated by an independent expert panel or technical consultant.	Institutional ca pacity scorecard NBA: 27/48, Nagaland SBB: 17/48, Tripura 28/48, Uttarakhand 27/48, BMC to be done during inception phase of the project	25% improvement in institutional capacity score for target agencies with 50% of women trained in using MIS for biodiversity monitoring	50% improvement in institutional capacity score for NBA, SBBs, BMCs, and other partners with 50% of women trained in using MIS for biodiversity monitoring	Use of a standardized institutional capacity assessment tool (scorecard) tailored to biodiversity governance; baseline assessment conducted during project inception; mid-term and end-term assessments facilitated through structured surveys, stakeholder consultations, and review of institutional performance data; consolidated and analyzed by the PMU with support from external experts.	Assumes strong willingness by NBA, SBBs, BMCs, and other agencies to actively participate in capacity assessments, training programs, and follow-up evaluations; that institutional leadership remains supportive of biodiversity mainstreaming; and that staffing stability allows retention of newly acquired skills and institutional knowledge. <u>Risk:</u> There is a risk that staff turnover, competing institutional mandates, or limited resource allocations may reduce engagement in capacity building activities, weakening long-term improvements in institutional capacity scores and the sustainability of biodiversity

							governance reforms.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2	Output 1.2.1: A National biodiversity MIS portal established for monitoring and annual reporting on biodiversity protection, management and restoration. Output 1.2.2: Knowledge products (policy briefs, case studies) generated utilizing MIS-data portal's monitoring reports and disseminated to public. Output 1.2.3: Capacity building for at least 150 key personnel from government agencies at national, sub-national and local levels for operationalizing the MIS portal.						
Project component 2	Component 2: Advancing Tools for Strengthening Community-Level Biodiversity Conservation						
Project Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.1: Enhanced biodiversity protection, management and monitoring (MRV) achieved through community co-management approaches in Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand.						
Outcome 2.1 Indicators	Indicator 9: Number/area of OECMs formally notified and under improved biodiversity and habitat management through FPIC-compliant community co-management mechanisms.	Official OECM notification records from State Forest Departments and MoEFCC; biodiversity and habitat management plans approved by relevant authorities; spatial data on demarcated OECMs; and progress reports submitted by local implementing agencies and PMU.	No OECMs officially notified or under co-management in Nagaland and Tripura	At least 2 OECMs formally notified; 2 management plans under implementation covering 2,000 ha	5 OECMs ((covering a total area of 5,000 ha) notified and managed through community co-management approaches; 5,000 ha under improved biodiversity and habitat management	Review of state-issued OECM notifications; validation of management plan implementation through field assessments and participatory monitoring with community institutions; GIS mapping to verify extent of areas under improved management; and periodic reporting by PMU and technical partners, including photographic evidence and geo-tagged documentation.	Assumes sustained willingness of local communities to participate in OECM identification, planning, and management; effective facilitation by local NGOs and government agencies to support FPIC processes and formalization; and that State Biodiversity Boards and Forest Departments prioritize OECM notifications within their regulatory workflows without major administrative delays. <u>Risk:</u> There is a risk that delays in formal notification processes, insufficient local consensus on co-management models, or unforeseen land tenure disputes could slow or restrict the operationalization of OECMs,

						reducing both the area brought under improved biodiversity management and the demonstration value for replication.
Indicator 10: (a) Number of TPLC members (of which % women) participating in OECM identification, validation, and management processes; and (b) Number of knowledge products documenting TPLC roles in OECM governance produced and disseminated by EOP.	Community mobilization and participation records maintained by State Forest Departments, JFMCs/BMCs, and project partners; gender-disaggregated attendance registers from consultations and training sessions; and finalized knowledge products published by PMU and implementing partners.	0 TPLC members formally involved in OECM identification or documented in knowledge products	2,500 TPLC members involved in decision-making (50% women) and management; at least 1 knowledge product produced	5,000 TPLC members engaged (50% women); at least 2 knowledge products disseminated nationally and locally	Documentation of participant lists and meeting/training records, verified by village-level institutions and community facilitators; regular monitoring by implementing partners and PMU to track participation metrics; content analysis and publication records for knowledge products developed in partnership with local stakeholders and technical experts.	Assumes that TPLCs (Tribal Peoples and Local Communities) remain motivated to engage in OECM identification, planning, and management; that gender-sensitive facilitation effectively promotes equitable participation of women and marginalized groups; and that qualified local partners and documentation teams are available to capture and disseminate experiences in culturally appropriate ways. <u>Risk:</u> There is a risk that cultural norms, intra-community dynamics, or logistical barriers could limit meaningful participation of certain groups, especially women and youth, in OECM processes. Additionally, inadequate documentation or weak validation of community knowledge could reduce the quality and credibility of knowledge products, undermining

							learning and replication objectives.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	Output 2.1.1: Management plans developed for identifying, recognising and managing OECMs. Output 2.1.2: Knowledge products and lessons from OECM identification, establishment and management produced and disseminated to public.						
Project Outcome 2.2	Innovative financing instruments deployed to support biodiversity management, monitoring, and community-level OECMs						
Outcome 2.2 Indicators	Indicator 11: Amount of additional funds (US$) mobilized for community level biodiversity conservation, including OECMs, from market-based instruments (carbon/biodiversity/ green credits etc.) and/or from ABS mechanism with % of ABS beneficiaries and biodiversity enterprise participants are women or women-led groups	Official financial records, agreements, and transaction reports from participating institutions (e.g., State Forest Departments, MoEFCC, NBA); documentation of funds mobilized through ABS agreements and market-based instruments; and statements or reports from financial intermediaries, community institutions, and private sector partners involved in credit or ABS schemes.	No dedicated financing for OECMs from market-based or ABS mechanisms at baseline; financing models not piloted in target states	At least $0.5 million committed through pilot mechanisms and/or signed expressions of interest by potential funders	At least USD 2 million mobilized through signed financial agreements or disbursements from carbon credits, biodiversity credits, green finance, or ABS-related arrangements With ≥40% of ABS beneficiaries and biodiversity enterprise participants are women or women-led groups	Tracking of fund flows and signed agreements through periodic financial and technical reporting by PMU and implementing partners; documentation review of ABS contracts and green credit mechanisms; validation through audit reports, financial statements, and monitoring visits; and stakeholder verification of fund receipt and utilization at the community level.	Assumes an enabling policy and regulatory environment that supports operationalization of biodiversity-linked financing (such as carbon markets and ABS frameworks); assumes sustained interest from private sector actors and buyers to invest in or purchase biodiversity or carbon credits; and assumes that state and community institutions can effectively develop bankable proposals, meet safeguard and compliance standards, and negotiate agreements. Risk: There is a risk that regulatory delays, limited investor appetite, or insufficient technical capacity to structure robust green financing and ABS deals could slow or reduce financial flows to community-level biodiversity initiatives. This may impact the scale-up of OECMs

