

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
APPRAISAL STAGE**

Report No.: ISDSA1070

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 08-Oct-2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

Country:	India	Project ID:	P133803
Project Name:	India Ecosystems Service Improvement Project (P133803)		
Task Team Leader:	Anupam Joshi		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	25-Nov-2014	Estimated Board Date:	01-May-2015
Managing Unit:	GENDR	Lending Instrument:	Specific Investment Loan
GEF Focal Area:	Multi-focal area		
Sector(s):	Forestry (100%)		
Theme(s):	Biodiversity (40%), Climate change (25%), Environmental policies and institutions (25%), Other environment and natural resources management (10%)		
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?			No
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	24.64	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			24.64
Total			24.64
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

2. Global Environmental Objective(s)

To strengthen the institutional capacity of the Department of Forestry and community organizations to enhance forest ecosystem services and improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities in Central Indian Highlands.

3. Project Description

The project will have the following four components:

Component 1: Strengthening capacity and skills of government institutions for Effective Delivery of Forestry and Land Management Programs (Indicative US\$ 4 million)

The objective of this component is to enhance the capacity and skills of the state forest and natural resources management agencies for improved management of forest and land resources and ensuring the delivery of sustainable benefits to local communities that depend on these resources. This component provides technical assistance to: (i) build institutional capacity and capability for planning and efficient delivery of forest ecosystem quality improvement and land management programs; and (ii) develop, test and pilot nation-wide systems for measuring and monitoring forest carbon stocks. A number of training activities would be supported under this component to build human resource capacities for improved forest management. These would include: (i) spatial planning using new tools and technologies for designing sub-projects for mainstreaming biodiversity in production forests; (ii) training for measuring and monitoring carbon stocks in forests and related lands as well as monitoring habitat quality; (iii) training for strengthening local self-governance institutions, including Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), to establish Community Reserves for co-management, monitoring and sustainable and equitable access to NTFP resources; (iv) development of systems for species-based and ecosystem-based mapping of key invasive species; and (v) generation of baselines for realistic assessment of the dependencies/ livelihoods on NTFPs, for developing local management plans for value addition, sustainable use and equitable sharing of NTFP. To implement this component, the project will finance technical training assistance, training workshops and study tours, and equipment.

Component 2: Improving forest quality and productivity (Indicative US\$ 14.5million)

The objective of this component is to improve the quality and productivity of the existing forests so as to ensure sustained flows of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration, and sustainable harvesting and value addition of non-timber forest products (NTFP) to provide economic benefits to forest dependent communities that promote conservation and improve ecological connectivity between critical biodiversity areas. This component will complement the ongoing efforts of GIM through demonstrative investments on: (i) improving forest quality using native species mix; (ii) managing invasive species; and (iii) developing models for sustainable utilization of NTFPs in collaboration with local forest communities. This component would facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives in degraded forestlands and non-forestlands in the government's program to establish sustainable forest and land management in project areas. The project will finance on-the-ground investments in nurseries and planting materials, community labor for forest land preparation for planting and invasive species removal, technical support and equipment and training for sustainable NTFP utilization. There are three sub components:

Sub component 2.1: Enhancing and restoring carbon stocks in forestlands: This component will support investments for improving, upgrading and modernizing of selected forest nurseries for raising high-quality native species and planting material. It will introduce and support new and innovative processes for undertaking soil preparation, forest enrichment planting and protection works in different degraded forest types in production forests landscapes as well as on non-forest lands. This sub component will also undertake demonstrative pilots for rehabilitation of degraded forest patches and simultaneously integrate sustainable resource use practices.

Sub-component 2.2: Improving forest quality through effective management of invasive alien species: This sub component will support development and implementation of an integrated invasive species management framework for select ecosystems that builds on regulatory, preventive and restorative aspects of managing invasive species. Multi stakeholder consultations for developing a national research agenda and strategies for specific invasive species will be supported under this sub component. It will also develop and implement innovative approaches and field based activities for invasive species removal, replanting with native species, and biological control. This sub-component will result in improved guidelines and an enhanced national knowledge base to support the science-policy interface in India on preventing the introduction of invasive alien species, which would be able to underpin potential future regulatory actions towards preventing their further spread.