							and restoration-linked livelihoods envisaged under the project.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2	Output 2.2.1: Additional financing instruments mobilised for funding community-level OECM conservation.						
Project component 3	Component 3: Enhancing innovative financing instruments and development of financial plans for supporting NBSAP implementation						
Project Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.1: Financial resources mobilized and efficiently allocated through adoption of updated biodiversity finance plans						
Outcome 3.1 Indicators	Indicator 12: Number of National and State biodiversity budget plans developed and formally adopted for NBSAP, and SBSAP implementation	Official records and budget planning documents endorsed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and State Biodiversity Boards; reports from technical working groups and inter-departmental consultations; and validated outputs from the biodiversity expenditure reviews (BERs) and budget tagging processes.	No dedicated national or state biodiversity budget (finance) plans aligned with NBSAP/SBSAPs; no biodiversity budget tagging frameworks in place	Draft biodiversity expenditure reviews completed; biodiversity finance instruments under consultation in at least 2 states	One national and three state-level biodiversity budget (finance) plans finalized and officially endorsed; integrated into national and state planning/budget systems	Collection and review of endorsed biodiversity budget plans and related documentation; technical validation through workshops and formal government circulars; monitoring of budget tagging implementation across sectors using MoEFCC and state finance department reporting systems; and analysis of planning and expenditure alignment with NBSAP/SBSAP targets by the PMU and finance experts.	Assumes strong alignment of biodiversity priorities with national and state public financial management agendas; that MoEFCC, Ministry of Finance, and state planning/finance departments actively support the preparation and institutional adoption of costed biodiversity strategies; and that technical processes, such as biodiversity expenditure reviews and budget tagging tool validation, progress without major delays. Risk: There is a risk that competing fiscal priorities or limited technical familiarity with biodiversity budgeting could slow the adoption of biodiversity budget plans and tagging protocols. This may result in delays in formally endorsing or integrating these plans into routine financial systems,

							potentially undermining timely support for NBSAP and SBSAP implementation.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1	Output 3.1.1: National and state-level biodiversity action plans budgeted[2], and adopted for improving efficiency of resource allocation for NBSAP and SBSAPs implementation.						
Project Component 4	Component 4: Project monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management.						
Project Outcome 4.1	Outcome 4.1: Effective management, monitoring and reporting that is responsive to gender, youth, IPs, and communities' actions related to project interventions, impacts and outcomes.						
Outcome 4.1 Indicator	Indicator 13: Project monitoring and evaluation (annual PIRs, MTR and TE) facilitated and delivered, and recommendations taken on board to improve project management and for the development of the project sustainability plan.	Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), Mid-Term Review (MTR) report, Terminal Evaluation (TE) report, and corresponding Management Response matrices maintained by UNDP and the PMU. Internal documentation on follow-up actions, including meeting records, implementation tracking tools, and the final sustainability plan approved by the Project Steering Committee.	No structured project M&E system operational at project outset; no baseline PIR	Annual PIRs initiated; MTR completed and recommendations integrated into updated workplan	Terminal Evaluation completed; all mandatory GEF/UNDP/WB M&E reports delivered; sustainability strategy developed and institutionalized	Compilation and review of PIRs and evaluation reports submitted through UNDP's monitoring systems. Assessment of recommendation uptake based on Management Response tracking and evidence of adaptive actions incorporated into project planning and execution. Data collected by the PMU in coordination with the UNDP Country Office and independent evaluators, following GEF and UNDP evaluation protocols.	Assumes the continuous engagement and availability of dedicated M&E focal points at the PMU, implementing partners, and UNDP levels; assumes project implementation stays broadly on track to allow meaningful evaluation of outcomes; assumes adequate budget is reserved for conducting the MTR, TE, and follow-up consultations; and that recommendations will be constructively reviewed and adopted by the Project Steering Committees and implementing agencies. Risk: There is a risk that staffing or budget constraints, unforeseen delays in implementation, or insufficient buy-in from project partners could hamper the timely completion of the

MTR or TE, weaken uptake of their recommendations, or delay the formulation and institutionalization of the project sustainability plan. This could compromise adaptive management and longer-term impacts.

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
International Consultants: Supported Team Leader and other consultants in development of Project Document and SESP Package for submission. Stakeholder consultations and preparation of background documents that fed into the CEO Endorsement Request 1. International PPG Team Leader for Project Development 2. International consultant to assist the PPG team leader, support to prepare GHG estimate, spatial analysis. 3. International Safeguard Specialist	51,900.00	44,537.23	21,668.82
National Consultants: Included technical experts for the development of baseline assessments, feasibility studies, and drafting of the project framework. This included preparation of technical inputs on biodiversity, policy, and financing mechanisms, as well as stakeholder engagement plans. 1. National Biodiversity Specialist 2. Finance Specialist 3. IT Expert 4. Junior Technical Consultant	42,500.00	12,204.43	36,627.60
Travel: Covered domestic and international missions (PPG Team Leader) undertaken during the PPG phase for consultations with stakeholders, site visits to 3 states, and coordination meetings. This enabled data collection and validation with government counterparts, civil society, and local communities	60,600.00	12,844.40	47,755.60
Contractual Services-Companies: Engaged an agency to conduct Final Stakeholder Consultation with MoEFCC, NBA, States and other relevant stakeholders to project consultants followed by organizing the Validation Workshop for vetting of data collected for CEO ER with States	25,000.00	17,299.28	7,700.72
Supplies: The expenditure reported relates specifically to printing consumables required for preparing project documentation, stakeholder workshop materials, and official submissions during the PPG phase. These were essential for ensuring effective consultations and preparation for the project design and the documents	12,500.00	0.00	12,500.00

Audio Visual & Print Production Costs: Covered design and printing of consultation materials such as FPIC sheets (attached in PPG Consultation Annex), infographics, and project communication materials in multilingual used in multi-stakeholder consultations during project design missions	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
Training, Workshops and Conferences: Supported the organization of multi-stakeholder consultations, validation workshops, and technical meetings with government counterparts, CSOs, and private sector representatives. These inputs were critical to shaping the project design and ensuring broad ownership	82,500.00	92.98	61,768.94
Total	**300,000.00**	**86,978.32**	**213,021.68**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tseminyu Landscape	25.921527	94.111218	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Longleng Landscape	26.457957	94.791190	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peren Landscape	25.613465	93.819841	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Khowai, Chabimura and Rudrasagar Landscape	23.778503	91.569789	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Uttarakhand Landscape	29.599065	79.247345	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

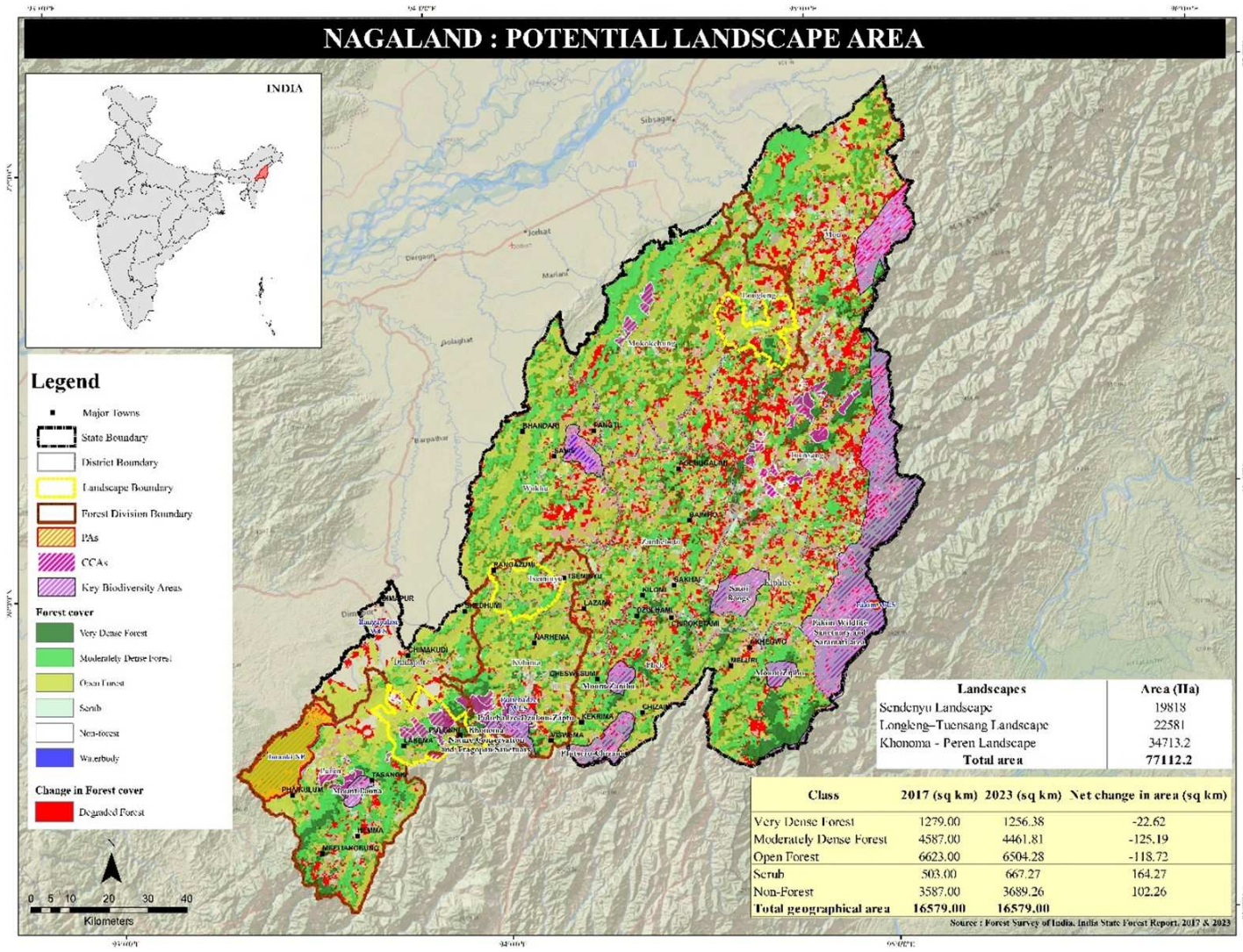


Figure 2 Map of intervention areas in nagaland

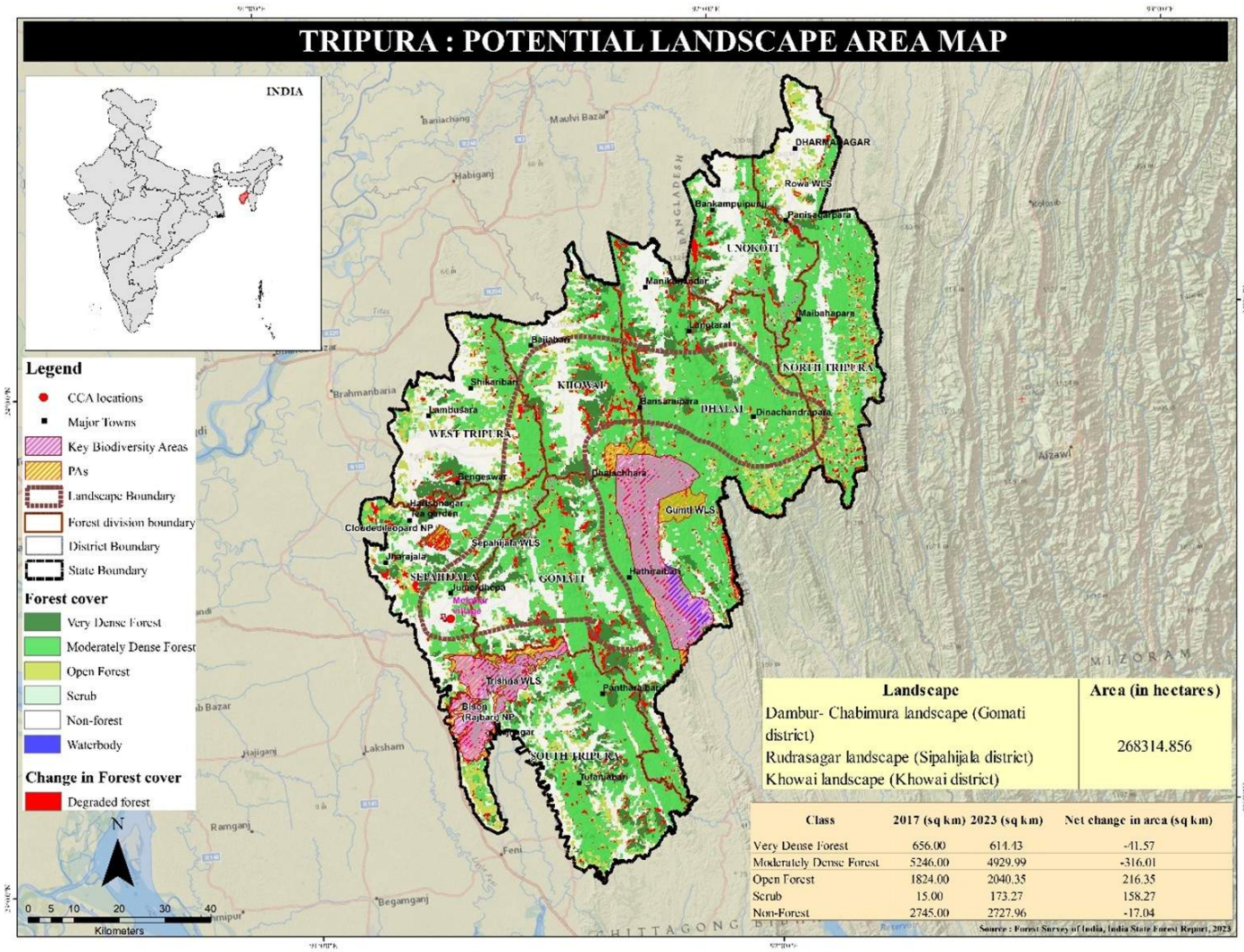


Figure 3 Map of intervention areas in tripura

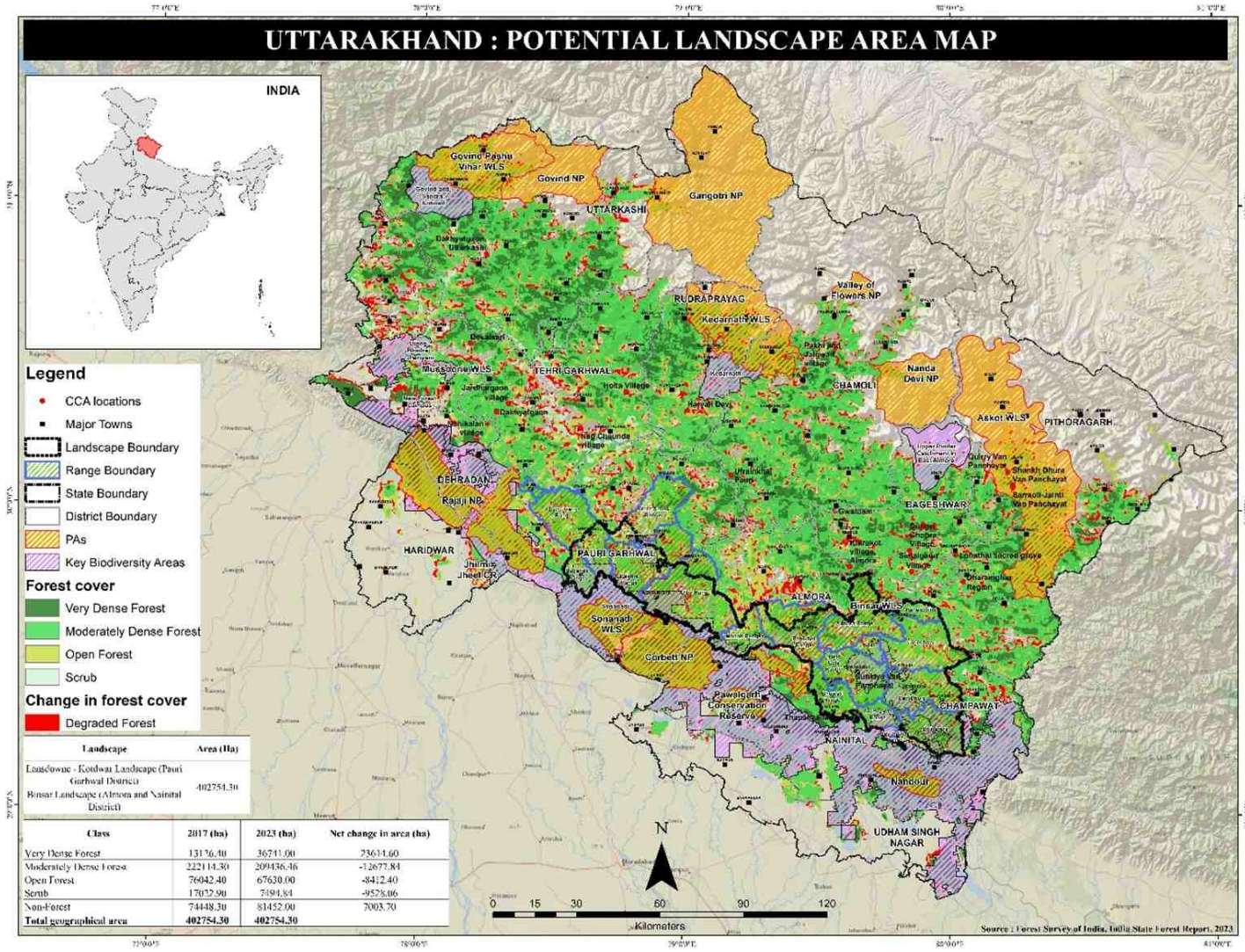


Figure 4 map of intervention areas in uttarakhand

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title
9953 Annex 5 CONSERVE SESP_14Oct2025

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)									Responsible Entity
		Component 1		Component 2		Comp 3	*Sub-Total*	*Comp 4*	*PMC*	Total (USDeq.)	
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1		*Outcome 4.1 M&E*			
Equipment	Software QA and licensing	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Equipment	Software license, helpdesk tools, for operationalization of helpdesk system		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Equipment	Equipment for development of Dashboard mockups for 5 indicators		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Equipment	4 Laptops for PMU						-		*8,000*	**8,000**	NBA
Equipment	MIS maintenance charges								*8,000*	**8,000**	NBA
Sub-total: Equipment		***25,000***	***35,000***	-	-	-	***60,000***	-	***16,000***	***76,000***	
Grants	Grant for implementation of 6 pilot sites	900,000					***900,000***			**900,000**	NBA
Sub-total: Grants		***900,000***	-	-	-	-	***900,000***	-	-	***900,000***	
Contractual services - Individual	M&E Associate						-	*102,500*		**102,500**	NBA
Contractual services - Individual	National Project Officer						-		*100,000*	**100,000**	NBA
Sub-total: Grants		-	-	-	-	-	-	***102,500***	***100,000***	***202,500***	
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for conducting a national inventory and gap analysis of existing biodiversity spatial datasets	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA

Contractual Services – Company	1 GIS agency for mapping and validation of KBAs and ecological corridors	60,000					***60,000***			**60,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for MIS development for developing an operational version control and validation system	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 digital policy firm for drafting a data governance framework	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 GIS firm for integrating biodiversity spatial layers	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 GIS firms for co-designing and developing prototype GIS overlays	80,000					***80,000***			**80,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for technical integration for embedding national biodiversity map layers and update protocols	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for GIS field contract + printing	35,886					***35,886***			**35,886**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of 3 GIS integration packages and contingency	70,000					***70,000***			**70,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of 3 packages for design, writing, and review of biodiversity integration packages	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of 9 case studies	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA

Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of user toolkits and SOPs in English and regional languages	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	3 state GIS/e-planning portals (Tripura, Nagaland, Uttarakhand) and contingency	45,000					***45,000***			**45,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for conducting pilot testing at 6 locations	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 content development firm	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 dissemination and communications firm	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for preparation of GIS-based prioritization reports with spatial overlays	45,000					***45,000***			**45,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for conducting a comprehensive scoping study report	40,000					***40,000***			**40,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm + validation cost for developing six detailed model design briefs	70,000					***70,000***			**70,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development, review, and pilot testing of 4 training modules	40,000					***40,000***			**40,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm with expertise in visual storytelling, communications, and participatory documentation	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of 6 implementation toolkits	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA

Contractual Services – Company	1 Consultant firm (with expertise in SES)	29,539					***29,539***			**29,539**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 professional communication firm	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development and field testing of proof-of-concept MIS prototype		50,000				***50,000***			**50,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for conducting 3 pilots (Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Tripura)		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of modular MIS components		50,000				***50,000***			**50,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of Android-compatible MIS mobile app		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for API integration, user access control, and data backup		60,000				***60,000***			**60,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for finalization and public release of MIS mobile apps for field-level data collection		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of a Technical Package		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for turnkey contract for onboarding 3 state-level data systems		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for bug resolution and performance optimization		35,000				***35,000***			**35,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 vendor contract for annual app build and synchronization release		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA

	with portal upgrades										
Contractual Services – Company	1 IT firm for development of real-time dashboards for MoEFCC, NITI Aayog, and state-level planning		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for development of guidelines and providing translation services in 3 languages and layout services		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm with biodiversity governance specialist, MIS application expert, knowledge communication expert		50,000				***50,000***			**50,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm with a fixed IT contract for repository and dashboard interface		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm with expertise in web-based MIS and dashboard development		40,000				***40,000***			**40,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm (NIC) for user analytics dashboard module with feedback, ratings, and engagement logs		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm (IT systems integrator) for handover of digital repositories and outreach assets		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm (certification admin and database service provider)		12,000				***12,000***			**12,000**	NBA
Contractual Services – Company	1 firm for global review and facilitation of 3 national consultations					*30,000*	***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Contractual Servic	Firm contracts to						**-**	*105,000*		**105,000**	UNDP

es – Company	conduct MTR/TE										
Sub-total: Contractual Services – Company		***855,425***	***517,000***	***-***	***-***	***30,000***	***1,402,425***	***105,000***	***-***	***1,507,425***	
Local Consultants	1 spatial data governance expert	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 GIS and metadata consultants	8,000					***8,000***			**8,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 biodiversity spatial mapping expert	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	3 governance facilitation specialists	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 spatial classification experts	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	4 GIS policy and spatial governance experts	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 environmental data integration expert	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 spatial planning and GIS integration specialists	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 knowledge management and documentation specialist	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 tool development and user testing experts	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national policy planning consultant	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national legal expert	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national institutional development consultant	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national GIS and ecology consultants	45,000					***45,000***			**45,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national ecology consultant	12,000					***12,000***			**12,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national spatial planning expert	7,000					***7,000***			**7,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national institutional planning expert	6,000					***6,000***			**6,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national coordination/	16,000					***16,000***			**16,000**	NBA

	governance experts										
Local Consultants	1 Project Coordination consultant	14,000					***14,000***			**14,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national coordination and documentation consultant	12,000					***12,000***			**12,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national GIS consultants	14,000					***14,000***			**14,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national biodiversity planning expert	12,000					***12,000***			**12,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	3 national biodiversity planning consultants	45,000					***45,000***			**45,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	3 GIS experts	45,000					***45,000***			**45,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 spatial planning expert	5,000					***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 spatial governance consultants	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 knowledge management specialist	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 financial expert	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 planning and biodiversity integration consultants	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 institutional capacity assessment and sectoral reform consultant	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 interstate coordination and biodiversity planning experts	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 knowledge management and reporting consultant	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 spatial planning/GIS-certified consultants	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 legal/policy consultant	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 political economy consultant	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 QA consultant	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national IT standards consultant	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 QA/documen	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA

	tation consultant										
Local Consultants	1 national MIS consultant	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national consultants (landscape ecology, spatial planning, and environmental governance)	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	3 national consultants (socio-ecological profiling and community diagnostics)	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national consultants (conservation policy and implementation typologies)	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national consultant (landscape-level conservation planning)	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national consultants (NRM-based field training and resource governance)	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national consultant (budget convergence and logical frameworks)	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national consultants (community engagement and digital knowledge platforms)	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national governance consultants (participatory systems and biodiversity governance)	42,000					***42,000***			**42,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 national communication consultant	5,000					***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 consultant (policy analysis, landscape-level learning synthesis, and biodiversity governance)	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 national consultants (public	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA

	finance and state budget strategy)										
Local Consultants	1 consultant (editorial/policy documentation)	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 SES Expert	50,000					***50,000***			**50,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 Gender Expert	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 technical writers/editors + 2 designers	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 policy communication specialist	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 MIS architecture and data governance Consultant		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 expert in institutional design and biodiversity policy		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 consultant in data architecture and ecosystem mapping		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 expert in dashboard visualizations, simplified tools, community reporting interfaces		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 expert in cybersecurity protocols and metadata governance		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 consultant in InfoSec, cybersecurity audits, and NIC compliance		35,000				***35,000***			**35,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 consultant in MIS governance and hosting SOPs		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	3 consultants in MIS training, content design, and multilingual technical writing		35,000				***35,000***			**35,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 Training Evaluation & Certification Specialist		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA

Local Consultants	2 consultants in biodiversity policy alignment and statistical modelling		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 consultants in biodiversity reporting and SDG alignment		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	3 consultants in data analytics, policy writing, and visual communication		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 consultants in legal frameworks and data governance		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 consultants in biodiversity strategy and institutional planning		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 consultants in IT service management and operations		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 consultant in knowledge management and digital support documentation		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 consultants in financial modeling and public budgeting for environmental systems		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 consultants in MIS architecture and emerging technologies		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 consultant in strategic policy and long-term system integration		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 consultants in policy design and SDG reporting system		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 technical consultants in MIS data aggregation and		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA

	metadata QA/QC										
Local Consultants	2 experts in indicator metadata design and protocol standardization		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 landscape reporting consultants		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 biodiversity monitoring analysts		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	30 monitors		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 strategic planning expert		3,000				***3,000***			**3,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 expert reviewers (evaluation + policy) + external evaluation contract and national consultation logistics		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 legal expert + 1 stakeholder validation workshop		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 fiscal planning expert		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 publication standards expert		8,000				***8,000***			**8,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 communications strategy expert		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 expert in KM and dissemination planning		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	10–12 expert reviewers		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 learning documentation and KM specialist		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 expert in knowledge management systems and biodiversity documentation		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 experts in data structuring and metadata tagging personnel		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 technical specialist		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA

Local Consultants	1 MIS platform maintenance and update expert		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 Digital Media and Branding Consultant		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 Engagement Analytics Expert		8,000				***8,000***			**8,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 Stakeholder Feedback Analyst		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 MIS Content Archivist		4,308				***4,308***			**4,308**	NBA
Local Consultants	20 outreach ambassadors		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 publication workflow and institutional dissemination experts		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 Legal and institutional policy advisor		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 Digital content and metadata management expert		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 institutional capacity analysts – biodiversity training needs experts		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 biodiversity training framework experts		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 e-learning curriculum specialist – biodiversity e-learning design		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	4 state-certified master trainers		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 Trainnig experts for maintaining and updating learning assessments, feedback tools, and training logs		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 training planner		7,500				***7,500***			**7,500**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 training feedback consultants		12,500				***12,500***			**12,500**	NBA

Local Consultants	1 Training expert for preparing end-line capacity assessment report comparing pre- and post-training competencies		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 senior policy consultant		7,500				***7,500***			**7,500**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 public finance analysts					*40,000*	***40,000***			**40,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 fiscal policy experts					*20,000*	***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 senior biodiversity finance planner					*15,000*	***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 tagging framework experts					*15,000*	***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	3 state finance analysts					*45,000*	***45,000***			**45,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 policy finance expert					*15,000*	***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 expert facilitators					*10,000*	***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 policy advisor					*5,000*	***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 public finance experts					*15,000*	***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 public finance analysts					*35,000*	***35,000***			**35,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	4 fiscal planning consultants					*30,000*	***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 public expenditure and fiscal integration consultants					*15,000*	***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	1 PFMS integration specialist					*30,000*	***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Local Consultants	2 financial policy experts					*20,000*	***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Sub-total: Local Consultants		***1,063,000***	***825,808***	***-***	***-***	***310,000***	***2,198,808***	***-***	***-***	***2,198,808***	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	4 stakeholder consultations	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	5 consultation events for validation and endorsement of the	25,000					***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA

	national biodiversity map										
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 workshops for capacity-building of officials and planners	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 workshops for stakeholder co-design of prototype applications	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	1 national workshop	55,000					***55,000***			**55,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 state-level orientation workshops	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 consultations	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 workshops	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 state-level validation events	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 high-level validation workshops	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	9 training sessions	45,000					***45,000***			**45,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	9 consultations across 3 states	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	6 validation workshops	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	9 major trainings	40,000					***40,000***			**40,000**	NBA

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	6 biannual adaptive management workshops	60,000					***60,000***			**60,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 thematic dialogues	5,000					***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 state-level validation workshops	20,000					***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 SES training workshops	7,500					***7,500***			**7,500**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	1 national workshop and 3 state-level stakeholder consultation workshops		35,000				***35,000***			**35,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 national launch events		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training of 30 trainers selected from SBBs, CASFOS, IGNFA, and planning institutes		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 state-level hands-on training workshops		55,000				***55,000***			**55,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	4 quarterly review events		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	2 national biodiversity policy forums		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	1 validation event		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Curriculum development and 3 ToT sessions		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 state-level training sessions		45,500				***45,500***			**45,500**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	4 stakeholder workshops		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 national/state writing retreats		15,000				***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	6 webinars with platform, facilitation, and interpretation support		12,000				***12,000***			**12,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 workshops for training NBA, NIC, and SBB focal staff on repository use, SOPs, and workflows		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	2 workshops for institutional partnerships formalized with IGNFA, WII, SIRDs, and other training bodies		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	4 workshops (national and regional/state-level ToTs)		35,000				***35,000***			**35,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	15 sessions (district-level cascading trainings)		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	5 trainings (regionally/nationally coordinated training events)		30,000				***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	10 sessions (on-demand state-specific training)		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	4 workshops (expert-led)		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Trainings, Works	2 validation workshops for preparing					*10,000*	***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA

hops, Meetings	validation and endorsement documentation										
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	4 validation workshops for national and state-level validation workshops					*15,000*	***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	2 workshops with public finance and budget reform facilitators					*25,000*	***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 sessions with training design and fiscal systems experts					*14,731*	***14,731***			**14,731**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Orientation session facilitated by safeguards and Gender experts						**-**	*10,000*		**10,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Two inter-state learning exchanges for learning missions							*10,000*		**10,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	NPSC and SPSCs meetings for institutionalizing annual/quarterly calendars								*1,000*	**1,000**	NBA
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Project closure workshop for development of Exit Strategy at national level						**-**		*5,986*	**5,986**	NBA
Sub-total: Trainings, Workshops, Meetings		***442,500***	***432,500***	***-***	***-***	***64,731***	***939,731***	***20,000***	***6,986***	***966,717***	
Travel	Local travel for participation and follow-up activities during pilot testing	10,000					***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Travel	Travel for follow-up sessions for state-level participation in disseminatio n workshops	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Travel	9 learning visits	30,000					***30,000***			**30,000**	NBA
Travel	Travel for participation in 2 global events		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Travel	Annual monitoring						**-**	*20,000*		**20,000**	NBA

	visits for tracking GEF core indicators and technical visits										
Sub-total: Travel		***55,000***	***10,000***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***65,000***	***20,000***	***-***	***85,000***	
Office Supplies	Printers, printer cartridges, paper and stationery	-	-	-	-	-	***-***	-	*8,000*	**8,000**	NBA
Sub-total: Office Supplies		***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***8,000***	***8,000***	
Other Operating Costs	Printing and delivery of 200+ handover packages	15,000					***15,000***			**15,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Development and printing of TWG mandates, membership, and governance arrangements	6,000					***6,000***			**6,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Development, and printing of 6 policy briefs	8,000					***8,000***			**8,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Design and printing of 4 updated toolkits		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	2 briefs + 2 infographics		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	3 state reports		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	3 state summaries for preparation of executive summaries		6,000				***6,000***			**6,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Toolkit design, translation, and printing		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	3 case studies for documented use-cases of MIS reporting		7,000				***7,000***			**7,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	3 templates developed + workshop-based indicator consultations and printing		8,000				***8,000***			**8,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Design + metadata for embedding MIS-based visualizations in India's CBD/GBF global reports		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA

Other Operating Costs	100 briefing kits for leadership briefing		5,000				***5,000***			**5,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	10 community/media knowledge products (4 AV briefs, 4 infographics, 4 factsheets)		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	80-page print + digital version for developing and publishing the National Biodiversity Knowledge Compendium		20,000				***20,000***			**20,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Modular training toolkit		25,000				***25,000***			**25,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	3 communication kits including training decks, dashboard demo videos, and briefing kits		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	2 deliverables (digital training repository updates + training log maintenance)		10,000				***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	1 design and print for development and dissemination					*10,000*	***10,000***			**10,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Printing of project document, project brochures, safeguards documents						**-**		*25,000*	**25,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Development of knowledge dissemination products post-Terminal Evaluation						**-**		*5,000*	**5,000**	NBA
Other Operating Costs	Financial audit cost						**-**		*10,000*	**10,000**	UNDP
Sub-total: Other Operating Costs		***29,000***	***166,000***	**-**	**-**	***10,000***	***205,000***	**-**	***40,000***	***245,000***	
Grand Total-UNDP		**3,369,925**	**1,986,308**	**-**	**-**	**414,731**	**5,770,964**	**247,500**	**170,986**	**6,189,450**	

World Bank											
Grants	Implementation contracts for direct investment in OECM Plans			3,000,000			**3,000,000**			**3,000,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Grants	Investments in 3 pilot sites + technical buffer for additional investment needs and financial control for implementation of innovative financial instruments				1,400,000		**1,400,000**			**1,400,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Sub-total: Grants		***-***	***-***	***3,000,000***	***1,400,000***	***-***	***4,400,000***	***-***	***-***	***4,400,000***	
Contractual Services – Company	Development of standardized field survey protocols and manuals			30,000			**30,000**			**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	Development of 5 site dossiers for geo-referenced nomination reports			25,000			**25,000**			**25,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	Development of zoning maps, overlays, and institutional role charts			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	Development of 3 module for integration of spatial, governance, and monitoring data into national MIS			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	Pilot implementation of adaptive management using MIS dashboards			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	MIS dashboard enhancement contract for integrating OECM knowledge into national MIS and public platforms			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Servic	Portal contract and interface with			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEM

es – Company	provision of supply learning systems expert for establishment of national OECM learning platform (online portal + CoP)										ENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	MIS-linked tracking and monitoring of fund flows and biodiversity outcomes				20,000		**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	a. Development of data visualization dashboard b. MIS–M&E interoperability contract with biodiversity databases c. 2 dashboard updates for visualization of annual results and learning d. MTR dissemination and Results Framework archiving e. Development of knowledge dissemination products post-Terminal Evaluation						**-**		11,235	**11,235**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	preparation of SES instruments (ESMP, LAF/LAP, IPP, GAP)			29,539			**29,539**			**29,539**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Services – Company	Mapping of national and state-level biodiversity finance instruments (CSR, PES, ABS, carbon credits, green bonds, etc.) with categorization by mechanism and OECM relevance				30,000		**30,000**			**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual Servic	Co-design of biodiversity finance				40,000		**40,000**			**40,000**	SPMUs - ELEM

es – Company	instruments (e.g., ABS models, green credits, carbon-linked CSR tools) through expert-led multi-stakeholder workshops										ENT Project
Sub-total: Contractual Services – Company		***-***	***-***	***179,539***	***90,000***	***-***	***269,539***	***-***	***11,235***	***280,774***	
Local Consultants	1 consultant (MIS integration expert) for uploading and embedding guidance into MIS platform			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 consultant (MIS/data governance specialist) for development of MIS-compatible templates and metadata protocols			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 experts (1 spatial data engineer and 1 metadata architect) for preparing integration-ready data files for MIS and national registry			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 specialists (biodiversity/ MIS integration) for development of monitoring templates and MIS-compatible protocols			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 UI/UX and frontend integration expert for developing an MIS-linked knowledge repository			24,000			**24,000**			**24,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 consultants (biodiversity policy analysts) for global and national OECM framework			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project

	review and gap analysis										
Local Consultants	1 consultant (OECM policy/legal advisor) for drafting protocol and decision framework for OECM identification and upscaling			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 governance consultants for operationalization of multi-stakeholder OECM governance platforms			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 governance evaluation experts for annual governance effectiveness and implementation assessment reports			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 policy integration expert for integration of OECM lessons into MoEFCC/NBA frameworks and SBSAP updates			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 policy integration consultant for integrating community feedback into content and institutional messaging			8,000			**8,000**			**8,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 legal advisor and 1 stakeholder outreach specialist for facilitating institutional partnerships and legal agreements with tourism authorities			6,000			**6,000**			**6,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 policy synthesis experts for preparing a			22,000			**22,000**			**22,000**	SPMUs - ELEM

	national synthesis report										ENT Project
Local Consultants	2 consultants (technical writers with OECM/biodiversity policy expertise) for drafting national guidance on OECM identification methodology			25,000			**25,000**			**25,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	consultants (documentation for audit, CBD reporting) for consolidated reporting and national use			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 experts in biodiversity documentation and policy-linked knowledge curation for preparing the thematic documentation framework			12,000			**12,000**			**12,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 case study and documentation specialists for developing a compendium of validated good practices			28,000			**28,000**			**28,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 experts (ecological economists) for ecosystem service valuation studies and preparation of policy briefs			25,000			**25,000**			**25,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 experts (biodiversity/ ecosystem services) for validation of 6 OECM candidate sites with ecological evidence and community endorsement			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 experts (participatory planning) for preparation of site-specific OECM			30,000			**30,000**			**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project

	management plans										
Local Consultants	2 experts in participatory stakeholder analysis and biodiversity-inclusive outreach frameworks for developing the stakeholder engagement plan			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 community engagement experts for conducting two-way communication sessions and collecting feedback from communities			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 experts in biodiversity outreach and inclusive media planning for developing the content design matrix			8,000			**8,000**			**8,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 specialists in strategic communication planning for environmental and biodiversity themes for developing the dissemination strategy			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 multimedia communication experts for co-creating and validating multilingual biodiversity communication products with communities			28,000			**28,000**			**28,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 visitor M&E and analytics specialist for establishing and monitoring visitor engagement and feedback systems			6,000			**6,000**			**6,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project

Local Consultants	1 communications specialist + 1 biodiversity planner for development of OECM replication toolkit (SOPs, case studies, templates)			25,000			**25,000**			**25,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	6 fellows for operationalizing the national OECM fellowship programme			30,000			**30,000**			**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 National Consultant – SES Expert			50,000			**50,000**			**50,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 National Consultant – Gender Expert			25,000			**25,000**			**25,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 consultants (community engagement) for co-development of benefit-sharing frameworks with community endorsement			10,000			**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 national legal-financial consultant				20,000		**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 environmental legal advisor				20,000		**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 legal advisor				15,000		**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 national finance expert				30,000		**30,000**			**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 finance specialists				20,000		**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 public finance policy analyst				15,000		**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 MRV and ecosystem performance expert				25,000		**25,000**			**25,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project

Local Consultants	1 policy brief designer + translator for strategic recommendations and preparation of pilot-ready options				5,000		**5,000**			**5,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 knowledge management designer and bilingual translator				5,000		**5,000**			**5,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 writer/editor plus layout/report for 3 reports for drafting and design				13,415		**13,415**			**13,415**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 documentation officer for synthesis + layout/design for documentation of endorsements and convergence plans for replication				10,000		**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 toolkit development and SOP consultants				30,000		**30,000**			**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	2 national M&E consultants for reporting on GEF core indicators and project results						**-**			**-**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 M&E documentation specialist for preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)						**-**			**-**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 M&E specialists (surveys, dashboards)						**-**			**-**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	Two national safeguards consultants (ESMF and GAP compliance)						**-**			**-**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 full-time expert – National Project Officer for overall project coordination						**-**		70,000	**70,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project

Local Consultants	1 part-time expert – Financial Specialist						-		30,000	**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 part-time expert – Procurement Specialist						-		30,000	**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Local Consultants	1 part-time expert – M&E Specialist						-		30,000	**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Sub-total: Local Consultants		**-**	**-**	***532,000***	***208,415***	**-**	***740,415***	**-**	***160,000***	***900,415***	
Contractual services-Individual	Finance Associate								*50,000*	**50,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Contractual services - Individual	Procurement Associate								*50,000*	**50,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Sub-total: Contractual services - Individual		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	***100,000***	***100,000***	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 workshops + 1 coordination logistics package for formation and meetings of National OECM Expert Group and documentation			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 multi-stakeholder consultation events + reporting and facilitation support			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 workshops + 1 logistics and technical supervision package for pilot testing of biodiversity assessment tools in 3 landscapes			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	6 consultations for preparation of multi-stakeholder consultation reports			40,000			**40,000**			**40,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops,	3 meetings for formal endorsement			5,000			**5,000**			**5,000**	SPMUs - ELEM

Meetings	of OECM plans										ENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	6 capacity-building workshops for OECM implementation support			30,000			**30,000**			**30,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	1 national learning event to document and disseminate OECM learning			20,000			**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	7 dissemination events for sharing knowledge products at community and institutional levels			14,000			**14,000**			**14,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training under 2 certified heritage interpretation trainers + 30 illustrated training handbooks for training eco-tourism guides and outreach staff plus field visit			12,000			**12,000**			**12,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 workshops for stakeholder validation of documented cases			12,000			**12,000**			**12,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	3 training events + 200 illustrated user manuals for MIS platform orientation and database use			15,500			**15,500**			**15,500**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	1 national workshop for OECM validation and multi-stakeholder strategy development			13,011			**13,011**			**13,011**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training and workshops on SES in 3 states			7,500			**7,500**			**7,500**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops,	3 stakeholder consultation workshops				15,000		**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEM

Meetings	for community dialogues, expert discussions, and feedback on financing models										ENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	2 validation workshops with multi-stakeholder finance facilitators				10,000		**10,000**			**10,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	6 community-level workshops + 1 learning report				20,000		**20,000**			**20,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	6 workshops with multi-stakeholder fiscal moderators + materials and reporting				25,000		**25,000**			**25,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	workshop facilitated by safeguards and M&E moderators for Inception Workshop and Report						**-**			**-**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	inter-state learning exchanges for learning missions						**-**			**-**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Scheduling and facilitation of first NPSC and SPSCs meetings for institutionalizing annual/quarterly calendars						**-**		1,500	**1,500**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	2 closure workshops for national and state-level closure events						**-**		26,250	**26,250**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Sub-total: Trainings, Workshops, Meetings		***-***	***-***	***224,011***	***70,000***	***-***	***294,011***	***-***	***27,750***	***321,761***	
Travel	6 missions (site recognition) for official recognition of minimum 6 OECM sites			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Travel	5 supervision missions for supervision of project implementation						**-**			**-**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project

Travel	Estimated travel for PMU/PIU supervision, stakeholder consultations, and missions based on travel log						-		112,500	**112,500**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Sub-total: Travel		**-**	**-**	***15,000***	**-**	**-**	***15,000***	**-**	***112,500***	***127,500***	
Other Operating Costs	Printing of 300 training modules + 1 visual aid production package			15,000			**15,000**			**15,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Other Operating Costs	Printing of 500 copies + digital layout and content announcement			5,000			**5,000**			**5,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Other Operating Costs	6 bilingual digital exhibit sets + kiosk components			32,000			**32,000**			**32,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Other Operating Costs	4 Project annual reports						-		1,500	**1,500**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Other Operating Costs	1 Auditor for financial audit						-		5,000	**5,000**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Other Operating Costs	1 gazette notification facilitation for official formation of NPSC, SPSCs, and PMUs						-		500	**500**	SPMUs - ELEMENT Project
Sub-total: Other Operating Costs		**-**	**-**	***52,000***	**-**	**-**	***52,000***	**-**	***7,000***	***59,000***	
Grand Total-World Bank		**-**	**-**	**4,002,550**	**1,768,415**	**-**	**5,770,965**	**-**	**418,485**	**6,189,450**	

	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	*Component 4 (M&E)*	*PMC*	Total (USD)
Grant Total-UNDP	**5,356,233**		**414,731**	**247,500**	**170,986**	**6,189,450**
Grant Total-World Bank	**-**	**5,770,965**	**-**	**-**	**418,485**	**6,189,450**
Grant	**5,356,233**	**5,770,965**	**414,731**	**247,500**	**589,471**	**12,378,900**

Total-UNDP & World Bank						

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

Details of Major Expenditure

A. Output 1.1.2 – Activity 1.1.2.5 Piloting and Adaptive Management of Innovative Conservation and Livelihood Models in Target Landscapes (GBFF Financing: **USD 900,000)**

1. Purpose and nature of expenditure:

The USD 900,000 allocation under Output 1.1.2 (activity 1.1.2.5) finances direct, on-the-ground piloting of integrated conservation–livelihood models implemented by community institutions ((VEMCs, BMCs, JFMCs, Van Panchayats, traditional councils) across six pilot clusters (two per state) within the project's biodiversity-rich production landscapes across 1,95,000 ha. The objective is to test, refine, and validate scalable models that integrate biodiversity conservation with livelihood security, under real ecological and governance conditions.

2. On-the-ground activities financed

a. Implementation of conservation–livelihood pilot models: Funds support community action plans approved through FPIC processes and implemented by local institutions. Activities include, as appropriate to each landscape:

Ecosystem restoration and management

- assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting with native species;
- soil and moisture conservation micro-structures;
- rehabilitation of degraded forest patches, fallows, and wetland catchments;

Invasive species management

- manual/mechanical removal;
- community surveillance and prevention;

Fire prevention and risk reduction

- fire lines, early-warning systems, and community response teams;

Biodiversity-friendly livelihoods

- sustainable NTFP harvesting and value addition;
- women-led nature-based enterprises;
- community-managed ecotourism or birdwatching initiatives;

Landscape-specific indigenous models**,** such as**:**

- spring shed restoration and water governance (e.g. SARAA-type models in Uttarakhand),
- Barahanaja multi-crop systems for agrobiodiversity,
- community seed systems and traditional agroforestry mosaics.

All pilots are implemented through inclusive local governance platforms (VEMCs, BMCs, JFMCs, SHGs, traditional councils), with at least 50% participation of women**.**

b. Participatory ecological and socio-economic monitoring: Grant resources finance field-based, community-led monitoring**,** including:

- ecological indicators (vegetation recovery, habitat condition, water availability, species presence);
- livelihood indicators (income diversification, market access, gender-disaggregated benefits);
- institutional indicators (quality of participation, transparency, grievance resolution).

Monitoring protocols are aligned with UNDP SES and FPIC requirements and feed into the national MIS.

c. Adaptive refinement and model maturation: Resources support iterative improvement of pilot models, including:

- adjusting restoration techniques based on ecological feedback;
- refining livelihood components based on feasibility and uptake;
- strengthening local governance capacities for planning, benefit-sharing, and conflict resolution;
- integrating feedback from women, youth, and TPLCs.

3. Indicative internal allocation of USD 900,000

Final figures will be confirmed during inception; indicative distribution is as follows:

40% – Habitat restoration and eco-regeneration activities

20% – Invasive species control and rehabilitation

15% – Strengthening community governance and institutions

10% – Participatory monitoring and field data collection

10% – Integration of biodiversity-friendly livelihood components

5% – Administrative, fiduciary, and verification costs

4. Contribution to project-level outcomes

Output 1.1.2 delivers tangible improvements in ecosystem condition and management practices across large, biodiverse production landscapes, directly contributing to 195,000 ha under improved management and providing the field-tested foundation for scaling under subsequent components.

B. Output 2.1.1 – Implementation of OECM Management Plans through Community Participation (USD 3,000,000)

1. Purpose and nature of expenditure

The USD 3,000,000 allocated under Output 2.1.1 finances direct, on-ground implementation of community-led OECM management plans across selected sites in Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand, covering approximately 5,000 hectares. These expenditures translate formally recognised OECMs from planning into active management, governance, and conservation action, consistent with India's OECM Guidelines and GBF Target 3.

This budget line therefore represents implementation costs, not studies or planning alone, and complements the larger landscape-level pilots under Output 1.1.2 by focusing on legally recognised, community-governed conservation areas.

2. On-the-ground activities financed

Funds under this output support the execution phase of OECM management plans that are prepared through FPIC-compliant processes and formally endorsed by communities and State Biodiversity Boards. Key activity clusters include:

a. OECM management implementation

- Habitat protection and ecological management actions as specified in approved OECM plans;
- Assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting with native species, and protection of critical habitats;
- Control of invasive species and restoration of degraded patches within OECM boundaries;
- Fire prevention, grazing regulation, and community patrolling where applicable.

b. Community governance and co-management

- Operationalisation of OECM governance platforms involving BMCs, VEMCs, traditional councils, and women's groups;
- Support for regular community decision-making, conflict resolution, and enforcement of agreed rules;
- Strengthening institutional capacity for record-keeping, benefit-sharing, and compliance with national OECM requirements.

c. Monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management

- Community-based biodiversity monitoring (species presence, habitat condition, pressures);
- Integration of OECM data into State and national biodiversity MIS platforms;
- Periodic review and refinement of management actions based on ecological and social feedback.

All activities are implemented directly by community institutions and are anchored in formally recognised customary or statutory governance systems.

3. Indicative internal allocation of USD 3,000,000

While final allocations will be confirmed during inception, the expenditure envelope is structured as follows:

45% – Ecological management and restoration actions
(habitat protection, regeneration, invasive control, fire management)

25% – Community governance and institutional strengthening
(OECM committees, traditional councils, women's participation, enforcement mechanisms)

15% – Participatory monitoring, data collection, and MIS integration

10% – Capacity building, facilitation, and technical support at site level

5% – Fiduciary oversight, safeguards compliance, and verification

This distribution reflects the labour-intensive, field-oriented nature of OECM management and ensures that the majority of resources reach communities.

4. Contribution to project-level targets

Through this output:

- Formally recognised OECMs move from designation to effective management;
- Community governance systems are strengthened for long-term stewardship;
- The project delivers measurable conservation outcomes under GBF Target 3, fully costed within GBFF resources.

C. Output 2.2.1 –(Activity 2.2.1.3) Activation of Biodiversity-Finance Instruments (ABS / Credits) for Community Conservation (GBFF Financing: USD 1,400,000)

Primary Implementers: Community cooperatives, federations, and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), supported by NSBB/SBBs and State PMUs

1. Purpose and nature of expenditure

The USD 1.4 million under Output 2.2.1 finances the design, piloting, and early operationalization of biodiversity-linked financing instruments that generate direct, safeguard-compliant incentives for community conservation in selected OECM and landscape sites.

This allocation does not create a revolving fund, loan facility, or permanent financing vehicle. Instead, it supports grant-based pilots that test how biodiversity finance mechanisms can function within India's existing legal and institutional frameworks, particularly under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and associated ABS regulations. The objective is proof of concept and institutional readiness, not large-scale capital deployment

2. On-the-ground activities financed

a. Design and structuring of biodiversity-finance instruments

- Site-specific design of Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) arrangements linked to biological resources and traditional knowledge;
- Feasibility and structuring of non-tradable or pilot biodiversity credit-like mechanisms, where legally permissible;
- Development of community revenue-sharing frameworks aligned with NBA/SBB guidance;
- Legal and safeguards vetting to ensure compliance with:
    - Biological Diversity Act & ABS Rules,
    - UNDP SES,
    - FPIC requirements.

These activities are embedded in real landscapes and linked to OECM management and conservation outcomes.

b. Piloting and early capitalization at community level

Initial capitalization of community-managed conservation incentive mechanisms, such as:

- ABS benefit pools;
- conservation-linked service payments;
- biodiversity stewardship incentives linked to verified conservation actions;
- Support to community cooperatives, federations, or BMC-linked entities to receive, manage, and distribute revenues transparently;

Testing of operational systems for:

- beneficiary identification,
- gender-responsive benefit sharing,
- grievance redress and transparency.

At least 40% of direct beneficiaries will be women or women-led groups.

c. Institutional systems, monitoring, and verification

- Development of simple MRV and verification protocols linking finance flows to conservation actions (e.g., habitat protection, species monitoring, restoration compliance);
- Integration of finance-related data into the project MIS;
- Capacity building of community institutions in:
    - basic financial governance,
    - record-keeping,
    - compliance with safeguards and ABS reporting requirements.

3. Indicative internal allocation of USD 1,400,000

Final allocations will be confirmed during inception, but the indicative structure is as follows:

30% – Instrument design, legal structuring, and safeguards compliance

35% – Initial capitalization of community-level biodiversity finance pilots

15% – Community institutional capacity building and financial governance

10% – Monitoring, verification, and MIS integration

10% – Technical oversight, adaptive refinement, and financial control ("technical buffer")

The technical buffer is not a contingency fund; it allows controlled scaling or adjustment of pilots based on performance and safeguards feedback.

4. Contribution to project-level outcomes

Through this output, the project:

- Demonstrates how biodiversity finance can function at community level in India;
- Creates field-tested, safeguard-compliant models that can later be scaled through policy and public finance systems;
- Directly supports long-term financial incentives for conservation, complementing Outputs 1.1.2 and 2.1.1.

ANNEX H: BLENDED-FINANCE RELEVANT ANNEXES

Please use the most up to date templates per the most recent call for proposals.

ANNEX H.1: Termsheet

Instructions. This termsheet to be submitted with the PIF/PFD should include sufficient details to allow a financial expert to understand and judge the financial viability of the proposed investments. Indicative terms and conditions should be used when specific details are not yet available. An equivalent termsheet used for internal Agency purposes is acceptable but must include sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality.

ANNEX H.2: Agency capacity to implement blended finance projects

Instructions. Any financial returns, gains, interest or other earnings and remaining principal will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. and the GEF Non-Grant Instrument Policy.