Sub-component 2.3: Developing community-based models for sustainable utilization of NTFP: This sub-component will support formalized allocation of usufruct rights, value addition and marketing to traditional NTFP resources, and creation and management of Community Reserves. The result will be GIS based management plans for Community Reserves incorporating participatory monitoring of biodiversity. This sub component will work with various resource user groups, women Self Help Groups, and other local stakeholders to understand the challenges of NTFP supply chains, identify potential interventions to improve NTFP marketing, and develop strategies for enhancing incomes from sustainable NTFP utilization.

Component 3: Scaling up of Integrated Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Approaches for Reducing Land Degradation and Desertification (Indicative US\$ 3.74 million)

The main objectives of this component are to prevent land degradation and desertification and increase above-ground forest carbon stock through a combination of investments to implement and scale-up tried-and-tested SLEM best practices, increase national capacity for monitoring land degradation and track associated indicators and generate knowledge exchange on SLEM approaches so as to benefit small and marginal farmers and other rural poor. These activities are designed to overcome the twin challenges of arresting land degradation and meeting food security targets. In particular, this component will draw heavily from the lessons and best practice approaches to sustainable land and ecosystem management that were developed and piloted under the ongoing GEF financed SLEM project. In addition, the team has also consulted with GIZ, India and will draw on their experiences of best practices during implementation (more details in Annex.2: Detailed Project Description) This component would finance on-the-ground sustainable land management investments in private land holdings and common property resource lands and enhance knowledge and capacity for further scaling up of these approaches at the national level. The following sub-components are envisaged:

Sub-Component 3.1: Scaling-up of SLEM best practices: This component would support application and scaling up of the existing and tested SLEM best practices such as participatory watershed management, approaches to improve soil fertility and land productivity, restoration of overgrazed pastures and other common lands and improvement of habitat quality in micro-watersheds. The specific best practices to be applied would be screened for suitability to the respective agro-climatic zones, using GIS.

Sub-Component 3.2: Building national capacity for land degradation and desertification monitoring: This sub-component would help increase national capacity for monitoring the status of land degradation and desertification and SLEM outcomes, as well as the results of UNCCD action

programs at the country level. It would also facilitate reporting on key indicators under the UNCCD. Current capacity to prepare National Reports (NR) to report back to the Conference of Parties (COP) on the National Action Plans (NAPs) is limited. This sub-component would help develop and implement a web based national MIS that would allow capturing trends and status of key impact and process indicators on land degradation and desertification. The data input would be collected at the sub-national and local level and would be consolidated at the national level through the project. This would improve the timeliness and quality of the NR to UNCCD.

Sub-component 3.3: Development and Implementation of a National Knowledge Network: This sub-component would help develop an interactive web-based platform with direct access and use at the farm level with help from extension services. It would promote and mainstream NRM best practices through a network of excellence, including and using the extension services networks of both agriculture and forest sectors. The platform would provide links and virtual access to repositories of best practices and analytical reports. It would also develop a community of practice by connecting stakeholders with common interests in adopting and expanding SLEM approaches. The platform would also organize and implement learning events at the interface of the community, farm and common lands.

Component 4: Project Management (Indicative US\$ 2.4 million)

A modest Project Management Unit (PMU) would be established to coordinate and monitor project implementation and progress towards the envisaged development objective. The PMU would be housed within the Division/Cell responsible for implementing the GIM within the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), so as to ensure that there is complete complementarity between the project and GIM and co-financing benefits are supportive rather than competitive. Other than the core Government staff in the PMU, this component will support hiring of specialized staff for project management, technical advice and communications.

4. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project will be implemented in three States within India and across a number of Districts and Blocks within these States. These are Goa, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Final selection of area is based on the projected vulnerability of forest grids to climate change impacts. In addition, the selection criteria included filters on presence of globally significant and threatened species, socio-economic, inclusiveness, forest type and their degradation status and anthropogenic pressures. The field level investments on improving forest quality (and others) will be only in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In Goa, only the carbon sequestration measurement and monitoring sub-component will be implemented.

Most of the selected landscapes include a range of forest types and sub-types characteristic to the central Indian highlands – semi-evergreen to dry deciduous types. Often interspersed are grasslands and bamboo brakes with some thorny elements. Key tree species include *Tectona grandis*, *Sterculia alata*, *Madhuca indica*, *Dyrosyros melanoxylon*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Accasia* species etc. These landscapes will include mix landuse with private farmlands, interspersed with forested landscapes. The project will not work inside the Protected Areas but could include parts of Reserve Forests for ensuring contiguity of forest quality improvement. Many of these landscapes are located in key biological corridors in biologically rich landscapes of the central Indian highlands.

The project will be implemented by a PMU within the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate

Change (MoEFCC) at the Centre, and Implementing Agencies at the state level such as State Forest Departments, Forest Development Agency, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and technical resource agencies such as CABI, all of which are experienced in forest management and biodiversity conservation practices.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Anupam Joshi (GENDR)

Sharlene Jehanbux Chichgar (GWADR)

6. Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	Given the project's spread over degraded forest areas and vulnerable and extreme poor as primary stakeholders, this policy is triggered. The project is likely to result in overall positive impact through increased carbon sequestration and enhanced ecosystem services flows as well as developing sustainable Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) harvesting models. Some specific activities may have adverse environmental impacts if not implemented with due caution. Examples include, piloting biological control methods of managing invasive species, developing sustainable NTFP harvesting models etc. A project level Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been prepared for identifying and addressing compliance with relevant Bank and National Environment Policies.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	The project activities would be carried out within natural habitats present in the area. However, these activities are likely to yield positive outcomes, and enhance the environmental quality as the objective is to improve ecosystem services and natural resource management. Activities would not be carried out within the designated Protected Areas so impacts on critical habitats are not foreseen. An environmental and social assessment has been completed and mitigation plans prepared.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	OP 4.36 is triggered for ensuring that activities in forestlands are aligned with their management/ working plans and do not result in any significant adverse impacts on forest quality. Bulk of the project investments are aiming to enhance forest quality and introduce sustainable forest management practices to improve ecosystem services. The forests would include common forestlands, village forests, reserved forests, and

		forest areas under Territorial Forest Divisions. However, no investments would be made in forests inside the Protected Areas.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	Pesticides or spraying equipment are unlikely to be procured under the project.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	No	Physical and cultural resources, if located in the project areas, will not be impacted. There is no heavy excavation planned and any large infrastructure under the project.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	Tribal communities reside within project areas and are also beneficiary stakeholders. A specific Tribal Development Plan to address issues related to this policy is developed.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	This policy is not triggered as the project does not involve appropriation/acquiring of any land for project interventions. The project would also not accept voluntary land donation at an individual level.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project does not support the commissioning or construction and/or operations related to dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	No international waterways are involved.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in any disputed areas.

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

<p>1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:</p> <p>The project is expected to have an overall positive environmental impact by improving forest quality that will also result in conserving globally and nationally significant biodiversity, protecting ecosystems and enhancing the sustainability of natural resource use in the project areas. Other likely environmental benefits include: (a) reduced soil erosion; (b) forest quality improvement using native species mix; and (c) enhanced carbon sequestration. No significant adverse or irreversible impacts are foreseen under the project, and impacts are manageable within the existing institutional and technical framework.</p> <p>As part of project preparation, key safeguards issues have been identified associated with the project's activities through a project level ESMP which includes environmental and social baseline information, policy analysis at the national and state level, and measures for compliance with World Bank safeguard policies. The ESMP serves as a decision-making tool to promote environmentally- and socially-sound subprojects. Key impacts that need to be managed are: (a) localized loss of biodiversity; (b) chance introduction of invasive species; (c) unforeseen restrictions on stakeholder communities in accessing natural resources; and (d) promotion of unsustainable NTFP harvesting models.</p>
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<p>2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:</p>
<p>No potential indirect and/or long-term adverse environmental or social impacts are envisaged due to anticipated future activities in the project area. Improved forest quality is likely to ameliorate local environmental conditions, conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and benefit local populations.</p>
<p>3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.</p>
<p>For a speedier restoration of degraded forests, the use of non-indigenous and fast growing exotic tree species was considered but rejected, as these would interfere with the local ecology and pose a significant threat to local flora and fauna. Similarly, the usual approach of mono-culture plantations was considered but rejected so as to maximize the production and flow of ecosystem services.</p>
<p>4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.</p>
<p>The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is the primary recipient of the grants and is presently implementing three Bank financed projects (approximating USD 300 million) on improving environmental quality and biodiversity conservation. For all these projects, the MoEFCC is already implementing various tools for managing environmental and social issues, such as the ESMF, EMP and other investment specific environmental assessments and mitigation plans. Hence MoEFCC is equipped with orientation and sensitivity to implement Bank's safeguards policies.</p> <p>Within MoEFCC, a Green India Mission Directorate is established that will have officers from the Indian Forest Service and which will work closely with the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) having wide experience in afforestation activities. It has been implementing a number of forestry and afforestation programs over the years targeting both environmental and social gains and outputs. A project level Environmental and Social Assessment was carried out that included extensive stakeholder consultations at the community level. An ESMP has been prepared and is being disclosed. A close monitoring of triggered safeguard policies during project implementation would be undertaken. Since State Forest Departments would also be involved and have previously handled Bank financed projects, addressing any safeguards issues is not seen as a concern. However, provisions have been made in the ESMP for providing capacity building and training support to concerned officers at the state level and frontline for addressing safeguards issues. Budget for training and awareness has also been indicated.</p>
<p>5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.</p>
<p>Four large public consultations, with adequate prior notice, were held with potentially affected people that included extreme poor, forest dependent vulnerable and marginalized communities and tribal populations during the preparation of the ESMP with Implementing Agencies at the state level. Two consultations each were held in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in actual project landscapes and with future project beneficiaries. In addition, the project design and safeguards issues have drawn from a series of expert interviews, multi-state consultation workshop and discussions with the State Forest Department officers. The ESMP will be made publicly available on the Project website, and the District Library, District Collector's Office and Block Development Office. A summary of this ESMP will be translated into local languages and</p>

displayed at these venues as also in the Gram Panchayat Offices. During implementation, project beneficiaries would continue to be involved in jointly managing the project activities and undertaking forest quality improvement works. The ESMP includes a reporting format, which will provide regular updates on the status of its implementation.

Information education and communication: The PMU will prepare and implement an outreach strategy, and will have local offices in the project areas to facilitate communication with beneficiaries and stakeholders. This will help gather the communities' perceptions and concerns, their priorities for development and mechanisms for project implementation at the local level. The project has been designed so that information awareness and communication activities are undertaken to enable effective implementation of the ESMP including assessment procedures, supervision, monitoring, etc. as well as for community awareness and sensitization.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other	
Date of receipt by the Bank	09-Sep-2014
Date of submission to InfoShop	31-Oct-2014
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	
"In country" Disclosure	
India	31-Oct-2014
<i>Comments:</i>	
Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework	
Date of receipt by the Bank	09-Sep-2014
Date of submission to InfoShop	31-Oct-2014
"In country" Disclosure	
India	31-Oct-2014
<i>Comments:</i>	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:	

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment	
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats	

Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?	Yes [] No [×] NA []
If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples	
Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Practice Manager?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
OP/BP 4.36 - Forests	
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	Yes [] No [×] NA []
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information	
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [] No [×] NA []
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [] No [×] NA []
All Safeguard Policies	
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [×] No [] NA []

III. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Anupam Joshi
Approved By	

Regional Safeguards Advisor:	Name:	Date:
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name:	Date: